



# Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

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## The State of Mark Twain Studies Conference

The Fifth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies brought Mark Twain scholars together at Elmira College, August 4-6, 2005. In addition to plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, teaching workshops, a keynote address by Ron Powers, banquets, wine-tastings, and other festivities, the conference included an opportunity to honor several scholars who have made important contributions to Mark Twain scholarship.

**John S. Tuckey Award.** The John S. Tuckey Award was presented to Thomas A. Tenney, who is the first recipient of the award since it was presented to Howard Baetzhold in 1991. Dr. Tenney was honored for scholarship including his *Mark Twain: A Reference Guide* (G. K. Hall, 1977); *Satire or Evasion? Black Perspectives on Huckleberry Finn* (Duke UP, 1992), which he coedited with James Leonard and Thadious Davis; the *Mark Twain Journal*, which he has edited since 1983; and the *Mark Twain Circular*, of which he was the founding editor in 1987. The presentation of the award was made by Dr. Alan Gribben (Auburn University, Montgomery), who praised Tom Tenney's fabled generosity toward fellow Twain scholars, especially in providing scholarly materials and authoritative advice to guide

them toward the best possible realization of their projects' possibilities. Dr. Tenney was also praised for his unflagging support of the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Quarry Farm, which has included providing large quantities of archival material for the Mark Twain Archives and the collection at Quarry Farm itself.

**Henry Nash Smith Award.** The Henry Nash Smith Award was presented to Susan K. Harris (University of Kansas) for contributions to Mark Twain scholarship and to the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies. Gretchen Sharlow, Director Emerita of the Center for Mark Twain Studies, presented the award to Dr. Harris on behalf of the Center. Among the scholarly accomplishments cited by Mrs. Sharlow were Dr. Harris' books *Mark Twain's Escape from Time: A Study of Patterns and Images* (U of Missouri P, 1982) and *The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain* (Cambridge UP, 1996). In addition to the considerable scholarly value of both books, *The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain* was praised for its attention to the importance of the Langdon family and the Elmira context in Mark Twain's life and work.

**Mark Twain Circle Awards for Service to Mark Twain Studies.** Three awards were presented on behalf of the Mark Twain Circle by Lawrence Berkove, current Vice President of the Circle, for outstanding service to the field of Mark Twain studies:

**Thomas A. Tenney**, whose academic affiliations have included the College of Charleston and The

Citadel, was honored for his many years of valuable service to Mark Twain studies, including not only the scholarship he has produced himself but the valuable work of other scholars that he has helped to promote.

**Victor Doyno** has likewise been a valuable friend to Mark Twain studies throughout a long career. Dr. Doyno, emeritus professor at SUNY, Buffalo, is the author of *Writing Huck Finn: Mark Twain's Creative Process* (U of Pennsylvania P, 1991), editor of *Mark Twain: Selected Writings of an American Skeptic* (Prometheus Books, 1983), author of the Foreword and Textual Addendum for the 1996 Random House edition of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, author of the Afterword for the Oxford Mark Twain edition of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1996), and frequent contributor to Mark Twain collections of various sorts. He is a past president of the Mark Twain Circle.

**William Loos** was honored for his work in securing, preserving, and making available the manuscript for *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both the previously-held second-half manuscript and the first-half manuscript that was discovered in 1991 and eventually made its way into William Loos's care in the Rare Book Room of the Buffalo-Erie County Library. Mr. Loos has also been active with respect to the Mark Twain legacy in the Buffalo area, promoting both knowledge of Twain's Buffalo years and preservation of sites related to those years.



## Earl F. Briden

Earl F. Briden, 67, a Mark Twain scholar who was a faculty member at Bryant University from 1980 until 2003, died on January 28, 2005. Earl received his Ph. D. in English from Brown University in 1970. His years at Bryant University included service as

Chair of the English Department, Coordinator of the Communication Program, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Dean of Faculty.

Earl was a devoted scholar and an active member of the Mark Twain Circle. He published many articles and book reviews in scholarly journals and anthologies, including nine entries in *The Mark Twain Encyclopedia*.

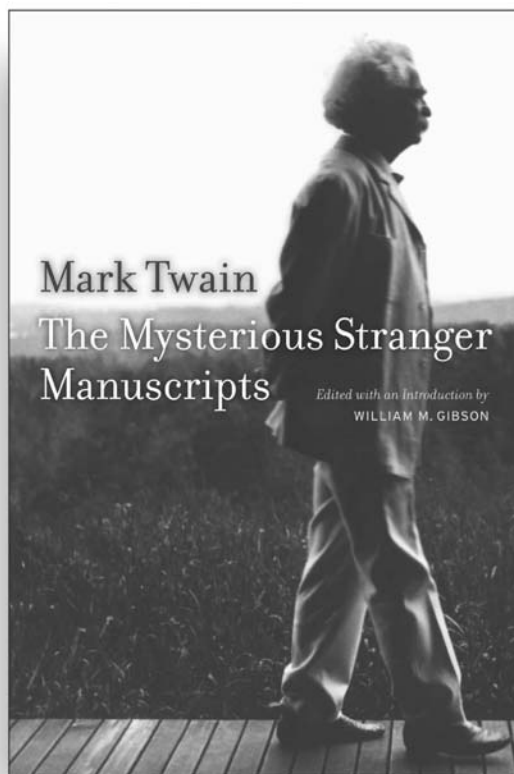


## Special Mark Twain Issue

A special issue of the *Arizona Quarterly* (61.1), titled *Mark Twain at the Turn-of-the-Century, 1890-1910*, was published in Spring 2005. The special issue, edited by Shelley Fisher Fishkin and Forrest G. Robinson, consists of eight conference papers from the Stanford University and University of California at Santa Cruz conference held in May 2004. Included are the following essays:

- "In Twain's Times," Susan Gillman
- "The General and the Maid: Mark Twain on Ulysses S. Grant and Joan of Arc," Forrest G. Robinson
- "Mark Twain, Manhood, The Henry H. Rogers Friendship, and 'Which Was the Dream?'," Peter Messent
- "In the Mirror of the Imagination: Mark Twain's Kipling," Gregg Camfield
- "Mark Twain's Critique of Globalization (Old and New) in *Following the Equator, A Journey Around the World* (1897)," John Carlos Rowe
- "Mark Twain and the Jews," Shelley Fisher Fishkin
- "Better Dreams: Political Satire and Twain's Final 'Exploding' Novel," Hilton Obenzinger
- "Mark Twain, Pretexts, Iconoclasm," David Lionel Smith

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**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), featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.

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The *Mark Twain Circular* is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America.

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**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 Spring issue of the *Mississippi Quarterly*).

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Thanks to Libby Walker and Amanda Lewis for their valuable work on this issue of the *Mark Twain Circular*.