Twain’s Eternal “Persistent Beggar”

For my farewell presidential column, I’d been planning something special—a piece called “Mark Twain's Nook Farm Protégé,” about an interesting back story I’d recently uncovered concerning Clemens’s mentoring of an aspiring local writer named Annie Eliot Trumbull (1857-1949). Their friendship—as reflected in a surprisingly extensive correspondence—persisted well beyond the family’s years in Hartford; Annie was among the guests at Delmonico’s at Twain’s 70th birthday party in 1905 (and wrote a poem to commemorate the occasion), and later played an important role in saving the Clemens mansion from the wrecking ball. Speaking at a preservation fundraiser in 1927, she fondly recalled “the library with its beautiful carved mantelpiece, its open fire, its little green conservatory at one end in which a tiny fountain tinkled, never disturbingly, but quietly, unobtrusively, like an undercurrent of thought accompanying the conversation, and its lovely view, from the large bay window, of the reddening western sky...About the glowing fire there was, at all times, speech—suggestive, thoughtful, sparkling.” My intent was to illuminate the ways in which the close-knit, forward-thinking Nook Farm community fostered creativity and personal expression through lasting interpersonal relationships. It was, I thought, a fine idea, and then this happened:

Exiting the Visitors Center at the Museum the other day after a committee meeting, I stopped for a moment to appreciate a classic New England spring day—warm sunshine, sublimely blue sky, soft lilac-scented air. “Ah, Nook Farm,” I thought, “still glorious,” my head lost in the clouds of Annie Trumbull’s evocative memories. Then as I strolled toward my car, I was approached by a tall, middle-aged man. “Ma’am,” he said, “can you help me? My car’s broken down and I need to buy a bus ticket to Stamford. Do you know where that is?” He stood uncomfortably close, speaking with urgent intensity. “The ticket costs $37.50; if you give me $40, I’ll give you back change.” The politeness of this last detail intrigued me, as if the
proposed transaction somehow smacked of fair play. But in truth, I was also scared. Though it was midday, I was alone in the lot and the insistence of his demeanor unnerved me. If I demurred, I feared he might push me down, grab my purse and run, or perhaps block the way to my car. So I reached into my wallet and pulled out a ten dollar bill. He was standing so uncomfortably close that he spied the twenty I also had and quietly demanded that instead. I forked it over. Then he said (things were growing more bizarre by the minute): “Can I give you a hug?” I politely declined. He ambled off in the direction of Farmington Avenue, toward what I assume was the nearest liquor store.

Driving home I shook my head over what had just happened, angry that I’d just been conned out of a sizable amount of cash, but also pondering the changes that time had wrought in what historian Kenneth Andrews once described as “Hartford’s choicest residential district.” No longer a bucolic green oasis set at the city’s western edge, but gritty, urban...and, as my uncomfortable encounter attests, beset with panhandlers. I suddenly remembered a letter Twain himself had sent to the editor of the Hartford Courant in 1875 about a “Professor” of the begging art who had appeared at his door one evening at dinnertime—then again at 10 am the next morning—ostensibly soliciting donations to establish a school in an unnamed Southern state. It wasn’t a firsthand encounter like I’d had in the parking lot, but conducted through an intermediary—likely George Griffin—to whom the “Professor” presented grimy, obviously forged documents attesting to the nobility of his character, and by extension, the legitimacy of his fraudulent enterprise. Clemens reviewed them and promptly declined, informing his servant: “Go and tell the Professor I don’t wish to invest in his educational stock.” Despite the disparate outcomes of these two scenarios, it occurred to me that perhaps things weren’t so different back then, after all. More to the point, I realized (cliching from Twain’s commentary on James Fenimore Cooper’s Indians in Roughing It) that I’d been perceiving Nook Farm “through the mellow moonshine of romance”—mythicizing both the place and the charmed lives of its 19th century inhabitants. My disconcerting encounter in the parking lot disabused me of that idealized view—a corrective insight well worth the $20 it cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the Circle. It’s been my honor and privilege.

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The coat of arms of the human race ought to consist of a man with an ax on his shoulder proceeding toward a grindstone, or it ought to represent the several members of the human race holding out the hat to one another; for we are all beggars, each in his own way. One beggar is too proud to beg for pennies, but will beg for an introduction into society; another does not care for society, but he wants a postmastership; another will inveigle a lawyer into conversation and then sponge on him for free advice. The man who wouldn’t do any of these things will beg for the Presidency. Each admires his own dignity and greatly guards it; but in his opinion the others haven’t any. Mendicancy is a matter of taste and temperament, no doubt.

~from Albert Bigelow Paine, Mark Twain, A Biography
What's your earliest memory of reading Twain?

My father owned only one book as an adult that he had owned as a child, a 1935 Grosset & Dunlap edition of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. His mother, a graduate of a normal school, had inscribed it “To Bobby” when he was only eight years old, and she died when he was fourteen. It is only one of two specimens of her handwriting I have ever seen. I read it when I was about the same age. It made an indelible impression on me.

Where and when did you first encounter Twain in the classroom?

In a sophomore-level American studies class at my no-name college in Indiana, we read the jumping frog sketch and some other short pieces by Twain. But my immersion in his writings really began when I was an M.A. student in English at Ball State University when I was twenty. I took a Twain seminar directed by Frances Rippy, whose specialty was not Twain, but it was a revelation. She never published a word on Twain, but I still have my notes from that course. I think I first read Huck Finn then; I know I first read A Connecticut Yankee.

What was your dissertation topic and who directed your dissertation?

As a Ph.D. student in American Studies at Purdue University, I wrote the very first dissertation ever on Horatio Alger, Jr., and it was directed by Chester Eisinger, a specialist in modern American fiction. It had virtually nothing to do with Mark Twain except for their mutual but antithetical interests in the “boy book” tradition. Alger, by the way, once wrote a juvenile novel modeled on Huck Finn, titled Bob Burton (1887), that featured a young white boy and a runaway slave.

Have your impressions of Twain and his work changed at all over the years?

Yes—I am more convinced than ever that he should be taken seriously as a writer and cultural arbiter rather than a humorist only.

What, if anything, have you grown to dislike about Twain the man and/or Twain studies?

Celebrity scholars who self-promote. Scholarly reputations should be earned, not bought.
What are some of the common misperceptions about Twain that you strive to clarify/correct/amend?

We all need to work to correct the “Saint Mark” impression. As we all know, Samuel Clemens walked upon feet of clay.

What do you consider your most important contribution to Twain studies?

My edition of Mark Twain’s interviews (Mark Twain: The Complete Interviews [2006]).

What’s your best story about a Twain scholar from an earlier generation?

I wish I had a funny story here, but I don’t. My most vivid memory is of Ham Hill—whose position I filled at the University of New Mexico when he left for Texas A&M University in 1986—playing with my young children one day when he returned to summer at his cabin in the Jemez Mountains northwest of Albuquerque. I’d guess not many Twain scholars today think of Ham as happily playing with children!

What do you think still needs to be done in Mark Twain studies?

In addition to a multi-volume biography, there should be a comprehensive bibliography of all of Mark Twain’s published writings, including all news reports and published translations. There also needs to be a comprehensive Twain iconography that lists all photographs and sketches of him.

What’s your best advice for someone just starting in the field?

Take nothing for granted. Just because a scholarly project has been done doesn’t mean it’s been done well.

Gary Scharnhorst, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico, is the author or editor of more than forty books. He is also the editor of the journal American Literary Realism and currently at work on a multivolume biography of Twain.
CALL FOR PAPERS
SPECIAL ISSUE: MARK TWAIN AND THE NATURAL WORLD

The Mark Twain Annual is seeking article-length submissions that examine aspects of Twain's work that comment on the relation between human beings and the natural world. This broad scope allows for critical examinations of Twain's writing about the natural world in any number of ways: as nature writing; as a form of environmentalism; as commentary on animal welfare, technology and science, and travel; and as a forerunner to mid-20th to early 21st century writers (Krutch, Abbey, Kingsolver, Quammen, and Gessner) who offer comic responses to nature as well as recognize the comic in the natural world and in our relationship to that world. Anthologies of nature writing may feature short passages from Life on the Mississippi (and sometimes from Roughing It), but most of Twain's writing about the natural world is left out. More importantly, it is left underexamined. This special issue seeks to explore that unexamined territory in Twain's fictive and nonfictive writings.

In addition to being published in the Annual, authors will have the opportunity to be part of the Quarry Farm Weekend Symposium program sponsored by the Center for Mark Twain Studies in Elmira, New York. The symposium will be held sometime in the beginning of October 2019, one month prior to the publication of the Annual. The gathering will begin with a dinner on the Elmira College campus, followed by a keynote address. The symposium will continue throughout the next day with presentations and discussions in the tranquil atmosphere of Quarry Farm, a writing retreat reserved for scholars and writers working in the field of Mark Twain Studies, where breakfast, lunch, and dinner will also be served. Registrants will be invited back to Quarry Farm on Sunday morning to enjoy an autumnal breakfast and casual discussions. For more information about the Quarry Farm Weekend Symposium, visit http://marktwainstudies.com/2018-quarry-farm-symposium/.

Those interested should submit a 150-word proposal to Ben Click at baclick@smcm.edu by August 31, 2018. Final manuscripts must be submitted by December 15, 2018. Selected essays should be 4,000-8,000 words in length, but longer essays of more than 8,000 words will also be considered.
Mark Twain Circle
Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco
Saturday, 26 May 2018

Present: Kerry Driscoll (outgoing president), Larry Howe (incoming president), Jarrod Roark (executive coordinator), Chad Rohman (outgoing editor of the MT Annual), Ben Click (incoming editor of the Annual), Joe Csicsila (editor of the MT Circular), Jim Caron, John Bird (Executive Committee members), Dennis Eddings, Bruce Michelson, Susan Harris, Paula Harrington, Judith Lee, Linda Morris, David Sloane, Atsushi Sugimura.

Reports:

1. Jarrod gave a brief report on membership and the Circle’s finances. The current balance is $15,665.30 (minus ALA travel stipends for Circle officers). We have 223 national members (84 of whom have not renewed since 2016 or before), and 22 international members (11 of whom have similarly not renewed since 2016 or before). Discussion ensued about how to reach lapsed members and encourage them to renew. More broadly, it was noted that since we stopped mailing out hard copies of the MT Circular, members are often unaware whether their status is current. A suggestion was made to send these individuals a pre-stamped postcard, indicating that it should be returned with their dues payment. Jarrod also noted that 100 national institutions and 15 international institutions are members of the MTC, and 120 institutions subscribe to the Circular only.

2. Chad and Ben then presented a report on the MT Annual. Ben has been working with Chad as associate editor for the forthcoming 2018 issue, and will assume the position of Editor for a five year term beginning in 2019. Chad briefly discussed the Annual’s current editorial board (consisting of 12 members, all active), and indicated that Ben may be reaching out to inquire if these individuals are willing to continue. Chad also raised the question of whether the board should be expanded, or conversely, limited, and stressed the need for greater diversity. A motion was then made to expand the Board and was unanimously passed.

Chad stated that the Annual’s acceptance rate is still relatively high (75%), and that the pipeline for submissions is good but needs to be stronger; he particularly stressed the desire for more unsolicited submissions. Ben Click floated the idea of having “Special Issues” on a single topic, such as Twain and Nature Writing, Twain and Disability Studies, and Digital Humanities, as a strategy for encouraging a broader base of contributors. This idea was warmly received by the group. Chad and Ben will place a call for the special issue (slated for 2020) in the next issue of the Annual.

Chad announced that PSU has informed him that subscription rates for the Annual have increased modestly for 2019: 2% for individuals and 5% for institutions; however, single issue pricing for 2019 has actually decreased 10% (e.g., from $62 to $56 for individuals). He also stated that the Annual is currently indexed in the MLA Directory of Periodicals; the MLA International Bibliography; Project Muse; JSTOR; Emerging Sources Citation Index; IBZ (an international databased of close to 12,000 periodicals); Duotrope (a subscription-based service for writers and artists); and SCOPIS (the largest abstract and citation database).
A lengthy discussion then occurred concerning whether the Associate Editor position, which currently only exists in a period of transition from one editor to the next, should be made permanent. Ben and Chad discussed developing a job description detailing the responsibilities of the Associate Editor. A motion was made to make the Associate Editor of the Annual a permanent position, which passed unanimously. There was also some discussion of creating a Communications Editor or Social Media/Digital Humanities” position—perhaps as an internship for an advanced graduate student—to assist in enhancing the Annual’s online presence.

Kerry expressed the group’s thanks to Chad for his fine work as Editor, presenting him with a framed archival photograph of Mark Twain as a token of gratitude for his service.

**New Business:**

3. Kerry proposed a clarifying amendment to Section V of the Circle’s current bylaws, which reads: “A travel stipend will be provided for officers attending to the business of the Mark Twain Circle,” but does not specify them. The change would read: “To facilitate the business of the Mark Twain Circle, a travel stipend will be provided to the following officers and members of the executive committee: President, Vice President, Executive Coordinator, Mark Twain Annual Editor and Associate Editor, Mark Twain Circular Editor, and Past President.

The amount of the stipend is to be approved by the Circle’s general membership at the annual business meeting.” The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Kerry then proposed a second change to Section IV.5 of the bylaws to revise some punitive language to make it more neutral. The passage in question currently reads:

> If for any reason any officer of the Executive Board or the Executive Committee is unable to fulfill his or her duties, that officer may be removed by a majority vote of the combined Executive Board and Executive Committee.

After much wordsmithing, a friendly amendment to the motion was proposed:

> If for any reason any officer of the Executive Board or the Executive Committee is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the Executive Board and Committee will by majority vote relieve this individual of his or her duties, and vote to install a replacement.

This friendly amendment was approved unanimously.

5. Larry discussed the “Louis J. Budd Travel Award,” which will provide a stipend for a graduate student presenting on Twain at a conference. Volunteer donations to this fund will be solicited on the Circle’s membership renewal form.

6. Kerry made another motion that the MTC make a one-time $500 contribution to establish the “Hadleyburg Fund” for the support of scholarly lectures, workshops, and programming at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford. Individual donations to supplement this amount will be solicited in the MT Circular, MTC website, and on the membership renewal form; checks should be directed to Rosalie Roth, Director of Development, The Mark Twain House and Museum, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105. This motion was unanimously passed.

Joe Lemak, Director of the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies, also generously pledged the Center’s support of this initiative.
7. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, John Bird put forward Sharon McCoy's name as a candidate for the Vice President position. This nomination was enthusiastically and unanimously approved by the group.

8. Larry thanked Kerry for her service as president, presenting her with a first edition of *Following the Equator*, for which she is enormously grateful.

9. Announcements were made regarding joint Mark Twain Circle and American Humor Studies Association Quadrennial Conference in Chicago (12-14 July) the Fall Elmira Symposium, “American Literary History and Economics in the New Gilded Age” (5-7 October).

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Driscoll

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Announcing the creation of the “Hadleyburg Fund,” established in May 2018 by the Mark Twain Circle to foster the growth of scholarly programming at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford. We welcome donations in any amount, earmarked for the fund, and sent directly to:

Rosalie Roth
Director of Development
Mark Twain House and Museum
351 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Thank you for your generosity!
Renew Your Membership in the Mark Twain Circle of America for 2019!

And if you haven't yet renewed for 2017, you can use this form, too.

$30 Individual (US and International)
$15 Graduate Students and K-12 Educators
$75 Three-year Individual

Membership helps support the educational and social activities of the Circle, including scholarly panels at academic conferences such as MLA and ALA. It also includes our newsletter, *The Mark Twain Circular*, which will keep you connected to all things Twain, and the *Mark Twain Annual*, published by Pennsylvania State UP, beginning fall 2013. Previous issues will be available to members through JSTOR.

Send queries regarding the *Mark Twain Annual* to:

Chad Rohman, Editor
*The Mark Twain Annual*
Department of English
Dominican University
River Forest, IL 60305
crohman@dom.edu

For *Annual* submission information or to submit a manuscript, visit the Annual’s Editorial Manager website: http://www.editorialmanager.com/mta/

Memberships now payable online via PayPal (credit, debit, or PayPal account)

Or, send your check—payable to the Mark Twain Circle of America—to

Jarrod Roark, Executive Coordinator
Mark Twain Circle of America
3725 Thompson Circle
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

Name__________________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Email Address_________________________________________________________________

Academic Affiliation (if any)_____________________________________________________

Questions? Jarrod Roark can be reached at jarrodroark@gmail.com
Meet the New MTC President and VP
Larry Howe and Sharon McCoy

There’s a breed of humility which is itself a species of showing off.
- "The Esquimau Maiden's Romance"

...gratitude is a debt which usually goes on accumulating like blackmail;
the more you pay, the more is exacted.
- Mark Twain’s Autobiography

At the annual business meeting of the Mark Twain Circle held at the ALA conference in San Francisco on May 26, we were elected to serve as president and vice-president of the Mark for two-year terms. We are both humbled and grateful for the support of the members present for that election (see clarification on humility and gratitude above). For the members whom we may not have met over the years, we thought we’d briefly introduce ourselves, and we’d also like to outline a couple of our priorities for the Circle’s immediate future.

**Larry Howe** – I am Professor of English and Film Studies at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where I’ve been teaching for 23 years. I earned my BA and Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, where I became engrossed in Mark Twain studies, which has continued for more than 30 years. My first book, *Mark Twain and the Novel*, was published in 1998, and my most recent, *Mark Twain and Money*, a collaboration with Harry Wonham and a host of insightful contributors, was published in 2017.

When I attended the first Mark Twain Circle dinner at Delmonico’s in New Orleans in December of 1988, I was a graduate student trying to navigate the protocols of the profession. It was very gratifying to discover a group with whom I knew I would have a lot in common. However, it wasn’t until somewhat later, 2007 or so, that I became regularly active. The camaraderie, intellectual and otherwise, that I’ve found as a member of the Circle is very important to me. You won’t find a group of people more interesting, genial, and generous, and we have our shared interest in Mark Twain to thank for bringing us together.

My interest in Mark Twain has provided opportunities to speak about Mark Twain throughout North America and Europe—I did my share of the work on *Mark Twain and Money* while on a Fulbright in Denmark, which turned into its own version of a tramp abroad. The Circle has also connected me with the wise and kind people who work at the various Twain sites—Bob Hirst and the editorial team at the Mark Twain Papers, Henry Sweets at the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, Joe Lemak (and his predecessors) at the Center for Mark Twain Studies, and Pieter Roos (and his predecessors) at the Mark Twain House in Hartford. My associations with these sites, and these people, have enriched my understanding of Mark Twain. We’ll have a little more to say about those sites below. But first, meet your new vice-president.

**Sharon McCoy** - With something of a “jack-leg novelist” approach to life, I am an academic free agent, independent scholar, poet, and part-time instructor at the University of Georgia, where I’ve taught writing and multicultural American literature, history, and humor since 2004. I’d earned my Ph.D. in American literature at Emory University in 2003, firmly convinced that the most important aspect of my dissertation was the very part my adviser forcefully and repeatedly recommended I cut – Mark Twain’s complex, pain-filled, ambiguous, and ambivalent use of blackface minstrelsy.
I had fallen into literature and, later, Mark Twain studies quite by accident after entering college to study molecular biology. Though I remain fascinated by that subject (and frankly captured by it during a personal journey with a rare and aggressive lymphoma), it was the concrete, powerful possibilities in literature and history that swept me up in their irresistible current. And while I had enjoyed Twain’s novels, it was his words about his daughter Jean’s death that struck me with his proverbial lightning. My brother had just died unexpectedly, and in reading those lines I touched someone who knew intimately what I was feeling, who lived the agony of a heart that couldn’t bear the load or close the gaping wound. And more, he made me laugh out loud a few pages later. Painful, palliative laughter. Turning back to his other writings with a profoundly changed perspective, I’ve found that same lacerating laughter everywhere. He knew that it is often easier to laugh than it is to smile. That a smile is often a grotesque mask.

Members of the Mark Twain Circle came into my life in 2005 at the 5th Elmira conference, where I made my first public presentation about Twain and his favorite blackface minstrel troupe, the San Francisco Minstrels. When I finished speaking, there was dead silence. I remember thinking, “Oh, great – I am the only person in the world who cares.” But Ann Ryan finally broke the long silence with a thought-provoking question. For the rest of that weekend – and for the past 13 years – I’ve been immersed in the camaraderie, friendship, and supportive sharing that fundamentally marks Twain scholars: Enthusiastic, passionate, compassionate, generous, and full of laughter; committed to life well-lived, enjoying good food, good alcohol, the best company, and an active engagement with the painful relevance of Mark Twain’s writings to the conflicts, agonies, growth, and backlash of our own times. I’ve learned so much from each person I’ve met – enthusiastically productive, with knowledge, and insight about aspects of Twain’s life, writings, and times that I’d never considered or knew existed.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as Executive Coordinator from 2011-2016, a deep sorrow to step away for health reasons, and it is an indescribable pleasure and honor to return now.

**Priorities:**

We don’t have a long list of plans, just three straight-forward priorities.

1. **Membership service**—we want to hear from you about how the Circle works for you and, more importantly, how it could work better. Here’s what the Circle does now:

   1. sponsors panels annually at two major academic conferences:
      - the American Literature Association conference
      - the MLA Convention
   2. holds a joint quadrennial conference with the American Humor Studies Association (this year in Chicago in July)
   3. supports two quadrennial conferences sponsored by major Mark Twain sites:
      - the Center for Mark Twain Studies quadrennial conference in Elmira, and
      - the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal quadrennial conference (next scheduled for 2019).
   4. produces and distributes two publications for our membership:
      - the *Mark Twain Circular* (this semi-annual newsletter), and
      - the *Mark Twain Annual*, our scholarly journal published by Penn State University Press.

So what else can the Mark Twain Circle do to support your interest in Mark Twain and to advance the profile of Mark Twain in order to inspire the interest of others? We want your input. You can contact us directly here: Larry (lhowe@roosevelt.edu); Sharon (sdmccoy@bellsouth.net)
2. Membership enrollment efficiency and expansion—a few years ago we restructured the dues, and offered a discount for multi-year memberships. Doing this made keeping track of renewals a little difficult—for you and for us. We’ve now devised a system for keeping people informed of when their membership is due for renewal. Thank you, to those who responded to our recent call for renewal. These renewal notices will be sent out every January only to those whose membership is due. If you don’t hear anything, you’re up to date. But if you’re ever curious, you can always contact us, or Jarrod Roark (harrodroark@gmail.com), our stalwart executive coordinator.

What we need to do now is grow the ranks of Circle members. Our restructured dues are designed to do this, making membership more affordable for teachers and students. We’re also accepting donations to the Louis J. Budd Travel Fund. The late and much-loved Lou Budd was a dean of Mark Twain studies notable for his generosity to junior scholars. The fund named for him is dedicated to building the next generation of scholars by supporting graduate students to present at conferences we sponsor. Still, the Circle is not just for academics; we welcome all who are interested Sam Clemens and the authorial persona he invented. And you can help us by spreading the word about the Circle and help us to identify interested people. We’re particularly eager to recruit students with the hope that many of them will go on to be lifelong members. If you’d like to nominate someone for membership, send us contact info and we’ll reach out to them.

3. Advancing our relationship with Mark Twain sites—many members of the Circle have enjoyed long relationships with the various Mark Twain sites, helping to organize conferences and symposia, and donating money directly to the sites. These have been individual efforts that we expect to continue. Now we seek ways to formalize the Circle’s relationships in support of the missions of those sites. At the Circle’s annual business meeting in May, Kerry Driscoll proposed, and the membership approved, a Circle donation to a Hadleyburg Fund, earmarked for scholarly and educational programming at the Mark Twain House in Hartford. Our revised membership form now enables individual members to make optional donations to this fund as well. In the future, we’d like to expand this effort to support any of the sites chosen by members. These donations are a show of Circle support to Mark Twain sites that share a commitment to maintain the important profile of Mark Twain in our culture.

This is not too much, but plenty enough to keep us busy. And we’re interested in hearing what you think and eager to have other suggestions about how to move the Circle in productive ways. We’ll take these ideas up with the Executive Committee.

Best,
Larry Howe, president
Sharon McCoy, vice-president
The Mark Twain Circular is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America.

SERIAL LIBRARIANS: The Mark Twain Circular is entered selectively in the annual bibliographies of the Modern Language Association and the Modern Humanities Research Association and in the American Humanities Index, Literary Criticism Register, American Literary Scholarship, and “A Checklist of Scholarship on Southern Literature” (which appears annually in the spring issue of the Mississippi Quarterly).