



# Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 15

October-December 2001

Number 4

## The Circle at MLA 2001

**Panel 1:** Saturday, December 29; 7:15-8:30 p.m.;  
Oakley, Sheraton)

**Title:** Mark Twain: Grief, Race, and Culture

**Chair:** Laura Skandera-Trombly (Coe College)

**Papers:**

1. "Mark Twain's Grief: A Critique of Freudian Grief Theory"—Harold K. Bush, Jr. (St. Louis University)
2. "The Speakerly Text: Moving Toward Identity"—Jocelyn Chadwick (Harvard University)
3. "The Postcolonial Twain: Yankees, Savages, and Soap"—Charles D. Martin (Florida State University)
4. "Mark Twain and the Culture Industry"—Scott Henkel (Michigan State University)

**Panel 2:** Sunday, December 30; 12:00 noon-  
1:15 p.m.; Oakley, Sheraton)

**Title:** Constructing Mark Twain

**Chair:** Henry Wonham (University of Oregon)

**Papers:**

1. "The Critics Dream Mark Twain: The Myth of Racial Transcendence in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"—Michael J. Kiskis (Elmira College)
2. "'Who Killed Mark Twain?' Hamlin Hill Was Right!"—Gary Scharnhorst (University of New Mexico) and Laura Skandera-Trombly (Coe College)
3. "Romancing Jim: The Myth of Race in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"—Ann Ryan (Lemoyne University)

**Respondent:** Jeffrey Steinbrink (Franklin and Marshall College)

## 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

**Burns, Ken, Dayton Duncan, and Geoffrey C. Ward.** *Mark Twain: An Illustrated Biography*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. 270 pages, 275 illustrations. Hardcover, \$40.00. ISBN 0-375-40561-5.

**David, Beverly R.** *Mark Twain and His Illustrators: Volume 2 (1875-1883)*. Whitston Publishing Company, 2001. Hardcover. 333 pages. 342 illustrations. \$58.50. ISBN 0-87875-513-6. Beverly David's *Volume 2* further details how the pictures found in Twain's works contributed to their greatness by painting detailed images that are often imprinted upon the reader's mind as strongly as his words. The book is comprised of four chapters, each focusing upon the illustrations in one of Twain's books, including *Sketches, New and Old*

## Call for Papers • 2002 ALA Conference

The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor the following panels at the American Literature Association Conference, May 30-June 2 in Long Beach, CA:

**Panel One:** "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Pedagogy and Critical Editions." The intention is to have a panel discussing the various editions of *Adventures of Huck Finn*, specifically their use in the classroom. A variety of editions would be welcome and they could be critically reviewed. No matter the edition chosen there are always issues associated with that choice: whether or not to include the raftsmen's chapter, the importance of textual illustrations, etc.

**Panel Two:** "Would someone please suggest a definitive biography dealing with Mr. Clemens' life history?" Earlier this year there was a spirited discussion on TWAIN-L@YORKU.CA about what constitutes "definitive" Mark Twain biography. Recommendations included such well-known biographers as Kaplan and Hill, as well as votes to bypass published biographies in favor of the Mark Twain Project's volumes of *Mark Twain's Letters* and of his *Notebooks and Journals*. Papers would address such topics as whether the term "definitive" biography is a myth or if biography as a genre should be considered a responsible defining of a subject's existence.

Please send paper proposals to [lskander@coe.edu](mailto:lskander@coe.edu).

**Laura Skandera-Trombley**  
Coe College  
President, MTCA

*and Other Stories, A Tramp Abroad, The Prince and the Pauper, and Life on the Mississippi*. The sharp and skillful pictures in these tales are explored through the way they translate specific characters and scenes visually. In addition, this book explores how Twain himself interacted with various artists, as well as his journeys on the roads to publication. It provides an in-depth and personal account of what the author himself was going through with editors and publishers in the business part of his life while showing how he strove to obtain powerful visual representations of some of the most memorable portions of his books and short stories. [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on Sept. 17, 2001 by Barbara Schmidt.]

**Vaidhyanathan, Siva.** *Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Rise of Intellectual Property and How it Threatens Creativity*. NYU Press, 2001. 230 pages. \$27.95. ISBN 0-8147-8806-8. Vaidhyanathan tracks the history of American copyright law through the 20th century, from Mark Twain's vehement calls for copyright protection to recent lawsuits regarding sampling in rap music and the digital controversy personified by the rise of Napster and MP3 technology. [Reviewed for the *Mark*

*Twain Forum* on October 21, 2001 by David E. White.]

**Ziff, Larzer.** *Return Passages: Great American Travel Writing, 1780-1910*. Yale University Press, 2001. 320 pages. \$29.95. ISBN 0-300-08236-3. Includes discussion of Mark Twain as travel writer. [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on May 31, 2001 by Mary Leah Christmas.]

### Articles

**Leonard, James S.** "Racial Objections to *Huckleberry Finn*." *Essays in Arts and Sciences* 30 (October

### Dates to Circle

- **December 27-30, 2001.** Modern Language Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- **January 14-15, 2002.** *Mark Twain*, documentary by Ken Burns (Florentine Films), on PBS; 8:00-10:00 p.m..
- **May 30-June 2, 2001.** American Literature Association Annual Conference. Long Beach, CA.

# 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 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 14 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 2000 issues rather than the 2001. 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  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

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."

\_\_\_\_\_  
(printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip code)

**To:** Thomas A. Tenney, Editor  
*Mark Twain Journal*  
English Department  
The Citadel  
Charleston, SC 29409

Please enter my subscription to the *Mark Twain Journal* for the year(s) circled: 2000, 2001, 2002

Subscription rates for individuals are \$10 for one year, \$18 for two years, \$25 for three years, or \$30 for four years. Libraries: \$18.00/year, no discount. Foreign: Add \$2.00/year for postage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip code)