Just a Few Words . . .

Dear Fellow Twainians,

I'd like to begin an irregular column to pass on news and to ask for suggestions about the life and conduct of the Mark Twain Circle. We have not been a closed or formal-style group; indeed, a big part of our vitality has been created by the informal, inclusive, open-minded give and take of our membership.

Of course, our shared interest in Mark Twain probably has a shaping influence upon us. Just for the sake of comparison, I'd hazard a guess that the Twain meetings are more fun than, say, the convention of the Franz Kafka Association!

And we have been fortunate to have the devoted help, guidance, and energy of earlier Board members and Officers. A grateful tip of the hat to them, especially David Sloane!

When I was installed at the American Literature Association meeting in San Diego, it was a pleasure to look around at some of the people we can draw upon. Please begin to think about how you can volunteer some of your expertise for the Circle.

If you have not attended an ALA conference, please try the next one. These meetings provide a chance for lively professional conversations. Even those who have "sworn off" other conventions have enjoyed the ALA.

Modern Language Association meetings:

In addition to the exciting Twain Circle programs at the December 27-30 conference, the Mark Twain Circle will sponsor breakfast and pre-dinner hour meetings in the Twain room. These gatherings can offer the stimulation of small group discussions between knowledgeable folks. Please join us for a wide variety of MLA discoveries!

CALL FOR PAPERS: Please send your suggested essay/paper presentation for the December 1992 MLA convention.

CALL FOR IDEAS / FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The Twain Circle has decided to develop an outreach program for high-school teachers and students. Victoria Thorpe Miller will be heading up this initia-
tive. She can be reached through the English Department at Alverno College in Mil-
waukee, WI 53234-3922. People with a spe-
cial interest in N.E. Missouri please contact
Cht Davis (tel 313-962-4790).
This is a very exciting time to be a
Tawnyan! I'd like to close with a portion of
the thanks given by Professor Judith Yarrow
Lee at the ceremony--on a riverboat--when
David Sloane and the MT Circle awarded
special recognition to Dr. Robert Hirst.
I am delighted to speak for what and how
much the Mark Twain Project has meant to me.
When in 1973, at the beginning of my graduate
study at the University of Chicago, I became
interested in Tom Sawyer in the sequels, Ham-
lin Hill suggested that I look at Mark Twain's
Hannibal, Huck and Tom, a volume edited by
Walter Blair from the Papers a few years ear-
lier. I knew as I opened the book that I
had found part of my life's work, not just the
subject for a master's project. Twenty years
later, teaching in an interdisciplinary Ph.D.
program in human communication at Ohio
University, I see in my students the same
excitement and awe when we study the Letters
as an outstanding example of historiography.
The editorial work on Letters II and III, in par-
icular, exemplifies historical documentation at
its best; the details in the footnotes open up the
richness and texture of the nineteenth-century
American life. So I am grateful for the
opportunity to give this award to Bob Hirst
tonight, since it allows me to discharge my
personal debt to the Mark Twain Project as both
a scholar and a teacher.
Over the last twenty-some years, Bob has
participated in most of the productions of the
Mark Twain Project, the ten volumes published
in the two series (the Works of Mark Twain
and the Mark Twain Papers) of the Anderson
yrs. (1967-93) and the fifteen titles produced
under his own editorial direction. Eight of
these have been scholarly editions of the
Mark Twain Project—Adventures of Tom Sawyer,
Tom Sawyer Abroad, and Tom Sawyer, Dete-
cutive (1980), Early Tales and Sketches, II
(1981), Letters, I (1988), Adventures of Huckle-
berry Finn (1988), Letters, II (1990), Letters,
III (1992), Roughing It (1872) (1993)— and
seven volumes belong to the Mark Twain Lib-
ary Series of critical editions for general
readers.
When any of us do research on Mark Twain
using any of the thirty-five volumes thus far
produced by the Mark Twain Project, we have
masterful assistance from a master collaborator:
Bob Hirst. And so it is with great pleasure
that I present to Robert Hirst and the Mark Twain
Project, on behalf of the Mark Twain Circle of
America, this Distinguished Achievement
Award.
Victor Doyo (SNY, Buffalo)
President, Mark Twain Circle

Circle Directory
The following is a list of members of the
Mark Twain Circle of America as of
November 1994. Honorary (Lifetime) members
are indicated separately at the end of the list.
If any part of your listing is incorrect, please
come to me so that I can correct it. Some
entries also indicate electronic mail
addresses. If you would like to have your e-
mail address added to your listing, send it to
me. My various addresses (e-mail, fax, etc.)
and my office phone number are indicated on
the back page of this and every Circular.

James S. Leonard (The Citadel)
Editor, Mark Twain Circular

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Correction

The review of the CD-ROM ‘Twain’s World’ in the July-September Mark Twain Circular erroneously listed Michael B. Frank, of the Mark Twain Project, as a member of the Editorial Board for ‘Twain’s World’. Our apologies for the misinformation.

-J.S.L.

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Dates to Circle


December 27-30, 1994. Modern Language Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, including Mark Twain Circle sessions, cocktail hour sessions, and breakfasts with Mark Twain. See the July-September issue of the Circular for details.

May 26-28, 1995. ALA Conference on American Literature, Baltimore, MD. Conference Director: Gloria Cronin, English Dept., Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602; fax number: (801) 373-4661; internet: cronin@jbhbruce.byu.uedd.

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 approximately 400. Current officers are: President—Victor Dystro; Vice President—Michael J. Kiskis; Executive Director—Lauren Skandera-Trombley; Executive Committee—David E. E. Sloane, Susan K. Harris, and Jennifer Rafferty. Past Presidents: Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covicl, Jr., David E. E. Sloane. Past Executive Directors: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis. 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 1992 issues (to be mailed in summer 1994) rather than the 1994. Although the Mark Twain Journal and the Mark Twain Circle are separate entities, Circle members enjoy a reduced subscription rate for the Journal (see coupon below for prices). Most back issues from 1:1 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 rebound). An index 1936-85 counts as a back issue.

To: Prof. Laura Skandera-Trombley
   Exec. Director, Mark Twain Circle
   SUNY, Potsdam
   Potsdam, NY 13676

Please enroll me as a member of the MARK TWAIN CIRCLE OF AMERICA and subscribe to the MARK TWAIN CIRCULAR. I enclose a check for $10.00 ($11.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to "Mark Twain Circle of America:"

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I am a member of the Mark Twain Circle. Subscription rates are $15 for one year, $28 for two years, $43 for three years, or $50 for four years.

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LIBRARIANS: Please note in your computer that the Mark Twain Circular provides publication information on the Mark Twain Journal. This may help reduce avoidable claims.

FULFILLMENT NOTICE: Both 1992 issues (30:1 and 30:2) and the Spring 1993 issue (31:1) of the Mark Twain Journal were mailed to subscribers in early September 1994. We hope to mail the Fall 1993 issue (31:2) and possibly the Spring 1994 issue (32:1) by the end of December 1994; however, we ask libraries not to claim these before February 1995. We're doing our best to catch up!

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, the Literary Criticism Register, American Literary Scholarship, and "A Checklist of Scholarship on Southern Literature," which appears annually in the Mississippi Quarterly (Spring issues).

Publication of the Mark Twain Circular is funded in part through a grant from the Citadel Development Foundation.

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MARK TWAIN CIRCULAR  ISSN 1042-5357