Final Post

Dear Fellow Twainiac:

After the recent MLA convention I have much good news to pass on to you. First of all, the professional papers—the primary reasons for our meetings—sustained the high level of intellectual achievement we have come to expect from our group. In accord with an earlier Board policy decision to indicate our openness to graduate students' achievements—they'll be our next generation of Twainians—a financial award symbolic of our support will be sent to Joseph Csicsila, who presented a paper titled "Religious Satire to Tragedy: Evolution of Theme in 'Mysterious Stranger' Manuscripts." Joseph has been fortunate enough to study with Larry Berkove, Alan Gribben, and Joseph McCullough.

Thanks are gratefully extended to the Twain Foundation for partially underwriting the Mark Twain Suite. It was fun to see both familiar faces and many new members. The international guests were especially welcome. Dr. Tom Tenney graciously provided both hospitality and wisdom and almost his share of bad jokes.

We have a new Honorary Member! We raised a toast to send praise and respect to John Gerber. As I've said before, the respect and admiration of knowledgeable Twain scholars is much better than a sharp stick in the eye. You may write to John at 359 Magowan Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52246. Professor Gerber, we salute you!

Other honors: Laura Skandera-Trombley's recent book, Mark Twain in the Company of Women, has been selected by Choice as one of the outstanding academic books of 1995. Congratulations to Laura—and to Penn Press.

MAJOR NEWS: The MLA has decided the winner of the award for THE BEST SCHOLARLY EDITION IN ANY LANGUAGE PUBLISHED DURING THE PERIOD OF 1992–94. Does anyone not know how significant this kind of competition is? Congratulations to everyone involved with the scholarship, collaboration, editing, proofreading, and support that created Roughing It! Please see the separate article in this issue. Special thanks are given to the National Endowment for the Humanities and to the L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation and to other public-spirited individuals.

The MLA main program honored this important achievement at the large Thursday night Presidential Forum. Later I extended MT Circle good wishes to Harriet Smith, and the next day a roomful of collected members also raised a toast to Robert Hirst and Ed Branch and the whole Mark Twain Project staff. At the following social hour there was a great deal of professional conversation. I think it is fair to say that people left the room with a sense of collegial warmth. Not a dry throat in the house!

The American Humor Studies Association Board also met in our suite and wishes to thank our membership for the convenience.

Special Discussion: One morning we had a spirited, highly informative discussion about teaching Huck in the American high schools and in special circumstances. If you have any opinions, special knowledge, or relevant experience or advice, please contact David Sloane, who is working on this topic for a planned Hartford Memorial publication. (The January Harper's has an essay on Huck by Jane Smiley.)

MISTAKE: In an earlier Circular I gave wrong information. The 1996 Cancún Conference will be titled "Female and Male Literary Relations in
19th and 20th Century American Literature.” Please contact either Laura Skandera-Trombley or Alfred Bendixen. I hope that many Twainians will make a special effort to attend because it is a terrific conference location, and these leaders will create a splendid program.

**Elmira:** Sharpen your pencils or flick on your word processor. Save August 14-16, 1997 for a conference on “The State of Mark Twain Studies.” See the full announcement in this issue. Jim Wilson and Leland Krauth will co-chair the conference. Jim and his wife Mary Ann have now returned home and have resumed their teaching duties at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. (See—I said there was a lot of wonderful news.)

Also turn on your television set: Hamlin Hill and Joseph McCullough will appear on the A&E channel in an hour-long show about our friend Mark T. The show is already completed and will be broadcast sometime this spring.

This summer (August) Ham and Arlette Hill will be holding forth on the hill at Quarry Farm, teaching and researching at Elmira College’s Twain Center.

One of the high points of the year will occur at the (May-June) San Diego ALA Conference. I can assure you that the papers will be TERRIFIC! And many Twainians will be in attendance. I caution you that it is wise to make hotel reservations as soon as possible because the conference sells out and fills the comfortable facilities quite quickly.

In San Diego I will hand over the gavel to Mike Kiskis. I wish to thank the membership for the support you have given. Please continue to support Mike as thoughtfully as you have helped me. Please keep him informed about what you are working on and when the project will be ready for presentation. That way there will be less likelihood of scheduling difficulty and more likelihood that he can put you together with someone of similar interests.

Ours is an unusually broad and diverse group—as would be appropriate for MT. We have bibliographical, textual, biographical, historical, thematic, theoretical, positivist and non-positivist, deconstructionist and reconstructionist, ludic and lamenting scholars and critics—a much greater variety of players than Hamlet could imagine! And we care passionately about our studies: I ask that we remember that we share much more than divides us. I hope that our future debates will be evidence-based, with our usual norms of civility, humor, and detail. If we have the kinds of rancor that have split other groups, we will—each and all—lose.

We are fortunate that Twainians have good opportunities to meet and to present papers. We have good geographical spread, and I hope that we can soon encourage some Rocky Mountain MLA Twain activity. I’ve tried to match individuals’ personal skills to the different tasks, and that has often worked out.

Now this commitment is almost completed. For any delays in correspondence or scheduling conflicts, I apologize. For the pleasure and excitement of knowing what different colleagues are working on, I thank you.

Twain once wrote humorously that he knew more about “the German language than the man who invented it.” He added to the word “man” an “i,” then an “a,” then a “c.” Try it. Often I think about the slight difference and the major differences, about what an impact ¼ ounce of brain chemicals can make, or about the difficulties that surround us and about how hard it is for so many of us. I’m glad that Sam Clemens invented Mark Twain, and I’m very glad that we Twainiacs keep on keeping on—reading, learning, writing.

Cordially/Collegially, 
Vic Doyno
President, MTCA 
(SUNY, Buffalo)

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**Roughing It**
**Is a Prize-Winner**

[The following is a press release recently issued by the Modern Language Association.]

**MLA Inaugurates Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition, Recognizing Mark Twain Project at UC-Berkeley Library, Editors Edgar M. Branch and Harriet E. Smith**

New York, NY—December 1, 1995—The Modern Language Association of America has announced the winners of the first Modern Language Association Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition. The inaugural prize will be presented to the editors of *Roughing It*, volume two of the works of Mark Twain, published by the University of California Press for the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley. The editors are Harriet Elinor Smith of the Bancroft Library and Professor Edgar Marquess Branch of Miami University of Ohio. The editors will share a cash award in the amount of $1,000, and each will receive

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The Mark Twain Circular is the Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America.

**Mark Twain Circle Officers:**

President: Victor A. Doyno
SUNY, Buffalo

Vice-President: Michael J. Kiskis
Elmira College

Executive Coordinator: Laura Skandera-Trombley
SUNY, Potsdam

Executive Committee: David E. E. Sloane
Univ. of New Haven
Susan K. Harris
Pennsylvania State Univ.
Jennifer Rafferty
Trinity College

Editor, Mark Twain Circular:
James S. Leonard
The Citadel
a certificate containing the text of the selection committee's citation.

The MLA Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1994 in response to a proposal from the association's Committee on Scholarly Editions. Scheduled to be awarded each odd-numbered year, the prize is one of thirteen awards that will be presented on 28 December 1995 during the association's annual convention, held this year in Chicago, Illinois. The selection committee for the inaugural prize consisted of Judith L. Fisher (Trinity Univ., Texas), chair; Victoria Kirkham (Univ. of Pennsylvania); and Gary Taylor (Univ. of Alabama). The selection committee's citation for the winning edition reads as follows:

Roughing It constitutes volume 2 of The Works of Mark Twain, edited by members of the Mark Twain Project, located at the University of California, Berkeley. Combining superb commentary, detailed composition history, and lucid editorial explanation with the presentation of difficult textual problems, the volume addresses both the intricacies of textual editing and major content issues such as historical context. The complexity of the practical definition of copy-text, the recognition of differences between manuscript and print intentions, and the kinds of evidence brought to bear on problems of punctuation and spelling all demonstrate the theoretical and practical potential of the editorial enterprise.

The editors of Roughing It are Harriet Elinor Smith and Edgar Marquess Branch; associate editors are Lin Salamo and Robert Pack Browning. Harriet Smith holds a BA degree from the University of California, Berkeley and has served since 1974 on the editorial staff of the Mark Twain Project at the same institution. Since 1988 she has been a principal editor in the project. As such she has participated in the editing of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1979), Early Tales and Sketches (v.1, 1979; v.2, 1981), Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1988), and Mark Twain's Letters (v.1, 1988; v.2, 1990; v.3, forthcoming).

Edgar M. Branch holds a BA from Beloit College, an MA from the University of Chicago, and a PhD from the University of Iowa. He joined the Department of English at Miami University of Ohio in 1941, became full professor in 1957, chairman in 1959, and research professor of English emeritus in 1978. Active in the Mark Twain Project since 1964, and author, editor, or coeditor of fifteen volumes of Twain's works, Professor Branch is widely acknowledged to be the dean of Mark Twain scholars in the United States. He is also author or editor of five books on James T. Farrell and has been Farrell's literary executor since 1975. He is author of more than three dozen articles and book chapters on Twain, Farrell, and other writers, as well as numerous reviews and essays.

Lin Salamo (BA, City Coll. of New York) has been a senior editor at the Project since 1989 and active as coeditor, associate editor, or contributing editor in ten editions published by the Project between 1975 and 1995. Before becoming an editor at the Project in 1972, Robert Pack Browning (BA, Univ. of Utah) was a teacher of English and a correspondent for Life magazine. At the Project, he has been coeditor of one edition and associate editor of eleven others published between 1975 and 1993.

Roughing It is the twenty-second volume in The Mark Twain Papers and Works of Mark Twain. The general editor of the Mark Twain Project is Professor Robert Hirst. Editorial work on the volume was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.

The Modern Language Association of America, the largest and one of the oldest (1883) of American learned societies in the field of the humanities, exists for the purpose of advancing literary and linguistic studies. The 30,000 members of the association come from each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia, as well as from Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. PMLA, the journal of the association, has published distinguished scholarly articles for over one hundred years. The association's annual convention, which is held each December, is attended by approximately 9,000 members of the MLA and allied groups. The MLA is a constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures.

The MLA Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards. Other awards sponsored by the Committee on Honors and Awards include the William Riley Parker Prize, the James Russell Lowell Prize, the MLA Prize for a First Book, the Howard R. Harraro Prize, the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize, the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, the Morton N. Cohen Award, the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize, and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Literary and Linguistic Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature.

Mark Twain at ALA

The 1996 annual conference of the American Literature Association will be held in San Diego, CA, May 30–June 2. The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor two sessions:

1. Mark Twain and the Art of Writing
   Chair: James D. Wilson (U of Southwestern Louisiana)
   Papers:
   1. Jeffrey Steinbrink (Franklin and Marshall), "Building a Mark Twain Machine"
   2. James S. Leonard (The Citadel), "Going in Circles: Images of Writing in

MT Circular January–March 1996 p. 3
Calls for Papers

The Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies announces a call for papers for a conference on “The State of Mark Twain Studies,” August 14–16, 1997. Co-chairs are James Wilson of the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Leland Krauth of the University of Colorado. The conference will celebrate the centennial of the publication of *Following the Equator* and honor Hamlin Hill upon the occasion of his retirement.

Ten-page papers suitable for 20-minute presentations are invited on the following topics:
- Mark Twain’s Travels Abroad
- Mark Twain’s Travels at Home
- Mark Twain in 19th Century Popular Culture
- Mark Twain’s Style
- Mark Twain’s Politics
- The Late Mark Twain
- The Legacies of Mark Twain
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* ...

Papers will be read by juries without knowledge of authorship. Send papers in duplicate to:
- Gretchen Sharlow, Director
  Center for Mark Twain Studies
  Elmira College
  Elmira, NY 14901

**Deadline: January 15, 1997.**

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**1996 SAMLA**

The Mark Twain Circle’s SAMLA division will sponsor a session at the ‘96 SAMLA convention at Savannah, GA, November 8–10, 1996. The topic will be “The New *Huckleberry Finn*: Inclusions and Exclusions.” Likely areas of focus would be new discoveries as the cadaver episode (published in the *New Yorker* in June 1995) or the camp meeting episode (to be published in the forthcoming Random House edition, due in March 1996), such old controversies as the raftmen’s episode, or commentaries on other text (or illustrations) Twain chose to use or not to use in the published version of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Send proposals to James S. Leonard (English Dept., The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409) by May 1, 1996.

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**Dates to Circle**

**May 30–June 2, 1996.** American Literature Association Annual Conference; San Diego, CA (Bahia Hotel). The Mark Twain Circle will present two sessions. See “Mark Twain at ALA,” above.

**June–July 1996.** International Society for Humor Studies Annual Conference; University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Chair: Jessica Milner Davis, School of Theatre Studies, Univ. of New South Wales, 2052, Sydney Australia. Ph.: 697-2222. (jeremy@agsm.unsw.edu.au)


**August 14–16, 1997.** Conference at Elmira College (Elmira, NY) sponsored by the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies: “The State of Mark Twain Studies.” See “Call For Papers: The Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies,” above.
About Mark Twain

Abbreviations used in this bibliographical series are listed in the January-March 1995 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 in the journal American Literary Realism. Readers wishing to keep up to date on Twain scholarship may also want to consult the list of other recommended bibliographic sources in the January-March 1995 Circular.

Thomas A. Tenney
( Editor, MT Journal)

New Books on Twain

BAETZHL, HOWARD G., and JOSEPH B. MCCULLOUGH, eds. The Bible According to Mark Twain: Writings of Heaven, Eden, and the Flood. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1995. An anthology of MT’s most important writings, some previously unpublished, with biblical themes, settings, or figures, revealing over four decades of “his varied efforts to synthesize his views of human nature and man’s relationship to God and the universe” (xiv). There are extensive notes, valuable headnotes, and appendices which include MT’s planning notes and deleted passages, as well as “Selected Passages on God and the Bible from Autobiographical Dictations of June 1906.”

FLORENCE, DON. Persona and Humor in Mark Twain’s Early Writings. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 1995. Recognizing a critical tradition of polarities in MT, “This study however, is concerned almost exclusively with Twain as the controller of his works, a personality much more complex than dualities can suggest” (1–2). For example, although JA and RI “originate at least partly in the experiences of Samuel Clemens, they are transmuted into narrative fiction about this other somebody named Mark Twain” (3). Although focusing on MT’s early writings, Florence argues a strong continuity throughout his life.

KNOPER, RANDALL. Acting Naturally: Mark Twain in the Culture of Performance. Berkeley: U of California P, 1995. Situates “Mark Twain’s writing, particularly his earlier writings, among such immensely popular entertainments as minstrelsy, music hall, and the burgeoning middle-class theater... making him a part, again, of a complex culture—by reasserting his popularity against a tradition of critical effort that has tried to distinguish his work from a ‘low’ culture.” Areas explored include theatre history and theories of acting, psychology, spiritualism, and gender.

MICHelson, BRUCE. Mark Twain on the Loose: A Comic Writer and the American Self. Amherst: U of Massachusetts P, 1995. “At a time when MT is widely quoted, made a national icon, his essential “wildness” is overlooked: “I have heresies to suggest about Mark Twain as a personage, as text, and as myth: that all of these Mark Twains—whether we labor to differentiate them or not—might be more broadly and absolutely heretical than commentary about them has usually granted,” taking a “delight in disorder” (3). “[In different form, portions of chapters 2 and 3 have appeared in the Dutch Quarterly Review and the New England Quarterly.”]

Articles, etc.

BRITTON, WESLEY. “Carlyle, Clemens, and Dickens: Mark Twain’s Francophobia, the French Revolution, and Determinism.” Studies in American Fiction 20.2 (Autumn 1992): 197–205. MT’s view of the French, in many respects typically Anglo-American, was strongly influenced by The French Revolution and A Tale of Two Cities, which reverberated in HF, CY, and elsewhere. His distrust of popular rule (as in “The Curious Republic of Gondour”) broadened to a distrust of the masses. Moreover, Britton sees Carlyle’s “mysterious figure” that stands at Besenval’s bedside as “a clear precursor to Twain’s mysterious figures in ‘The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg,’ ‘The War Prayer,’ and The Mysterious Stranger.”

EVERDELL, WILLIAM R. “Monologues of the Mad: Paris Cabaret and Modernist Narrative from Twain to Eliot.” Studies in American Fiction 20.2 (Autumn 1992): 177–96. On MT’s narrative voice, on stage, in HF, and in his autobiographical writings, and on the traditions in which he lectured and wrote. HF itself “is only secondarily an autobiography [of Huck]. What it is, first and foremost, is a comic monologue.” MT was aware of the platform success of Charles Dickens, perhaps “thought of himself more as a performer than as a writer,” and helped to strengthen the genre of interior monologue. Everdell discusses that genre, oral and written, in considerable detail as it preceded MT and as it has developed since.

GREEN, MARTIN. The Adventurous Male: Chapters in the History of the White Male Mind. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State UP, 1992. Third in a trilogy on the theme of adventure (following The Robinson Crusoe Story and Seven Types of Adventure), argues that adventure has shaped Western culture as much as the ideas of democracy and justice. There are very brief references to HF (kingship), TS, RI, and baseball, which MT saw “as a symbolic cult of the values of the entrepreneurial nineteenth century.”
"Something like The Satanic Verses of its day."

—KIRKUS REVIEWS

The Bible According to Mark Twain

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[AAB446]
ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The Mark Twain Circular, newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle, was launched in January 1987 by Thomas A. Tenney (Editor of the Mark Twain Journal). James S. Leonard (The Citadel) assumed editorial responsibility with the February 1987 Circular and has continued in that capacity until the present. The Circular is published four times per year (Jan.–March, April–June, July–Sept., and Oct.–Dec), and is mailed, by the editor, to all members of the Mark Twain Circle.

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; the membership has since grown to approximately 400. Current officers are displayed on p. 2. Past Presidents are Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr., and David E.E. Sloane. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, and 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 MARK TWAIN JOURNAL. The Mark Twain Circular is published in cooperation with the Mark Twain Journal. 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), and the Mark Twain Circular is mailed (though often not in a very timely fashion) to Journal subscribers (usually bundled with Journal issues).

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 1993 issues rather than the 1996. 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.

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

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I am a member of the Mark Twain Circle, or about to join. Subscription rates are $10 for one year, $18 for two years, $25 for three years, or $30 for four years.

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Libraries: $18.00/year, no discount
Foreign: Add $2.00/year for postage
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.

MTCA President Vic Doyno can be heard on National Public Radio on March 21, talking about books with John Kenneth Galbraith, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Karen Finley.