The Circle at MLA

The Mark Twain Circle of America will sponsor two sessions as part of the regular program at the 2000 Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Washington, DC, Dec. 27-30):

SESSION 1. Friday, Dec. 29, 10:15 a.m.; Ethan Allen Room, Marriott Wardman Park.
Title: New Directions in Mark Twain Research
Chair: Shelley Fisher Fishkin (University of Texas, Austin)
Papers:
1. "Mark Twain's Reconstruction," Martin Zehr (Kansas City, Missouri)
2. "The Private History of Ambivalent Nostalgia," Wolfgang Hochbruck (University of Stuttgart)
3. "Huckleberry Finn and the Victims of Metaphor," John Bird (Winthrop University)
4. "Fetuses, Nerves, and Brains: Mark Twain's Biology of Realism" Randall Knoper (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

SESSION 2. Saturday, Dec. 30, 12:00 (noon); Embassy Room, Marriott Wardman Park
Title: Mark Twain's Literary Sisters and Daughters
Chair: Robert C. Comeau (Union County College)
Papers:
1. "Mark Twain's Debt to the Women's Humor Tradition, "Linda Morris (University of California, Davis)
2. "Damnatio Memoriae: Clara Clemens' Biographical Burning of Samuel Clemens," Laura Skander-Trombley (Coe College)
3. "Willa Cather's Respectful Response to Mark Twain's West," Joe Coulombe (University of Tennessee, Martin)
4. "'Crumbly Old Bricks Do Not a Strong Foundation Make': Dorothy Allison's Bastard Out of Carolina, Kaye Gibbons' Ellen Foster, and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," Renee Gross, (Corning Community College)

The Circle has also scheduled the following session outside the regular MLA program:
EVENING SESSION: Saturday, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m.; location TBA
Presentation: "We hold these truths to be Self-Evident": Mark Twain and the Colorline," Ann M. Ryan (LeMoyne University)

The Circle at SAMLA

The SAMLA division of the Mark Twain Circle will sponsor the following session (session 20) at the 2000 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Birmingham, AL; Nov. 10-12):

SESSION. Friday, Nov. 10, 3:00-4:30 p.m.; East D
Title: North and South, East and West in Mark Twain
Chair: Joe B. Fulton, Dalton State C
Secretary: Philip Leon, The Citadel
Papers:
1. Mark Twain and Southern Voices (20 min.)—Barbara G. Ladd, Emory U
2. Metaphors of North and South, East and West in Mark Twain's "The Private History of a Campaign That Failed" (20 min.)—John Bird, Winthrop U
3. Region, Religion, and the Later Mark Twain (20 min.)—Jason Horn, Gordon C
Respondent (10 min.)—Alan Gribben, Auburn U at Montgomery
Executive Committee: Janet Gabler-Hover, Georgia State U; Allison Ensor, U of Tennessee at Knoxville; John Bird, Winthrop U
The session will include a SAMLA Mark Twain Circle business meeting to elect officers for 2001.

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Current Mark Twain Bibliography

James S. Leonard
The Citadel

Current Mark Twain Bibliography is a means of giving notice of what’s new in Mark Twain scholarship. Where annotations are used, they are in most cases descriptive blurbs provided by publishers (or in some cases, by authors) with value judgments edited out. If you have recently published something that you would like to have included in this list, send it to me by e-mail (leonardj@citadel.edu), or by other means.

Books


Emerson, Everett. Mark Twain: A Literary Life. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8122-3516-9. 392 pp. $34.95 cloth. Everett Emerson, author of The Authentic Mark Twain, revisits one of America’s greatest and most popular writers. Building upon that earlier work, he explores the relationship between the life of the writer and his writings. The assumption throughout is that to see Mark Twain’s writings in focus, one must give proper attention to their biographical context. In reporting the author’s life, Emerson has endeavored to permit Mark Twain to tell his own story as much as possible, through the use of letters and autobiographical writings, some previously unpublished. These glimpses into the life of the writer will be of interest to all who have an abiding affection for Samuel Clemens and his extraordinary legacy. [Text from dust jacket.]

Horn, Jason Gary. Mark Twain: A Descriptive Guide to Biographical Sources. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 1999. 114 pp. + index. ISBN 0-8108-3630-0. Reviewed by Alan Gribben for the Mark Twain Forum on December 14, 1999. The guide encompasses all types of biographical material: general studies and indexes, standard and other notable biographies, autobiography, letters, journals, critical studies, and the most useful of those books and articles that significantly add to our knowledge of Mark Twain. The most recent sources are considered. [Text from Scarecrow Press catalogue.]


Krauth, Leland. Proper Mark Twain. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1999. 258pp. Notes, bibliography. Hardcover, 1.07 x 9.26 x 6.30. $30.00. ISBN 0-8203-2106-0. [Reviewed by Janice McIntire for the Mark Twain Forum on April 26, 2000.] The Mark Twain we know has little use for propriety. An irreverent skeptic, he is traditionally seen as a transgressive humorist out to undermine the conventional. But there is another Twain, argues Leland Krauth, one who honors conventions, espouses commonplace notions, and upholds the moralities of his time. This Twain stays within the boundaries of his culture. Proper Mark Twain redefines the persona of the humorist to include this bounded Twain, who affirms the dominant values of Victorian America. Largely overlooked or sidestepped in critical commentaries, the proper Twain informs all of the writer’s major works. He also appears in the early western writings, the personal courtship letters, and...
the final autobiographical dictations. The proper Twain confirms and upholds humorously what the transgressive Twain seems to subvert. Krauth finds manifestations of the conventional in Twain's cultural imperialism, literary domesticity, sentimentality, commitment to progress, and even his humor. Further, he argues persuasively that the bounded Twain speaks not only to appease his culture but to express deeply held convictions. This study aims to determine just how orthodox Twain was and to what extent he was a product of the culture he seemed to oppose. To see the proper Mark Twain, Krauth explains, is to understand how Twain saw himself and what he meant to convey to his audience. Throughout his career, Twain longed to be seen as more than a mere humorist, claiming, as his, qualities dear to the Victorian heart: seriousness, morality, and pathos. He contended that gravity and tender feeling are "absolutely essential" in a humorist. Upholding the elite culture he seemed to challenge, the proper Mark Twain even hoped to cultivate the masses. [Text from book jacket.]


**Twain Translations by Hiroshi Okubo**

The following is a list of Hiroshi Okubo's Japanese translations of Mark Twain's works, including his 1999 translation of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:

- 1976 *Adamu to ivu no Nikki (Diaries of Adam and Eve)*, ed. & trans. Obunsha-bunko, Obunsha, Tokyo, Japan. [Translations of *Extracts from Adam's Diary and Eve's Diary*, with original illustrations by F. Strothmann & L. Ralph, afterword and chronology.]
- 1980 *Asa-o Kyutei no Yanki (A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court)*. Kadokawa-bunko, Kadokawa-shoten, Tokyo, Japan. [Complete and perhaps most authentic Japanese translation of the work, with afterword.]
- 1984 *Hanku Mogan no Boken (Adventures of Hank Morgan)*. Ronso-sha, Tokyo, Japan. [*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* retold in verse, with all of the original illustrations by D. Beard, and afterword including an introduction to Beard.]
- 1995 *Adamu to Ivu no Nikki (Diaries of Adam and Eve)* ed. & trans. Fukutake-bunko, Fukutake-shoten, Tokyo, Japan. [Translations of *Extracts from Adam's Diary and Eve's Diary*, with original illustrations by F. Strothmann & L. Ralph, afterword, and revised chronology.]
- 1996 *Maku Towein no Jannu-daruku (Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc)*. Kadokawa-shoten, Tokyo, Japan. [With afterword.]
- 1999 *Hakkuruberi Fin no Bouken (Adventures of Huckleberry Finn)*. Kadokawa-shoten, Tokyo, Japan. [Complete and perhaps most authentic Japanese translation of the work, with afterword.]
words of Mark Twain, Andrew Leckey—an accomplished financial journalist known to millions for anchoring CNBC—imparts the lessons today’s investors can learn from Twain. Leckey has combed Twain’s novels, stories, speeches, and letters for telling sayings about making, saving, guarding, and growing money. Foreword by John C. Bogle, founder and former chairman of The Vanguard Group. Preface by Louis J. Budd, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus in English, Duke University. [Text from advertising flyer.]

**Leonard, James S., ed. Making Mark Twain Work in the Classroom.** Durham: Duke University Press, 1999. ISBN 0-8223-2297-8. 360 pp. $17.95 paper. [Reviewed by David Barber for the Mark Twain Forum on July 19, 1999.] How does one teach Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*, a book as controversial as it is central to the American literary canon? This collection of essays offers practical classroom methods for instructors dealing with racism, casual violence, and the role of women in the works of Mark Twain, as well as with their structural and thematic discrepancies. The essays in *Making Mark Twain Work in the Classroom* reaffirm the importance of Twain in the American literature curriculum from high school through graduate study. Addressing slavery and race, gender, class, religion, language and ebonics, Americanism, and textual issues of interest to instructors and their students, the contributors offer guidance derived from their own demographically diverse classroom experiences. Although some essays focus on such works as *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* and *The Innocents Abroad*, most discuss the hotly debated *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, viewed alternately

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**Call For Papers**


*Ten page papers suitable for twenty-minute presentations are invited on the following topics:*

- **Mark Twain and Visual Representation** (May include films, posters, television shows, documentaries, cartoons, illustrations)
- **Mark Twain and the Body** (May include bodies in pain, the racialized body, the gendered body, the sexualized body, transformed bodies)
- **Mark Twain and Status** (May include economic class, social class, racial class, manners, titles, behaviors)
- **Mark Twain and the Nation** (May include civic identities, racial identities, hybrid identities, nationalism, imperialism, exceptionalism)
- **Global Mark Twain** (Mark Twain in countries other than the United States. How is Mark Twain used in other countries?)
- **Mark Twain: Friends and Enemies** (Loyalties to and animosities toward his contemporaries)
- **Mark Twain: Narrative Strategies** (May include structure, persona, voice, closure)
- **Mark Twain in Pieces** (May include short stories, maxims, fragments, letters, sketches, speeches)
- **Mark Twain: 1900–1910** (May include biography, works, crusades, self-imaging)
- **Mark Twain in His Funniest (. . .)**

**Papers will be read by juries without knowledge of authorship.**

Send papers in **duplicate** to:

Gretchen Sharlow, Director
The Center for Mark Twain Studies
Elmira College
One Park Place
in this volume as a comic masterpiece or as evidence of Twain’s growing pessimism—but always as an effective teaching tool. Essays by James S. Leonard, Dennis W. Eddings, S. D. Kapoor, Victoria Thorpe Miller, James E. Caron, Lawrence I. Berkove, Louis J. Budd, Everett Carter, David E. E. Sloane, Pascal Covici, Jr., Jocelyn Chadwick, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Anthony J. Berret, Beverly R. David, Wesley Britton, David Tomlinson, Tom Reigstad, Victor Doyno, Joseph A. Alvarez, Stan Poole, and Michael J. Kiskis. [Text from dust jacket.]

McCullough, Joseph B., and Janice McIntire-Strasburg, eds. Mark Twain at the Buffalo Express: Articles and Sketches by America’s Favorite Humorist. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1999. ISBN 0-87580-249-4. 357 pp. $30.00 cloth. Published together for the first time, the tales and articles Twain contributed to the newspaper from 1869 to 1871 contain some of his finest humor and social criticism. Anyone who enjoys Mark Twain will appreciate these witty, insightful writings from a seldom-discussed period in his life. [Text from advertising flyer.]

Mensh, Elaine, and Harry Mensh. Black, White, & Huckleberry Finn: Re-imagining the American Dream. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2000. Pp. 167. Bibliography, index. Cloth, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4. ISBN 0-8173-0995-0. [Reviewed by Joseph Coulombe for the Mark Twain Forum on March 24, 2000.] The Mensches consider Huck Finn in the light of historical records left by slaves and slaveholders in order to determine where the book under-mines or upholds traditional racial attitudes. Reviewing key episodes, the authors explore such issues as whether Jim is a stereotype or if he adopts a survival strategy devised by real slaves and feigns the traits whites attribute to him, whether Huck overcomes his racist attitudes, whether Twain overcame his own early attitudes on race, and whether or to what degree such attitudes affected his work. The authors examine whether Huck Finn’s ending is an allegorical condemnation of the racial travesties of the era in which Twain wrote it, as many critics hold, or if it is itself a racial travesty. They consider the novel’s use of the most racially charged epithet from both a historical standpoint and that of the controversy, the censorship issue. [Text from dust jacket.]

Powers, Ron. Dangerous Waters: A Biography of the Man Who Became Mark Twain. HarperCollins, 1999. 220 pp. The first full study of the life of Samuel Clemens and his boyhood in Hannibal, Missouri. This book covers his early experiences with a Mississippi steamer, the sense of guilt and fear of damnation he picked up at church, the superstitions he learned from blacks on his farm [sic], and how he came to be shaped by the landscape, culture, and people of the town. [Text from Scholar’s Bookshelf listing.]


Twain, Mark. Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrims and Other Speeches. Charles Neider, ed. New York: Cooper Square Press, 2000. 368 pp. Paper, 6 x 9. $17.95. 0-8154-1104-9. Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain (1835-1910), was in great demand as a public speaker, an international star of the lecture circuit whose appearances commanded large fees (which he needed to pay off his considerable debts). According to many witnesses, he was one of the great comic speakers of the nineteenth century, whose genius could keep an audience enthralled or helpless with laughter. Nearly all of his speeches were carefully crafted and then delivered as if they were impromptu; consequently, they are works of literature in every sense, and some are among the finest examples of his writing. This collection, spanning the years from 1866 to 1909, brings together the best of Twain’s “spoken” work. In addition to the title piece—a biting and hilarious meditation on American mythmaking—the diverse array of topics include: the Hawaiian Islands, women, sins of the press, masturbation, the art of war, plagiarism, Ulysses S. Grant, New York morals, stage fright, the Fourth of July, and much more. [Text from book cover.]
Dates to Circle

- **November 10-12, 2000.** South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Convention (including Mark Twain Circle session). Birmingham, AL.

- **November 16-21, 2000.** National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention (including Mark Twain session and one-day Teaching Twain workshop.

- **December 14-17, 2000.** American Literature Association “Rereading Realism and Naturalism” Symposium. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. See conference information and call for papers on p. 5.


- **May 24-27, 2001.** American Literature Association Annual Conference. Cambridge, MA.

- **August 16-18, 2001.** “Elmira 2001: The 4th International Conference on The State of Mark Twain Studies.” See “Call for Papers” in this issue of the *Mark Twain Circular.*
Everything You Need to Know . . .

ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The *Mark Twain Circular*, newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America, 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. The *Circular* prints news of Mark Twain events and scholarship, directories of members, short biographical articles and critical commentaries, and current bibliography. Subscribers are distributed among 44 states and 15 foreign countries.

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 350. Current officers are displayed on p. 8. Past Presidents are Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr., David E.E. Sloane, Victor A. Doyno, Michael J. Kiskis, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis, Laura Skandera Trombley, and Joseph A. Alvarez. 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*. Founded in 1936 by Cyril Clemens, the *Mark Twain Journal* is the oldest American magazine devoted to a single author. In 1982, 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 1999 issues rather than the 2000. 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. John Bird
Exec. Coordinator, Mark Twain Circle
English Department
230 Bancroft
Winthrop University
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To: Thomas A. Tenney, Editor
*Mark Twain Journal*
English Department
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29409

Please enroll me as a member of the *Mark Twain Circle of America* and subscriber to the *Mark Twain Circular*. I enclose a check for $15.00 ($16.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to “Mark Twain Circle of America.”

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