



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 18

November 2004

Number 2

News from the Circle

At the annual business meeting of the Mark Twain Circle of America, held in May 2004 at the American Literature Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, Ann Ryan (LeMoyne College) was chosen as President of the Circle, succeeding Tom Quirk (University of Missouri). Lawrence Berkove (University of Michigan-Dearborn), succeeds Prof. Ryan as Vice President, and Joseph Csicsila (Eastern Michigan University) continues as Executive Coordinator.

The Circle will sponsor one Mark Twain session and one Mark Twain Suite gathering at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in Philadelphia (December 27-30, 2004):

Session 262. The Profession of Writing, of Reading, and of Being Mark Twain

Tuesday, 28 December; 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Independence Ballroom Salon III, Philadelphia Marriott

Chair: Ann M. Ryan, Le Moyne College

Papers:

1. "Beating Mark Twain's Dead Horse: Lay Readers Resist the Academy," Michael J. Kiskis, Elmira College
2. "Trying to Get the Last Laugh: Hadleyburg and Other Performances," Stephen Railton, University of Virginia
3. "Riverboat Pilots, Free Masons, and Writers: A Look at the Craft(s)," Randall A. Clack, Wesley College

Session 293. Cash Bar Arranged by the Mark Twain Circle of America

Tuesday, 28 December; 5:15-6:30 p.m.
305, Philadelphia Marriott

Edward Wagenknecht

Edward Wagenknecht, retired Boston University professor and author of *Mark Twain: The Man & His Work* (1935), died on May 24, 2004, in St. Albans, Vermont, at the age of 104.

Mark Twain Studies

Mark Twain Studies, a journal published in Japan in English, issued its Vol. 1, No. 1 in October 2004. The special topic for the issue is "Mark Twain, Our Contemporary," including the following contents:

Editor's Column—Tatsumi Takayuki

"The Most Rigorous Law of Our Being": Mark Twain, Growth, and Change—Shelley Fisher Fishkin

"My Samuel Clemens"—Michael J. Kiskis

"The Influence of Mark Twain"—Fred Hobson

"10 Reasons to Read Mark Twain Today"—Larry MacCaffery

"I Started with Huck Finn"—Kim Stanley Robinson

"Twain's Move Toward Fantasy: A Study of His Writings, 1905-1906"—Arima Yoko

"Romanticizing Slavery: Dangerous Crossings in Child, Twain, and Chase-Riboud"—Ogushi Hisayo

"Searching for the Ideal Girl: Mark Twain's Lost America"—Nakagaki Kotaro

"The Recurrent Trope of the Indivisible Body: Mark Twain's Postmodern Identity and the Body"—Mitsuishi Yoko

"Was Huck *Burak(k)u*?": Reading and Teaching Twain In Asian Pacific World Literature"—Mary A. Knighton

Subscription Information:

Upon request, we would be pleased to send to subscribers abroad the English numbers of *Mark Twain Studies*, published every two years. The cost is U.S.

\$20.00 and we accept VISA and Mastercard.
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Mark Twain Activities

10th Annual Mark Twain Birthday Party and Symposium—held on November 13th, 2005; Historical Society, Buffalo, NY, Elmwood Avenue.

Twainiac-in-charge: Errol Craig Sull (phone : 716-871-1900)

On the Program:

Twain impersonator Mike Randall
Sally Fiedler, wife of the late Leslie Fiedler
Professor Vic Doyno (SUNY-Buffalo)
Maggie Vaughn, poet laureate of Tennessee
Bill Loos, retired curator of rare books at the
Buffalo / Erie County Public Library
Clyde Haupt, expert of Twain and the media

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Joe Twichell-Mark Twain Walk, beginning at the Mark Twain House in Hartford; Saturday, Oct. 9.

Twainiac-in-charge: Steve Courtney (phone: 860-589-6412); sdcourtney@hotmail.com

Dates to Circle

- **December 27-30, 2004.** Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- **May 26-29, 2005.** American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA.
- **August 4-6, 2005.** State of Mark Twain Studies Conference. Elmira, NY.

Calls for Papers

American Literature Association 2005

Papers are invited for the ALA session: "Mark Twain's Short Fiction." More attention is being directed to Twain's short fiction. Recently discovered stories and overlooked ones need attention so that their importance may be adequately assessed, but new insights into established stories are also welcomed. Papers 10-12 pages on any aspect of this topic are invited. Send completed paper or abstract ASAP to

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Steinbeck and Mark Twain

From March 22-25, 2006, the New Steinbeck Society of America will be holding its first literary conference in the beautiful resort town of Sun Valley, Idaho. We would be delighted if some of your society members would consider coming and presenting papers on Steinbeck and Mark Twain, particularly given the fact that, as his favorite author, Twain's humor, satire, and style had an impact on Steinbeck's writing that perhaps surpassed any other influence.

—Stephen George, Professor of English at Brigham Young University-Idaho and Executive Director of the New Steinbeck Society of America (contact at GEORGES@byui.edu).

The Fifth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies (Elmira College, August 4-6, 2005)

The Planning Committee for Elmira 2005 announces an extended deadline for its Call for Papers. The extended date is January 21, 2005.

The Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies invites the submission of eight-page, double-spaced manuscripts, in duplicate, suitable for fifteen-minute presentations. Include a cover sheet stating the title of the paper, your name, address, email address, and phone number. Also enclose a one-paragraph abstract of your paper.

For a complete list of the Call for Papers, consult www.elmira.edu. From Quick Links, choose Mark Twain Connection, 2005 Conference.

To: Prof. Joseph Csicsila
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Please enroll me as a member of the **Mark Twain Circle of America** and subscriber to the *Mark Twain Circular* and *The Mark Twain Annual*. I enclose a check for \$20.00 (\$22.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to "Mark Twain Circle of America."

(printed name)

(address)

(city, state, zip code)

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. Although many members are academic specialists, the Circle also includes many non-academic Twain enthusiasts.

ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The *Mark Twain Circular* is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America. It is published twice per year (April and November) 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, and current bibliography. Subscribers are distributed among 44 states and 14 foreign countries.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL. The Mark Twain Circle also publishes an annual volume titled *The Mark Twain Annual*, edited by John Bird (Winthrop University) and featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.