



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 26

November 2012

Number 2

The President's Column

Linda Morris

University of California, Davis

I'm pleased to be writing for the *Circular* in my new capacity as President of the Mark Twain Circle of America. Membership in the Circle is healthy, and the general public's interest in Mark Twain seems to remain as high as ever. There have been some significant bumps in the road, however.

The Mark Twain Annual faced a minor crisis when Wiley-Blackwell notified us that it would no longer publish the *Annual* after the 2012 issue, but thanks largely to the efforts of Jim Leonard on behalf of the Circle, we have reached a new publishing arrangement with Penn State University Press. (See Jim Leonard's column on pg. 3 for fuller details.) Further good news is that Ann Ryan has generously agreed to stay on as editor of the journal through the 2013 Spring issue of the *Annual*. In addition, *The Mark Twain Journal* is being revitalized under Alan Gribben's leadership and is now formally affiliated with the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies; Jim Leonard has agreed to be the managing editor of both journals. This is all very good news for Twain scholars and enthusiasts.

The news on the book-publishing front has not been so positive, however. As many of you know, the University of Missouri Press has been going through major upheavals, di-

rectly threatening the future of the Mark Twain and His Circle Series, edited by Tom Quirk. As of the 10th of this month, however, the situation at the press appears to have stabilized, and Tom has said that "for now it looks as though we can keep the Mark Twain series intact." Special thanks are due to all the Mark Twain folks who wrote to protest the changes that were being imposed upon the press, and especially to Tom Quirk for his articulate support of the press's long time editor, Clair Wilcox. We will continue to keep close watch on how things progress in Missouri.

Conference papers and sessions devoted to Mark Twain have been lively this past year. We sponsored two sessions at the ALA in San Francisco, plus a joint session with the Henry James Society. The Circle is sponsoring two panels at the upcoming MLA conference, one on Henry James, Mark Twain, and Globalization and one on Uncovering Mark Twain's Identities, and it is sponsoring two sessions at SAMLA in Atlanta.

This issue of the *Circular* includes calls for papers for the May 2013 ALA to be held in Boston. In addition to our usual two panels, I am pleased to announce that we will offer a joint session with the William Dean Howells Society. As always, we seek to provide a balance between work by seasoned Twain scholars and upcoming scholars. The Elmira Center for Mark Twain Studies has issued its call for papers for the upcoming Seventh Interna-

tional Conference on The State of Mark Twain Studies to be held in August of 2013. Abstracts are due February 4, 2013—please do consider submitting a proposal.

The Circle has a new website in progress—watch for it soon. When it is up and running, John Bird will post a notice on the Mark Twain Forum. Meanwhile, we're all in debt to Bruce Michelson for hosting our website these past few years at the University of Illinois. John is also responsible for starting a MT Facebook page, including a number of pictures from the Hannibal conference, and there is also a Mark Twain group on Facebook—be sure to “friend” them both.

Finally, I want to report that the just completed Elmira conference, “Complicating Twain: Biography, Autobiography, and the Personal Scholar—Remembering Michael J. Kiskis,” was indeed a fitting tribute to Michael. It featured 12 papers, a roundtable discussion about Michael's scholarly legacy, and a keynote address by noted scholar and long-time friend of Michael's, Laura Skandara Trombley. □



If you have published an article, chapter, or book on mark Twain in the last twelve months, please send a notice of your publication to the editor of this newsletter:

Chad Rohman, at
crohman@dom.edu.

Mark Twain Circle at the 2013 MLA Conference January 3-6, Boston, MA

Friday, 4 January 2013: 377. Henry James, Mark Twain, and Globalization

5:15–6:30 p.m., Riverway, Sheraton
(Program arranged by the Mark Twain Circle of America and the Henry James Society)

Presiding: James S. Leonard, The Citadel; John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California

1. “Euromance of Reunion: Sir Walter Scott, Italy, and Tourism in Postbellum America,” Kaye Wierzbicki, Harvard University
2. “Global Empires of Sugar: Twain's Sweetest Texts,” Kathryn Dolan, University of South Florida
3. “Venice: Confluence of Images, Myth, and Vision,” Harold Henry Hellwig, Idaho State University

Sunday, 6 January 2013: 752. Uncovering Mark Twain's Identities

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Liberty A, Sheraton
(Program arranged by the Mark Twain Circle of America)

Presiding: John Bird, Winthrop University

1. “Mark Twain's Self-Pasting Scrapbook, Intellectual Property, and the Authorship of Blank Books,” Ellen Gruber Garvey, New Jersey City University
2. “Great Darknesses, Mysterious Strangers, Infernal Personae: Mark Twain's Otherworldly Perspectives,” James W. Leonard, Tufts University
3. “Twins of Genius: Mark Twain on the Stage, Huck Finn on the Page,” Lisa McGunigal, Penn State University, University Park

**An Update from the MTC
Past President:**

***The New Annual
and the New Journal***

The years 2012–2013 will include some important changes for the two principal outlets for Mark Twain scholarship: *The Mark Twain Journal* and *The Mark Twain Annual*. The *Journal*, as we all know, was edited and published for nearly thirty years by Tom Tenney, before his passing early this year. Tom inherited the *Journal*, with its long and eccentric history, from Cyril Clemens in 1983. Tom kept the process, and to some extent the product, a bit eccentric, too; but he also made it into a reputable scholarly journal that provided a continuing stream of worthwhile Mark Twain scholarship.

The great plague of Tom's editorship of *The Mark Twain Journal* was that the *Journal* was behind schedule when he received it and he could never quite manage to catch up. When Alan Gribben, in turn, inherited the *Journal* from Tom, it was three years behind schedule: in early 2012, the 2009 issues had not yet appeared. However, Alan has quickly managed to get things reorganized to such an extent that a double issue for 2009, featuring materials related to Mark Twain's *Quaker City* excursion, has already appeared; and Alan is now working on a double issue for 2010, which should appear soon. In fact, he hopes to also bring out a 2011 double issue by the end of this calendar year, which will bring the *Journal* almost up to date.

Alan has established a viable Editorial Board for the *Journal*, has found a highly appropriate new home for the *Journal* at the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Quarry Farm, and has strengthened the *Journal's* connection to the Mark Twain Circle. The connection to the Circle includes my serving as

Managing Editor for both *The Mark Twain Journal* and *The Mark Twain Annual* and current Circle President Linda Morris's serving as a member of the *Journal's* Editorial Board. The connection to the Center for Mark Twain Studies includes Barbara Snedecor as Executive Editor for the *Journal* and Mark Woodhouse as its Consulting Editor.

Meanwhile, Wiley-Blackwell, which has published *The Mark Twain Annual* as a purely online journal (except for the provision of hard copies to Mark Twain Circle members) since 2008, has decided to jettison its American Literature Collection, which includes the *Annual*, after 2012, leaving us with a choice of returning to our previous self-publishing of the *Annual* or finding a new partner. With Wiley-Blackwell's help, we turned up three presses that were seriously interested in partnering with the Circle for publication of the *Annual*, and from among those, we chose the Penn State University Press. PSUP will begin publishing the *Annual* with the 2013 volume and, unlike Wiley-Blackwell, will make it available for purchase in hard copy as well as electronically. Under the Penn State arrangement, the *Annual* will also be on both JSTOR and Project Muse in full text, so its content should be readily available to pretty much anyone with an academic connection.

As a member of the Mark Twain Circle, you will, of course, continue to receive both *The Mark Twain Annual* and the *Mark Twain Circular*. If you are affiliated with a college or other institution, please encourage that institution to subscribe to *The Mark Twain Journal*, *The Mark Twain Annual*, and the *Mark Twain Circular*.

James S. Leonard

The Citadel

Elmira 2013

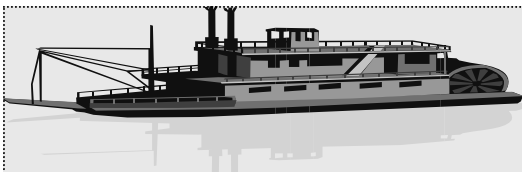
Elmira 2013: The Seventh International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies

“One Man, Many Legacies”—Observing the Sesquicentennial of the Pen-name August 1 through 3, 2013.

Call for papers: please provide a developed abstract of 700 words by **February 2, 2013**. Final papers must be suitable for a 20-minute presentation. Please send your abstract, via electronic submission, to **bsnedecor@elmira.edu**. Provide your name, mailing address, and email address. Developed abstracts will be reviewed anonymously by selected panel chairs. Abstracts will be included in the 2013 Conference program.

Topics: We invite papers related to any aspect of Mark Twain’s legacy. We have a special interest in papers on the following topics: Mark Twain and Crime, Ecocriticism, Family, Folktale and/or Folklore, Humor, Law, Manners, Masculinity, Music, Native Americans, Peace, War, and/or Anti-Imperialism, Performance, Plagiarism, Poverty, Race, Reform, Religion, Science, Science Fiction and/or the Occult, Whiteness, Women, the Chinese, the Politics of Scholarship, the Sandwich Islands, the World of Periodicals, Other 19th and 20th Century Writers, the American West, The Bohemian Mark Twain, The Mark Twain Persona, The New South Edition of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*, The Transgressive Mark Twain, The Transnational Mark Twain, Mark Twain’s Brand of Realism, Mark Twain’s Encounters with the Metaphysical, Mark Twain’s Style (close reading Twain), Mark Twain’s Uses and Abuses of History, Mark Twain: Deep Cuts (lesser-known and underappreciated works), Marketing Mark Twain, Translating Mark Twain, Mark Twain as Journalist, Mark Twain as Satirist, and Signed “Mark Twain”: The Autobiography of Sam Clemens.

Please see the Elmira College website, http://www.elmira.edu/academics/distinctive_programs/mark_twain_center/conference, for more information. □



Mark Twain Circular November 2012

To:

**Prof. Sharon McCoy
Executive Coordinator
Department of English
University of Georgia
254 Park Hall
Athens, GA 30602**

Please enroll me as a member of the **Mark Twain Circle of America** and subscriber to the *Mark Twain Circular* and *The Mark Twain Annual*. I enclose a check for \$30.00 (\$25.00 for graduate students, and \$32.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to “Mark Twain Circle of America.”

(printed name)

(city, state, and zip code)

(email address—please write clearly)

AHSA Panels at ALA Boston 2013

1. “Humor in Periodicals: From *Punch* to *Mad*”—Abstracts (300 words max.) are encouraged on the role of humorous literature in American periodicals from the early national period to the present. Subject adaptable to both humorous periodicals and humor in serious periodicals across a wide time range; thus, title will change to reflect composition of panel.
2. “Reading Humorous Texts”—Abstracts (300 words max.) are encouraged on the interpretation, recovery, or pedagogy of humorous texts from novels and poems to plays and stand-up. Some focus on the act of interpretation of humor in its historical, performative, formal, or other cultural context is encouraged.

Please e-mail abstracts no later than January 15, 2013, to Tracy Wuster (wustert@gmail.com) with the subject line: “AHSA session, 2013 ALA.”

Notifications will go out no later than January 20, 2013.

**MTC and AHSA at 2012 SAMLA,
Atlanta, GA, November 9-11, 2012**

**TWAIN'S OMISSIONS: EXPLORING THE GAPS
AS TEXTUAL CONTEXT**

Mark Twain Circle

Saturday—1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Bull Durham A

Chair: Gretchen Martin, The University of Virginia's College at Wise

Secretary: Emahunn Campbell, University of Massachusetts Amherst

1. Mind the Gap: A Reader Reading *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – John Bird, Winthrop University
2. "It lit up his whole head with an evil joy": The Unnamed Offense, Mysterious Stranger, and Revenge in Mark Twain's *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg* – Autumn Lauzon, Middle Tennessee State University
3. Glimpsing Universal Illusion through the Narrative Gaps of *A Connecticut Yankee* and *The Mysterious Stranger* – Christopher D. Morris, Norwich University
4. Twain's Trickster: Slip the Yoke and Poach the Joke – Gretchen Martin, The University of Virginia's College at Wise

**HUMOR AS REFLECTION/DEFLECTION IN
MEMOIR**

American Humor Studies Association (AHSA)

Friday—11:45 am to 1:15 pm

Imperial Convention Center I

Chair: Elizabeth Vogel, Arcadia University

1. Smirking, Chuckling, Laughing: Dissimulating Humor in Isherwood's *Down There on a Visit* – Timothy K. Nixon, Shepherd University
2. The Joke's on Me: Alison Bechdel and the Ethics of Memoir – Peter C. Kunze, Florida State University
3. Fanny Fern and the Limits of Memoir: or Why *Ruth Hall* Isn't Funnier – Heidi Hanrahan, Shepherd University
4. Redbirds, Jaybirds, and a Run-Down T-Bird: Talking Trash in Rick Bragg's *All Over but the Shoutin'* – Ilouise Bradford, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dates to Circle:

- Mark Twain Circle and AHSA at 2012 SAMLA, November 9-11, 2012, Atlanta, GA.
- Mark Twain Circle at the 2013 Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference, January 3-6, 2013, in Boston, MA.
- Mark Twain Circle (MTC) and the American Humor Studies Association (AHSA) at the 24th annual American Literature Association annual conference, May 22-26, 2013, in Boston, MA, Westin Copley Place.

ABOUT THE CIRCLE. The Mark Twain Circle of America was formed at an organizational meeting held at the 1986 Modern Language Association convention in New York. Although many members are academic specialists, the Circle also includes many non-academic Twain enthusiasts.

ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The *Mark Twain Circular* is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America. It is published twice per year (April and November) and is mailed, by the editor, to all members of the Mark Twain Circle. The *Circular* prints news of Mark Twain events and scholarship, directories of members, and current bibliography. Subscribers are distributed among 44 states and 14 foreign countries.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL. The Mark Twain Circle also publishes an annual volume titled *The Mark Twain Annual*, edited by Ann Ryan (Le Moyne College), featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.

Mark Twain Circle Business Meeting
American Literature Association 23rd Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, CA, 27 May 2012

Present: Jim Leonard (president), Linda Morris (vice president), John Bird (vice president-elect), Ann Ryan (editor, *Mark Twain Annual*), Chad Rohman (editor, *Mark Twain Circular*), Joe Alvarez, Eleftheria Arupoglou, Jocelyn Chadwick, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin.

President Jim Leonard called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Report from Jim Leonard about the future of the Mark Twain Annual

Wiley-Blackwell will cease carrying the *Annual* at the end of one more year. Penn State University Press has indicated they are interested in picking it up at that time. Jim will continue to be in contact with them—the PSU contact is Patrick Alexander—and should know very shortly if they will indeed take over. If so, they will send a proposal and will plan to offer the option of print copies of the *Annual* for all subscribers, including libraries, with the rest being on line. PSU is partnered with Project MUSE and JSTOR.

Meanwhile, Alan Gribben will be taking over the *Mark Twain Journal*, inheriting the editorship from Tom Tenney. He is interested in creating a closer association between the *Journal* and the Circle, and has proposed we consider merging the *Journal* and *Annual*, to be published twice a year, under the title *The Mark Twain Journal*, and affiliated as well with the Elmira Center for Mark Twain Studies. He is drawing up new articles of incorporation for the *Journal*. He also hopes to publish three double issues in a short amount of time to catch up with the missing back issues. The MTC will not be directly responsible for developing the back issues. Jim would be Managing Editor of the combined *Journal/Annual*.

Ann Ryan will continue as editor of the *Annual* for 2012, and has indicated she is willing to stay in that position until she produces the 2013 issue. Ann also suggests that, if *Journal* and *Annual* combine, we consider having one Editor, with an Associate Editor, quite probably an advanced graduate student. The future editorial board for the *Journal* will likely become more communal in nature. Ann also made it clear, and we agreed, that the format for a combined journal should be the template we currently use for the *Annual*.

Some discussion followed about the potential loss of momentum that has been generated over the past decade by the *Annual*, by renaming it the *Mark Twain Journal*, but as someone pointed out, the name of the *Journal* has been in circulation for nearly 75 years. Back issues of the *Annual* will be electronically archived.

Shelley Fisher Fishkin pointed out that if we do not find a fully satisfactory arrangement with a publisher, taking advantage of the California Digital Repository for a high quality on-line journal is a distinct possibility.

The Mark Twain Circular

Chad Rohman reported that the *Circular* currently has 201 individual subscribers, plus 110 libraries. It is fully funded by Dominican University. There was discussion about possible ways to fold some of the information from the *Circular* into the anticipated revised Circle journals, although nothing was decided.

We are also going to try to scan in back issues of the *Circular* into a newly refreshed web site. It is important to have access to the back issues that date before Chad's editorship.

Chad is working to include a more complete listing of recent publications on Mark Twain, including both articles and books. He will put notices on the Mark Twain Forum a couple times a year asking for people to contact him with information. Chad is also regularly seeking photos of Mark Twain Circle and related activities for the *Circular*.

Discussion about developing a more robust web site for the MTC

We all agreed that it would be ideal to develop a new web site, one that is more active, up to date, and attractive. John Bird will pursue this, taking his cue from the web site Tracy Wuster is developing for the American Humor Society.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Sharon McCoy, Circle Executive Coordinator, and presented by Chad Rohman):

- The current Circle balance is \$16,737.88.
- As proposed and approved at last year's meeting, \$1000 was donated by the Circle to the Michael J. Kiskis Memorial Fund at the Elmira College for Mark Twain Studies.
- The electronic royalties for *The Mark Twain Circular* were \$595 (received from EBSCO, Harrassowitz, SWETS, Cox, and Basch).
- *The Mark Twain Annual*:
 - »Wiley Blackwell charged the Circle \$4,600 to print and mail the *Annual*.
 - »Wiley Blackwell paid the Circle two editorial stipends (\$5,264.92, and \$157.92, totaling \$5,422.84), and royalties (\$1,443.00), for a grand total of \$6,865.84.
 - »The Circle's net is \$2,265.84.

Joint Conference of the MTC and American Humor Studies

Joe Alvarez reported that the next conference is tentatively scheduled for early December, 2014. The likely venue will be New Orleans. Ultimately the Circle will have to designate someone to evaluate papers submitted for that joint conference, but that is still a long way away.

Election of New Officers

Linda Morris was elected to a two-year term as President, and the nominating committee, as reported by Chad (and Bruce Michelson, *in absentia*), nominated John Bird as Vice President. Both actions were unanimous. The current Executive Committee membership includes, Jim Leonard (past president), Bruce Michelson (continuing), and Ann Ryan (*Annual* Editor). Chad Rohman continues as *Circular* Editor, and Sharon McCoy continues as Executive Coordinator.

Miscellaneous

Linda Morris reported that the American Humor Studies Association picked up half the tab for the reception we held at the Royal Exchange Friday night, since the tab was high and about half the people attending were AHS folks as distinct from MTC members. Linda suggested that we simply plan in the future to co-sponsor the reception, a notion that people seemed to accept.

Finally, a gift of the three issues of the Bancroft Library Keepsake volumes devoted to Mark Twain were presented to Jim Leonard in recognition of his two years as President of the Circle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Morris and Chad Rohman

Howard G. Baetzhold (1923-2012)

With the passing of Howard Baetzhold in the comfort of his home in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 7, 2012, the Mark Twain community lost another one of its most cherished members.

After graduating from Brown University and serving in the U.S. Air Force in World War II, he returned to Brown where he met his dear wife, Nancy, and began their loving 60-year marriage. They moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where Howard earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He enjoyed a distinguished career as an English Professor at Butler University from 1953-1988. In 1981 he was named the Rebecca Clifton Reade Professor of English Emeritus and he was also named a prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash by Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr. He is survived by his two children, Howard King Baetzhold and Barbara Millard Baetzhold Miller.

As is well known to the community of Mark Twain scholars, and beyond, he emerged, in his quiet way, as one of the top scholars on the writings of Mark Twain. He was especially honored in 2001 at the Fourth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies by receiving the Henry Nash Smith Award recognizing his significant contributions to Mark Twain Studies. He also shared his vast knowledge with the University of California's Mark Twain Papers and Project where he was one of the original editors of the Works of Mark Twain. Less well known, and unrelated to his many academic contributions, was the fact that during his whole life he fostered a love of water and was a competitive swimmer in high school and college. He was a member of the British Sub-Aqua Club of Indiana and for a time, taught scuba. He continued swimming through the U.S. Masters Swimming Program well into his 70's.

Of Howard's many publications, he was especially proud of his important and often cited book, *Mark Twain and John Bull: The British Connection* (Indiana, 1970), and the edition, *The Bible According to Mark Twain: Writings on Heaven, Eden and the Flood* (University of Georgia Press, 1995), and *The Bible According to Mark Twain* (Touchstone Books, 1996), which I was honored to co-edit with Howard.

My long and wonderful relationship, both professional and personal, with Howard began tentatively. While working in the Mark Twain papers at Berkeley on a proposed study and possible edition of Mark Twain's writings on religion, Bob Hirst and I had a genial lunch on a bench outside of the Bancroft Library. Bob suggested that I should consider approaching Howard with the proposal that we work together on this project. At the time, one of Howard's projects on the late writings of Twain, to be published by the University of California Press, which would include a number of pieces that Twain wrote on religious topics, was stalled, and Bob thought that together we could put together an important collection of Twain's writings, some of which had not been previously published. Though I did not know Howard well, I gingerly approached Howard with the idea. Little did each of us realize that what began as tentative collaboration would turn into a long and enduring friendship.

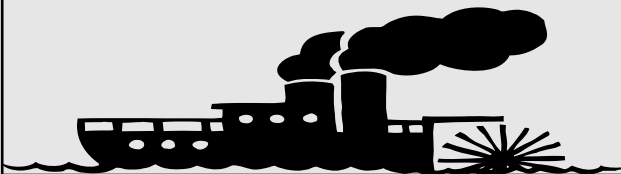
Over the next two years or so, Howard and I were in regular communication, usually by phone or through letters, in which we labored over established authoritative texts using Twain's original manuscripts, with my making regular trips to the Mark Twain Papers to inspect the original manuscripts, and providing copious annotations for Twain's works. I must confess that reading Howard's tiny handwriting, which covered the entire page, made deciphering Mark Twain's handwriting seem simple by comparison, but I was able to cope with this small obstacle with the help of a

couple of changes of my eyeglass prescriptions. During this period, even through our arguments and disagreements, we both realized that what began as a professional collaboration was evolving into something much more personal. We had indeed become friends.

Our only rivalries had nothing to do with our project, but occurred when Butler University played Gonzaga University (my alma mater) in basketball. That, and my faux pas of calling Howard one Memorial Day to ask something about some textual annotations I was working on, only to be greeted by a stunned silence on the part of Howard, who could not imagine why anyone would be doing anything else that day other than watching the Indianapolis 500 race.

Needless to say, Howard and I were more than pleased with the reception of our edition, and subsequent brisk sales of the paperbound edition. We began to see each other more frequently, sometimes doing joint readings from our book in Las Vegas, and other places. We were able to spend time together, with our wives, at Quarry Farm, taking long genial walks with our spouses, getting to know Mark Twain better, and even more importantly getting to know one another and becoming true friends. During this period I learned many things about Howard. In many ways, he was shy man, one who almost always shunned the spotlight. He believed deeply in the community of Mark Twain scholars, and I never once heard him say anything derogatory about anyone. In the end I was grateful that fate brought us together, and I shall miss him a great deal. I am a much better person as a result of this wonderful relationship.

Joseph B. McCullough



**Call for Papers by The Mark Twain
Circle of America:
American Literature Association
Boston, May 23-26, 2013**

The Mark Twain Circle of America invites proposals for individual papers (15-20 minutes) for sessions it will sponsor at the 2013 ALA conference in Boston, May 23-26, 2013.

1. "Mark Twain and History." This topic may be broadly considered including, but not limited to, Mark Twain's writings about historical events, his writing set in earlier historical periods, his place in history, or his works in relation to other historical figures.

2. Open topic: The topics are entirely open, provided they are Twain related.

Send your proposal (1-2 page abstract) to Linda Morris no later than **January 15, 2013**: lamorris@ucdavis.edu.

**Call for Papers for a Joint Twain/
Howells Session: ALA, Boston, 2013.**

Paper topics are invited for a joint session at ALA sponsored by the Mark Twain Circle of America and the William Dean Howells Society. Papers may be on any topic relating to both Twain and Howells: biographical, literary, or cultural.

Please send a 1-2 page abstract to lamorris@ucdavis.edu and Daniel.Mrozowski@trincoll.edu by January 15, 2013.

Current Mark Twain Bibliography

Current Mark Twain Bibliography is a means of giving notice of what is new in Mark Twain scholarship. Where annotations are used, they are in most cases descriptive blurbs provided by publishers (or in some cases, by authors) with value judgments edited out. If you have recently published something that you would like to have included in this list, please send it by email to the current editor, Chad Rohman, at crohman@dom.edu.

Books

Bliss, Donald Tiffany. *Mark Twain's Tale of Today: Haley's Comet Returns—The Celebrated Author Critiques American Politics.* Createspace, 2012. 484 pages. ISBN: 978-1-4774-0502-4. Price: \$29.95 paperback.

Mark Twain's Tale of Today traces the evolution of Twain's views about politics, government, social and economic issues, capitalism, foreign policy and American-style democracy. It describes the parallels between Twain's Gilded Age and contemporary America—boom and bust economic cycles, partisan trench warfare and gridlock, risky speculation in the financial markets, rapid technological and cultural change, and rising income disparity. [Amazon.com]

McFarland, Philip. *Mark Twain and the Colonel: Samuel L. Clemens, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Arrival of a New Century.* Rowman and Littlefield, 2012. 520 pages. ISBN 978-1-4422-1226-8. List Price: \$28.00 hardback.

In *Mark Twain and the Colonel*, Philip McFarland tells the story of the rich years of American history between 1890 and 1910 through the fully engaged involvement of two of its most vital participants. The narrative unfolds in six sections, each focusing on a different aspect of the United States of the early twentieth century that continues to matter to

this day: America as an imperialist nation, America as a continental nation, America as a racial nation, America as a corporate nation, America at home, and America striving for peace. In this short span of years, the America of the late nineteenth century will move substantially closer to the America we know today, thanks in part to the influence and actions of Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt, two of the most influential figures of the age. [Excerpt from publisher's website]

Rasmussen, Kent R., Editor. *Mark Twain: Autobiographical Writings.* Introduction by Kent R. Rasmussen. Penguin Books, 2012. xviii + 493 pages. ISBN 978-0-14-310667-8. List Price: \$16.00 paperback.

An intimate look at Mark Twain that only he himself could offer. A must-have for all lovers of Mark Twain, this selection of his autobiographical writings opens a rare window onto the writer's life, particularly his early years. Born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, Samuel Langhorne Clemens first used the pseudonym Mark Twain while a journalist in Nevada in 1863. When his first major book, *The Innocents Abroad*, appeared six years later, he began what would become one of the most celebrated and influential careers in American letters. *Autobiographical Writings* will help readers know the author intimately and appreciate why, a century after his death, he remains so vital and appealing. [Excerpt from publisher's website]

Strathcarron, Ian. *Innocence and War: Mark Twain's Holy Land Revisited.* Signal Books, 2012. 256 pages. ISBN 978-0-10908-493-01-9. List Price: \$12.99 paperback.

In 1867 the *Daily Alta California* commissioned Mark Twain to cover the story of the world's first luxury cruise, a six-month round tour to the Holy Land from New York on board the *Quaker City*, an ex-Civil War Mississippi side-wheel paddle steamer. The →

captain, crew and passengers were highly respectable Presbyterian Christians on a mission; the Islamic Holy Land was under loosening Ottoman control. The interchangeable infidels and zealots saw Mark Twain as a distracting influence, and he saw them as a wonderful source of material for comments on the folly of the human condition. The resultant *The Innocents Abroad* was his best-selling book in his lifetime and is still regarded as a classic of travel writing and a masterpiece of satire on political and religious excess. Ian Strathcarron follows Mark Twain and his caravanserai as it sways across the Holy Land, and the two writers' contrasting adventures and observations are told in *Innocence and War*. [Amazon.com]

Worthington, Leslie Harper. *Cormac McCarthy and the Ghost of Huck Finn*. McFarland, 2012. 223 pages. ISBN 978-0-7864-6041-2. List Price: \$40.00 paperback.

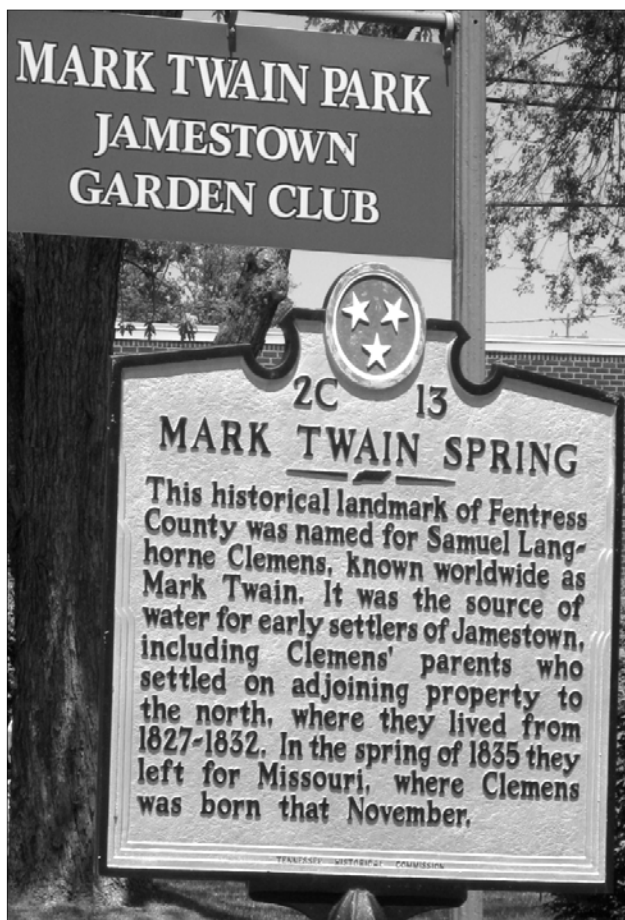
Mark Twain once wrote, “We are nothing but echoes.” Despite this pronouncement, Twain’s voice continues to reverberate in the 21st century. Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* helped define modern American literature, creating The Huck Finn Tradition in contemporary writing. This volume discusses the intertextual connections between Twain’s iconic novel and eight works by celebrated American author Cormac McCarthy, including *Suttree*, *The Orchard Keeper*, *Blood Meridian*, *All the Pretty Horses*, *The Crossing*, *Cities of the Plain*, *No Country for Old Men*, and *The Road*. By chronicling the diverse scholarly comparisons between Twain and McCarthy and exploring the echoes of Twain and Huck Finn in McCarthy’s writing, this study reveals how McCarthy has not only absorbed Twain’s tradition, but transformed it, with consequences that surpass the work of other Twain heirs. [Excerpt from publisher’s website]

Article Briefly Noted

Amare, Nicole, and Alan Manning. “American Prophets: Mark Twain and Joseph Smith Revisited.” *Journal of Mormon History*. 37.3 (2011): 151-172.



Photos of Jamestown, TN, the county seat of Fentress County, where John M. Clemens was County Clerk before heading off to Missouri. [Photos courtesy of Larry Howe.]



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Chad Rohman, Editor
Mark Twain Circular
English Department
Dominican University
7900 W. Division St
River Forest, IL 60305

E-mail: crohman@dom.edu
Fax: (708) 366-5990
Phone: (708) 524-6839

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