Mark Twain at MLA 1993

The 1993 Modern Language Association Convention at Toronto will feature two Mark Twain Circle panels, a Circle business meeting, two cocktail hour readings in the Mark Twain Suite, and two breakfast hour sessions also in the Mark Twain Suite. See the "Who’s Where" listings at the convention for location of the Mark Twain Suite.

Convention Sessions:
"Huck Finn and Blackness Reconsidered" (Monday, Dec. 27; 9:00-10:15 p.m.; Carmichael & Jackson, Toronto Hilton).
Chair: David E. E. Sloane (U of New Haven).
Papers:
1. David L. Smith (Williams C), "Mark Twain, Race, and Vernacular Culture"
2. Harry Womah (Mannheim U), "One Ever Feels His Twoness": Double-Consciousness in Black and White Fictions of Reconstruction"
3. David Barrow (Northern Illinois U), "Was Pap Finn Black?: Orality, Race, and Alienation in High Print Culture"
Respondent: Shelley Fisher Fishkin (U of Texas, Austin)
"The Dynamics of Consciousness in Mark Twain" (Thursday, Dec. 30; 1:45-3:00 p.m.; Conference Room F, Sheraton Centre Toronto).
Chair: Vic Doyno (SUNY, Buffalo).
Papers:
1. Peter Gibian (McGill U), "Levity and Gravity in Twain: The Bipolar Dynamics of the Early Tales"
2. Larry Howe (California Inst. of Technology), "Mark Twain and the Authority of History"
3. Mark A. Johnson (Boston U), "Pragmatism and Mark Twain’s Christian Science"
Respondent: Theresa M. Spiteri (St. John’s U, Jamaica)

Cocktail Hour Readings
1. Mark Twain Suite; Tuesday, Dec. 28; 5:30 p.m.
   Presiding: David E. E. Sloane (U of New Haven)
   Presentation: Allison Pingree (Harvard U), "Twinship and Ambiguity in Mark Twain’s Those Extraordinary Twins and Pudd’nhead Wilson"
2. Mark Twain Suite; Wednesday, Dec. 29; 5:30 p.m.
   Presiding: Michael J. Kiskis (Elmira C)
   Presentation: Gregg Camfield (U of Pennsylvania), "Mark Twain and the Monday Evening Club"

Breakfast Sessions:
Presiding (both session): Laura Skandera-Trombley (SUNY, Potsdam), with assistance from Tom Tenney (The Citadel) and Michael Kiskis.
1. Mark Twain Suite; Wednesday, Dec. 29; 8:15-10:00 a.m.
   Laura Skandera-Trombley, "Isabel Lyon, Lily Bart, and Mark Twain: A Fictional Ménage à Trois"
2. Mark Twain Suite; Thursday, Dec. 30; 8:15-10:00 a.m.
   Presentation: Michael Kiskis ("I Drink with the
   Ghost of Mark Twain: The Challenges of Literary
   Biography")

Semi-Annual Business Meeting of the
Executive Board of the Mark Twain Circle:
Wednesday, Dec. 29; 12:00-1:15 p.m.; Confer-
ce Room C, Sheraton Centre of
Toronto

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Mark Twain at ALA 1994

The 1994 American Literature Association
Annual Conference will be held in San
Diego, CA at the Bahia Resort Hotel, June
2-4. The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor
the following sessions:
"Mark Twain and the Matter of Racial
Response"
Chair: Victor A. Doyno (Suny, Buffalo)
   Papers:
   1. Peaches Henry (U of Notre Dame), "The Evasion
      Sequence (de plus)"
   2. Joseph Rice (U of Cincinnati), "Bad Boys
      Always Finish First: Sinners and Feints in Works
      by Mark Twain and Langston Hughes"
   3. Jeff Abernathy (Illinois C), "To Hell and Back:
      Huckleberry Finn and Racial Representation in
      the Twentieth Century"
   Respondent: James S. Leonard (The Citadel)
   "Conceptualizing Mark Twain’s Style"
   Chair: David E. E. Sloane (U of New Haven)
   Papers:
   1. Chris Kearns (Indiana U), "Divided in Twain:
      Detecting the Post-Colonial in Pudd’nhead Wil-
      son"
   2. Pamela A. Boker (Columbia U), "The Glory
      Which Is Built upon a Lie: Mark Twain’s Humor
      as an ‘American Art’"
   3. William B. Millard (Rutgers U), "All the
      Poetry That You Can’t Understand: Emersonian
      Strategies in the Language of Mark Twain"
   Respondent: Laura Skandera-Trombley (SUNY,
Potsdam)

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Calls for Papers

I. Papers for inclusion in the following ses-
sions at the 1994 MLA Convention (San
Diego) may be sent to the indicated session
chairs:
American Humor Studies Association Ses-
sions
   Session 1. "Genderless Child of the Humor of
   the MLA," Eric Solomon, San Francisco State
   University, chair. Papers relating to the
   humor of the MLA, the profession, or bur-
   lesques of the profession will all be con-
   sidered. Abstracts, papers, or proposals by
   Session 2. "Laughing at the Gods: Black
   Humor, Insubordination, and American
   Identity," Michael J. Kiskis, Elmira College
   (correspondents please note this new affili-
   ation), chair. Abstracts, papers, or proposals
Mark Twain Circle Session
   Open call for papers dealing with Mark Twain
   studies in all aspects; David E. E. Sloane,
   University of New Haven (by January 15,
   1994).

II. 1995 ALA Convention (Baltimore).
   Open call for papers dealing with Mark
   Twain studies in all aspects; David E. E.
   Sloane, University of New Haven (by
   January 15, 1994).

III. Studies in American Humor will start its
   new series of publications under David E.
   Sloane, Editor, University of New
   Haven, 300 Orange Ave., West Haven, CT
   06516. Papers on all aspects of American
   Humor, including literary, non-literary, and
   popular from the beginning to the present,
   are invited. The next volume will appear
   on July 14, 1994, with deadlines for pos-
   sible submissions being late winter 1994--
   February 28.

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Resources for Teaching
Twain: A Call

Beginning with the first 1994 issue, the
Mark Twain Circular will include, as a regu-
lar feature, reviews of current resources for
Teaching Mark Twain’s life and works. If
you encounter a film, videotape, audiotape,
computer program, or other resource that
may be of interest to other Twainians, you
are invited to write it up for publication in the Circular. Deadlines for receipt of copy are January 15 (for the Jan.-Mar. issue), April 1 (for the April-June issue), August 1 (for the July-Sept. issue), and November 1 (for the Oct.-Dec. issue). Earlier submission, however, makes prompt publication more likely.

James S. Leonard, Editor
Mark Twain Circular

Mark Twain and Ned Buntline Aboard a Sacramento Riverboat

Some time ago I asked in these columns if someone might be willing to hunt down a reference to Mark Twain reported by Paul Fatout. In 1868, according to Fatout, Mark met the dime novelist E. Z. C. Judson—"Ned Buntline"—in California. But, also according to Fatout, that meeting was recorded (by Ned) in an obscure temperance journal, The Weekly Rescue, to be found—for this period—only in the library of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Maxwell Keniston of Harvard (the Massachusetts town, not the university) was kind enough to volunteer his services; and after a diligent search he found the passage in question. Unfortunately for admirers of these two peripatetic, red-headed authors, Ned has very little to say about Mark. In fact, we don't really know that the two men conversed at all. Even so, the circumstances are, I think, worth describing.

During the last week of May 1868 (not April, as Fatout implies), Ned and Mark were fellow travelers on a steamboat heading up the Sacramento River toward the California state capital. Capital was also, and appropriately, the name of the boat. Both men had been in San Francisco for two or three weeks in May; and both apparently came aboard there. Ned was going all the way to Sacramento, Mark only part way. Mark had recently finished a lecture tour, and Ned was just setting out on one.

Mark Twain's humorous lectures have been described in detail by Fatout and other scholars. Ned's temperance lectures, however, are not so well known. Judson had done this sort of thing as early as the 1850s, but in those days he was frequently accused of hypocrisy. No doubt the young rascal sometimes attacked the Demon Rum while himself half-seas-over. But a colossal binge during the Civil War seems to have sobered him up permanently. Incidentally, though Ned's role in the war was far from heroic, he deserves credit for volunteering at an age when he could easily have stayed out; and Fatout errs in his assertion that the novelist received a dishonorable discharge.

For years after the war Ned was cordially received by temperance societies throughout the country. They found him an effective speaker—so much so that his California lectures between the spring of '68 and the spring of '69 helped revive the flagging temperance movement in that state.

These lectures were almost certainly a labor of love, for Ned's sensational fiction had made him one of America's best-paid authors. He had no financial need to exhibit himself on the lecture platform; but this avocation helped satisfy his perennial wanderlust, kept his name before the public, and gratified his histrionic ego. Also, of course, he sincerely wished to curb the disastrous effects of heavy drinking.

In 1869, en route to New York City after his West Coast tour, Ned made his famous "discovery" of Buffalo Bill Cody at Fort McPherson, Nebraska. That meeting led, over the next few years, to several dime novels and two plays about the handsome scout. In the second play, The Scouts of the Prairie, performed between December 1872 and June 1873, Cody made his show-business début. And Ned, who played an abstemious trapper, worked a temperance lecture into the plot! In one of the many 20th-century westerns descended from this seminal play, so bizarre an episode would serve as comic relief. But Ned's lecture was intended seriously, and it was so taken by most persons who heard it.

Returning to the hurricane deck of the Capital in May '68, we find the eligible bachelor Sam Clemens (age 33) besieged by beautiful women. (See illustration.) Or so says Ned, himself a lively bigamist in his
forties. He was (he claims) loath to intrude on the younger man's privacy, though he seems to imply that they had some sort of conversation. Perhaps Mark was studiously avoiding so notorious a shipmate.

From Ned Buntline's column in The Weekly Rescue, June 6, 1868, vol. 5, no. 18: "Mark Twain, the great and truly original, unapproachable humorist, also came a part of the way; but, looking in the smiles of beauty as he was, I had no chance to form, as I desired, a more intimate acquaintance with him."

In any case, the grizzled dime novelist paid a handsome tribute to his literary rival, and the contact between them, however slight, made Ned invoke the humorist's name twice more over the next two weeks. "In the Rescue for June 13th, Ned observes that a night's relaxation at Vallejo "was indeed grateful to a tired, but not disheartened cuss," as Mark Twain might pathetically, or parenthetically remark." And on June 20th he cites Twain yet again. On the road from San José to Santa Cruz, Ned lectured for an hour and a half in a hamlet called Lexington, on the eastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The result, he says, was that ten persons became converts to the temperance movement: "and when we think how small the place is and how very scattered the population, it was 'great'—so to speak—as Mark Twain would say."

These comments were made in the earliest of a series of numbered essays, called "Notes on the Way," which appeared in The Rescue on ten successive Saturdays: from June 16th to August 22nd, 1868. That journal was published in Sacramento, from offices on J Street, between 5th and 6th—not far from the imposing capitol building, then under construction. The first piece in which Mark is mentioned was no doubt handed to the editor, William H. Mills, by Ned himself as soon as he got off the boat. But Mills had been in touch with Ned from the time he reached California in early May; for Ned had already contributed three unnumbered essays to the Rescue, published on May 16th, 23rd, and 30th. (The entire series can be found in Volume V, Nos. 15-27.)

I am indebted to Dennis Laurie of the American Antiquarian Society, who sent me a chart of the Society's holdings of The Weekly Rescue, and who gave me permission to reproduce their contents. And I am deeply grateful to Maxwell Keniston, whose labors made it possible to prepare this little vignette of Life on the Sacramento.

Robert D. Pepper
Professor Emeritus
Notes San José University

3. Mark was in California (and Nevada) between April and July, 1868. For a more recent account, see Margaret Sanborn, Mark Twain: The Bachelor Years; A Biography (New York: Doubleday, 1990) 391-97 and notes, 482-83.
4. For Ned's excursion to the West Coast, see Jay Monaghan, The Great Rascal (Boston: Little, Brown, 1952) 252-56. The text of a recently discovered obituary of the dime novelist has been reproduced (by the present author) in "Ned Buntline: King of the Dime Novelists," San José Studies 19.2 (Spring 1993): 24-38.
5. Monaghan 163 ff.
7. Monaghan (268) says Ned "was honorably discharged" on August 23, 1864.
9. See Monaghan, ch. 1, "The Discovery of Buffalo Bill."
11. Today the place-name Lexington is used only for a reservoir—near the epicenter of the great 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.
12. The Capitol in Sacramento, built between 1860 and 1873, has recently undergone
a thorough renovation. According to Rowell's *American Newspaper Directory* for 1869 (p. 40), by that date *The Weekly Rescue* had a circulation of about 1,500.

Index to the Mark Twain Circular
and "About Mark Twain": Vol. 6
(1992)

**Using This Index**

This index to the *Mark Twain Circular* for Volume 6 (1992) updates Wesley Britton's index of *Mark Twain: A Reference Guide* Supplements (1977-83) and the *Mark Twain Circular*, Volumes 1-5 (1987-91).

The format discussed below is the same as for the previous indexes.

**Articles.** Each item is listed by year and the month's initials (for example, M/A = March-April) followed by the page number.

"About Mark Twain." Items listed in the annotated "About Mark Twain" section are indexed as "AMT," followed by the month's initials and the page number.

(Example: "Blair, Walter AMT M/A 10.") Both authors and subjects discussed in each listing are indexed.

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Wesley Britton
Southeastern Oklahoma State U

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Dates to Circle

December 27-30, 1993. At the 1993 MLA Convention in Toronto, the Mark Twain Circle will sponsor two conference sessions, two "Cocktail Hour" sessions (in the Mark Twain Suite), two "Breakfast with Mark Twain" gatherings (also in the Mark Twain Suite), and a semi-annual business meeting. See "Mark Twain at MLA 1993" (above) for details.

June 2-4, 1994. At the 1994 American Literature Association Annual Conference in San Diego (Bahia Resort Hotel), the Mark Twain Circle will sponsor two sessions, conduct another semi-annual business meeting, and generally be responsible for the presence of considerable Twainiana. See "Mark Twain at ALA 1994" (above) for details.
ABOUT MARK TWAIN

Abbreviations used in this bibliographical series are listed in the January-March 1992 Mark Twain Circular. In addition, a combination of year, letter, and number refers to an entry in my Mark Twain: A Reference Guide (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1977), and ALR refers to one of its supplements appearing in the journal American Literary Realism. Readers wishing to keep up to date on Twain scholarship may also wish to consult the list of other recommended bibliographic sources in the January-March 1992 Circular.

Thomas A. Tenney
(Editor, MT Journal)

Books on Twain

RAO, E. NAGESWARA, ed. Mark Twain and Nineteenth Century American Literature. Hyderabad, India: American Studies Research Centre, 1993. (Seminar Proceedings Series--2). From a two-day seminar held at the American Studies Research Centre in November, 1991, the following eight papers deal with MT: K. Narayana Chandran, "And Thereby Hangs a Tale: A Reading of Mark Twain's 'A Cat-Tale'" (1-7); E. Nageswara Rao, "Perpetuated Piracy: Mark Twain's Attitude to Monarchy" (8-16); S. D. Kapoor, "Some Thoughts on Mark Twain's Autobiography" (17-26); S. Ramaswamy, "Mark Twain's What Is Man?--An Indian View" (27-36); Siddig Ali, "Mark Twain and Black Humor: A Reading of The Mysterious Stranger" (37-43); A. N. Dwivedi, "Mark Twain's Humor and Huckleberry Finn" (44-54); P. Marudanayagam, "The Theme of Inter-ethnic Male Bonding: Twain and Friedel" (72-78); Mohamed Elias, "Rudyard Kipling's Works in Mark Twain's Library" (128-34). [Abstracts of these articles will appear as individual entries in Mark Twain: A Reference Guide, volume 2, to be published by G. K. Hall in 1994 or 1995].

Articles on Twain

ANSPAUGH, KELLY. "The Innocent Eye? E. W. Kemble's Illustrations to Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." American Literary Realism 25.2 (Winter 1993): 16-30. A useful discussion of the illustrations by the 23-year-old son of the editor of the San Francisco Alta California; Kemble's representations influenced later illustrators, among them Thomas Hart Benton. Among topics considered are the racial and possibly racist element (as in the portrayal of blacks), the addition of a penis to the picture of Uncle Silas Phelps, and suggestions of masturbation and gender ambiguity.

BAENDER, PAUL. "Alias Macfarlane: Who in L was 'L'?" Resources for American Literary Study 19.1 (1993): 22-34. Picks up loose ends from his earlier "Alias Macfarlane" (1966.B15): "I see that I should have made the case so amply as to forestall two main lines of reaction, which I shall call Nominalist and Realist," the former arguing that the "Macfarlane" MT said he had known in a Cincinnati boarding house was an invention and the latter arguing the existence of an actual Macfarlane. Support for this position is given by William Baker, citing a humorous letter signed "L," and attributed by Edgar M. Branch to MT.

Baender casts doubt on this attribution, and reprints the text of another, similar piece appearing nine days later and signed "Larkin." Baender leaves the case open: "nobody should know whether there was a Macfarlane prototype," or should care: "it is causally unimportant."

BEIDLER, PETER G. "Fawkes' Identified: A New Source for Huckleberry Finn?" English Language Notes 29.3 (March 1992): 54-60. Working on LOM, MT asked his publisher James Osgood to obtain travel books for him by Fearon and "Fawkes." The first has been identified: Henry Bradshaw's Sketches of America (1818), but the other has not. Beidler proposes that the other author was not "Fawkes," but William Faux, who was acquainted with Fearon and published his own Memorable Days in America (1823). If MT saw the latter book, he would not have found it helpful for LOM, but there are
"resonances" of it in HF: "the sad state of Christianity . . . drunkenness, cowardice, and bravery . . . deceptions and disguises . . . generalizations about the American character . . . the dirty, dishonest, lazy loafers of frontier America . . . comments about the evils of slavery . . . the use of dogs to catch runaways."

BERKOVE, LAWRENCE I. "Mark Twain's Mind and the Illusion of Freedom." *Journal of Humanities* (Association for the Study of Humanities, Japan) (Special Issue, 1992): 1-23: Berkove develops his thesis that "Twain was despairingly convinced that there was no freedom at all, that freedom was a beautiful but cruel illusion" in terms of the predestinarian dogmas of the Calvinism in which young MT was raised (here summarized for the benefit of Japanese readers). Each major work of MT can be read on several levels: cheerfully optimistic and democratic on the surface, with a Calvinistic pessimism underneath. This may be seen, for example, in RI, HF (in which "there is not a truly free man"), and CY.

GILMAN, SANDER L. "Mark Twain and the Diseases of the Jews." *American Literature* 65.1 (March 1993): 95-115. "Disease is a concept closely linked to religion and the exotic," and as early as IA, "the tracing of disease becomes a commentary on the role of the Jews in Western civilization--a seeming contradiction to his 1898 essay "Concerning the Jews." The present essay will examine three interrelated topics: 1) Twain's image of the Jew in his earliest writings and its affinity to the model of the 'diseased Jew,' 2) the various racial models of the diseased Jew which existed in European and American thought through the nineteenth century, and 3) the similarities and differences between Twain's later views and his earlier ones."

HAWKINS, HUNT. "Mark Twain's Anti-Imperialism." *American Literary Realism* 25.2 (Winter 1993): 31-45. "From its very beginning, Twain's anti-imperialist ardor, though quite genuine in itself, was progressively undercut by his despairing worldview. In turn, the failure of his protests, together with the failure of the anti-

imperialist movement generally, contributed substantially to the pessimism which finally overwhelmed him." Works discussed include FE, "A Defense of General Funston," *King Leopold's Soliloquy*, "The Chronicle of Young Satan," and a 51-page manuscript on General Frederick Funston and the Filipino patriot Emilio Aguinaldo (for text see "Mark Twain on American Imperialism" in "About Mark Twain," July-September 1992). Many American authors felt as MT did, but he courageously spoke and acted more forcefully despite his financial exigencies at the time and his awareness that his stand was unpopular.

SEGAL, HARRY G. "Life without Father: The Role of the Paternal in the Opening Chapters of Huckleberry Finn." *Journal of American Studies* 27.1 (April 1993): 19-34. "Huckleberry Finn begins with a series of evocative, dreamlike chapters which . . . give way to Twain's more conventional parodies of Southern society . . . the most powerful passages in the novel may be found in the opening sequences where Huck awaits the arrival of his father, escapes him, and rushes off in a blaze of ambivalence with his alternate father, Jim. I believe the one is an answer to the other; that is, the difficulties of the novel's ending may be explained as a reaction to the depth of its beginning."

ZLATIC, THOMAS D. "The 'Seeing Eye' and the 'Creating Mouth': Literacy and Orality in Mark Twain's Joan of Arc." *Clio* 21.3 (Spring 1992): 285-304. Joan's life obviously resonated with some deep psychological and intellectual concerns--such as an image of history or a defense of the poor against Church and Crown--but Mark Twain's idolization of Joan is more closely interrelated with his compulsion to return continually in his fiction to the Middle Ages and to the worlds of children and slaves--worlds whose common denominator is the absence or minimal presence of literacy." In contrast with Hank Morgan, whose "criteria for truth are mostly visually-based" and who cannot integrate the two orientations of sixth and nineteenth centuries,
Joan can achieve such a harmony.

ZWICK, JIM. "'Prodigally Endowed with Sympathy for the Cause': Mark Twain's Involvement with the Anti-Imperialist League." The Ephemera Journal 5 (1992): 50-68. MT's membership in the League (formed when it became clear that in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War the U. S. government was not going to give independence to Guam, Puerto Rico, or the Philippines) was long forgotten, until Louis J. Budd pointed to a letterhead listing MT as an honorary vice-president (along with Andrew Carnegie, W. D. Howells, and Carl Schurz, among others). "Because so little had been published about Twain's relationship with the League before I began my own study of his writings about the Philippine-American War, it had to be documented almost entirely through the use of ephemera" (unpublished letters, and pamphlets and newspaper articles). A number of these are illustrated in facsimile. [A revised version of this article will appear in the Mark Twain Journal, in an issue with a cover date of 1992 or 1993.]
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ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The Mark Twain Circular was launched in January 1987 by Thomas A. Tenney (Editor of the Mark Twain Journal), who edited the first issue, then passed the Circular baton to the present Editor. An individual who pays dues to the Mark Twain Circle and/or subscribes to the Mark Twain Journal receives one subscription (four issues per year) to the Circular.

ABOUT THE CIRCLE. The Mark Twain Circle of America was formed at an organizational meeting held at the December 1986 Modern Language Association convention in New York; the membership has since grown to more than 350. Current officers are: President—David E. E. Sloane; Vice President—Víctor Doyno; Executive Coordinator—Michael J. Kiskis; Executive Committee—Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Pascal Covici, Jr., and Susan K. Harris. Past Presidents: Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson. Although many members are academic specialists, the Circle also includes many non-academic Twain enthusiasts. The Circle is in communication with other Mark Twain organizations, including those associated with sites important in his life, and cooperates with them.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL. Founded in 1936 by Cyril Clemens, the Mark Twain Journal is the oldest American magazine devoted to a single author. In 1982 Mr. Clemens retired, and the Journal moved to its present home in Charleston, S.C., under the editorship of Thomas A. Tenney. There are two issues per year, Spring and Fall, with a new volume each year (rather than every second year, as in the past). The Journal tends to appear late, and begs your patient indulgence. New subscribers may wish to begin with the 1989 issues rather than the 1992. Although the Mark Twain Circle and the Mark Twain Journal are separate entities, Circle members enjoy a reduced subscription rate for the Journal (see coupon below for prices). Back issues from 13:1 to the present are available at $5.00 each, postpaid ($2.50 on orders for ten or more; pre-1983 issues are thinner than modern ones and some are badly reprinted). An index 1936-83 counts as a back issue.

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FULFILLMENT NOTICE: Both 1991 issues of the Mark Twain Journal (29:1, Spring and 29:2, Fall) were mailed to subscribers on June 30, 1993. We hope to mail both 1992 issues (30:1, Spring and 30:2, Fall) by the end of 1993.

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