



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 24

April 2010

Number 1

The President's Letter

Bruce Michelson
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

So there he is again—a big spread (with photo) in the Sports section of the Sunday *New York Times*, sizing him up as a fan of Hartford minor league baseball. Across the water he looms on the cover of *Knowledge*, the monthly coffee-table magazine from the BBC; the teaser question below the portrait is whether the United States has lived up to Mark Twain's hopes.

What would he have thought? From the past two hundred years, only a handful of this nation's imaginative writers have their long rest bothered, like saints, with such persistent nudging from the devoted and the curious. And now, in this centenary springtime, if Mark Twain counts as one of your own advertised duties or enthusiasms, you should be shovel-ready with answers in his stead—politics, economics, race, art, technology, baseball, you name it—or poised to dodge the incoming, if channeling Sam Clemens isn't one of your mystical talents.

Important and timely books are freshly out, or in the pipeline. Laura Skandera Trombley revisits the final decade of the life; Roy Morris chronicles the early adventures out West; there are new full-life biographies from Mark Shelden and Jerome Loving; and at the Mark Twain Project, Robert Hirst and his meticulous veteran team are readying the first three formidable volumes of a finally-complete and properly sequenced *Autobiography*, together with massive supporting web archives, and including material that Clemens insisted be kept under wraps for one hundred years after his death. Rarely a dull moment in this trade. What we think we know about Mark Twain keeps evolving; and what we demand, as a nation and a culture, from his writings and his legend—that keeps changing too.

Dates to Circle

May 27-30, 2010. American Literature Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA.

August 20-22, 2010. Mark Twain and Leo Tolstoy symposium, Boston, MA.

October 15-16, 2010. "Mark Twain's Travel Books: 'en route'" A weekend symposium, Elmira, NY

December 9-10, 2010. The American Humor Studies and The Mark Twain Circle of America quadrennial conference, San Diego, CA.

January 6-9, 2011. The Mark Twain Circle at the Modern Language Association (MLA) conference, Los Angeles, CA.

The 2010 spring calendar is warm with lectures, panels, and forums at Elmira College and the University of Missouri, with exhibits in libraries and retrospectives in the media. The end of May, will see three Circle sessions at the American Literature Association in San Francisco, along with a risky joint meeting with the James Fenimore Cooper Society, as a step towards burying the tomahawk. On the chance that negotiations will veer raucously off course, this session could be SRO. Wear old clothes.

The past two years have been a kick for me, as well as a privilege, because the Mark Twain Circle is blessed with officers that share expertise and energy with a spirit that other author societies should envy. Jim Leonard, Kerry Driscoll, Chad Rohman, and Ann Ryan have maintained and enhanced the vigor, intellectual quality, and fiscal health of the Circle, in a hard moment for American academic life. After Jim becomes President at the May 2010 ALA meeting, one immediate gratification is that the prose you'll find at this spot will improve. For my part, I'll stay in the game by working with the web site, about which suggestions are always welcome. Meanwhile, let's enjoy the ride as we breeze past the hundred-year mark, in the ramifying legend of this vexatious, fascinating American author. □

Mark Twain Fall Symposium

“en route”: Mark Twain’s Travel Books, *A Tramp Abroad* and *Following the Equator* 15-16 October 2010

The Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies will host a one-and-a-half day symposium featuring two of Mark Twain’s travel books, *A Tramp Abroad* (1880), and *Following the Equator* (1897). The symposium will include an opening reception and Keynote Address on Friday evening by distinguished Twain scholar Lou Budd, ten paper presentations on Saturday, and a concluding dinner in the Barn at Quarry Farm on Saturday evening. Conference fee: \$130 (not including housing).

Friday Evening: Opening reception. Introducer, Terry Oggel (Virginia Commonwealth University). Keynote Address: Lou Budd (Duke University).

Saturday AM: *A Tramp Abroad*.

Session I: Moderator: Ann Ryan (LeMoyne College). Morning Keynote: Steve Railton (University of Virginia): “Travel Writing as Social Critique.” Panelists: Holger Kersten (Universitat Magdeburg); Jeff Melton (University of Alabama).

Session II: Moderator: Chad Rohman (Dominican University). Panelists: Steve Courtney (Independent Scholar); Alex Effgen (Boston University). →

Saturday PM: *Following the Equator*.

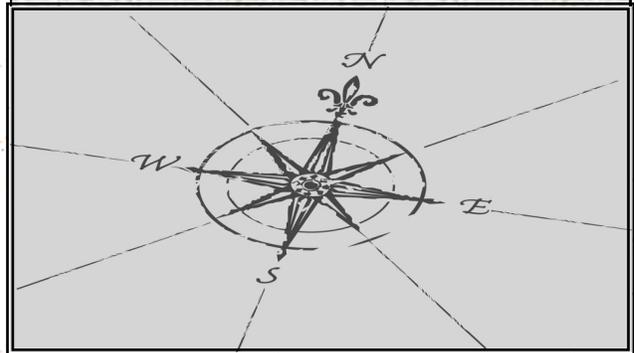
Session I: Moderator: Joe Csicsila (Eastern Michigan University). Afternoon Keynote: Catherine Watson (Independent Travel Writer): “Travel Writing and *Following the Equator*.” Panelists: Kerry Driscoll (Saint Joseph College); Mary Boewe (Independent Scholar).

Session II: Moderator: Mark Woodhouse (Elmira College). Panelists: Dwayne Eutsey (Independent Scholar); Barb Snedecor (Elmira College).

Dinner and conversation in the Barn at Quarry Farm.

For more information, visit the Mark Twain Forum website, or the Center for Mark Twain Studies website, or email Barbara Snedecor, the Director for Mark Twain Studies, at bsnedecor@elmira.edu.

Symposium Chair: Terry Oggel (toggel@vcu.edu).



To: Prof. Kerry Driscoll
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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 \$25.00 (\$27.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to “Mark Twain Circle of America.”

(printed name)

(city, state, and zip code)

(email address—please write clearly)

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 Ann Ryan (Le Moyne College), featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.



The American Humor Studies Association and The Mark Twain Circle of America

Invite you to join us for our 2010
Quadrennial Conference.

Dates: December 9-12, 2010
(Registration Fee: \$80; \$40 for graduate students)



Location: The Bahia Resort Hotel, San Diego,
California. Rooms: \$119.00 per night single or double.

Send proposals for sessions and individual presentations
(along with any AV requirements) to the following persons by **May 30, 2010**:

American Humor Material

Jan McIntire-Strasburg
Department of English
St. Louis University
3800 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108
mcintire@slu.edu

Suggestions for Sessions

New Directions in
Humor Studies
1950s TV Humor
Gendered Humor
Ethnic Humor
New Literary Humor
Regional Humor
Talk Show Humor

Mark Twain Material

John Bird
English Department
250 Bancroft Hall
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, SC 29733
birdj@winthrop.edu

Suggestions for Sessions

Twain's Letters
Twain's Speeches
Mark Twain Abroad
Twain and Other 19th Century
Literary or Public Figure(s)
Twain's Literary Heirs
Mark Twain and Samuel
Clemens

SAMLA and Mark Twain: Atlanta, GA, 2010

The 2010 South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) Convention will be held in Atlanta, GA, November 5-7, 2010. Its special focus is particularly significant to Mark Twain, "The Interplay of Text and Image."

SESSION TITLE:

"Of its own accord and uninvited": Mark Twain's Influence on 20th- and 21st-Century Literature and Culture

"Humor must not professedly teach, and it must not professedly preach, but it must do both if it would live forever. By forever, I mean thirty years. . . I have always preached. That is the reason I have lasted thirty years." (*Mark Twain in Eruption* 202)

The year 2010 marks the centennial of Mark Twain's death, and his continued force in academia and in the wider community reveals the modesty of his own estimates.

Twain's preaching cut to the heart of deep contradictions in American culture, and a century after his death, he continues to inspire us to participate actively in difficult conversations. Like the humor he claimed came of its own accord and uninvited, Twain remains vibrantly a part of who we are as a nation.

This panel seeks to use the opportunity of the centennial to examine aspects of Twain's writing and thought that reach forward into our own time. The scope of this panel is fairly broad, and I welcome papers that examine Twain's own writings and their relevance to us today.

Equally, I am interested in papers that examine later writers or performers who have felt his influence: modern preachers who are compelled to re-examine some of the questions he raised, the characters he created, the laughter he provoked, the controversies he aroused, or the scathing critiques he offered

250-word abstracts or complete papers should be submitted no later than 25 May 2010 to:

Sharon McCoy

sdmccoy@uga.edu; or, sdmccoy@bellsouth.net

More SAMLA Twain: Mark Twain's "Beginnings"

The year 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of Mark Twain's/Samuel Clemens's birthday, on Nov 30th. In this special session we will celebrate the many "beginnings" in Mark Twain's life. These beginnings could include the following: the start of his life; his inventions; his works that are the first of that type of publishing (for example, *Connecticut Yankee* is the first science fiction book in America.)—and any other beginnings you might think of.

Please send 250-word abstracts or complete papers by 31 May 2010 to **Jules Hojnowski**, jah@twcny.rr.com, or by mail to 1690 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Mark Twain and Leo Tolstoy: A Symposium at Boston University 20-22 August 2010

Possible panels include the following:

The International and the Epic; The Veneration of Location (in Print or Mortar); The Author and His Heroine; On Wit; Between the Lines: Libraries and Marginalia; Editing Literary Executorship; Twain, Tolstoy, and the Testaments; Tolstoy, Twain, and the Impact of Trains; Imperial Rejection, Political Reception; Lost in Translation: Tolstoy in English, Twain in Russian; Censorship Uncensored; Twain and Tolstoy in the Twenty-First Century.

For questions, please contact **Alex Effgen** at Boston University's Editorial Institute (abeffgen@bu.edu).

To contribute to a panel, send a curriculum vitae and 300-word abstract to Mr. Effgen by **16 April 2010**.

Mark Twain Circle at ALA, San Francisco, CA, Hyatt Regency, 27-30 May 2010

TR, May 27, 9-10:20, **Session 1-A**: "Mark Twain: Perils of Biography and Anthropology." Tom Quirk, presiding. Panelists: Shelly Fisher Fishkin, Laura Skandera Trombley, Michael Shelden, and Martin Zehr.

TR, May 27, 4:30-5:30, **Session 6-A**: "Technology, Capitalism, Imperialism, and Mark Twain's Imagination." Lawrence Howe, presiding. Panelists: Jennifer Lieberman, Christopher D. Morris, Susan K. Harris, and Nathan Leahy.

Friday, May 28, 9:30-10:50, **Session 8-N**: Mark Twain Circle Business Meeting

Friday, May 28, 11:00-12:20, **Session 9-L**: "Mark Twain's 'Great' Works: New Sources and Complications." Bruce Michelson, presiding. Panelists: Tom Quirk, Lawrence Howe, and Hsuan L. Hsu.

Friday, May 28, 3:30-4:50, **Session 12-D**: "The Trouble begins at 3:30." Cooper vs. Twain Roundtable.



Current Mark Twain Bibliography

James S. Leonard, The Citadel
Chad Rohman, Dominican University

Current Mark Twain Bibliography is a means of giving notice of what is 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 the current *Circular* editor, **Chad Rohman**, by email (crohman@dom.edu).

Books

Csicsila, Joseph, and Chad Rohman, eds. *Centenary Reflections on Mark Twain's No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger*. U of Missouri P, 2009. Cloth. 304 pages. ISBN 978-0-8262-1841-4. One hundred years after its writing, *No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger* remains a literary enigma. Mark Twain's last significant full-length work of fiction and one of his most deeply philosophical works on the nature of truth and the human condition, it was unfinished at his death and has gained a reputation as an experimental text. It is still controversial even half a century after the groundbreaking scholarship of the 1960s, and the larger story of its composition and publication is as unwieldy as it is problematic. In this first book on *No. 44* in thirty years, thirteen especially commissioned essays by some of today's most accomplished Twain scholars cover an array of topics, from domesticity and transnationalism to race and religion, and reflect a variety of scholarly and theoretical approaches to the work. This far-reaching collection of essays considers the status of *No. 44* within Twain's oeuvre as they offer cogent insights into such broad topics as cross-culturalism, pain and redemption, philosophical paradox, and comparative studies of the "Mysterious Stranger" manuscripts. All of these essays attest to the importance of this late work in Twain's canon, whether considering how Twain's efforts at truth-telling are premeditated and shaped by his own experiences, tracing the biblical and religious influences that resonate in *No. 44*, or exploring the text's psychological dimensions. Several address its importance as a culminating work in which Twain's seemingly disjointed story lines coalesce in meaningful, albeit not always satisfactory, ways. An afterword by Alan Gribben traces the critical history of the "Mysterious Stranger" manuscripts and the contributions of previous critics. A wide-ranging critical introduction and a comprehensive bibliography on the last century of scholarship bracket the contributions. Close inspection of this multidimensional novel shows how

Twain evolved as a self-conscious thinker and humorist—and that he was a more conscious artist throughout his career than has been previously thought. *Centenary Reflections* deepens our understanding of one of Twain's most misunderstood texts, confirming that the author of *No. 44* was a pursuer of an elusive truth that was often as mysterious a stranger as Twain himself. [Text drawn from dust jacket.]

Hellwig, Harold H. *Mark Twain's Travel Literature: The Odyssey of a Mind*. McFarland & Co., 2008. Softcover. 227 pages. \$35.00. ISBN 978-0-7864-3651-4. This critical study analyzes major concepts in the travel literature of Mark Twain and notes how his oeuvre (including his classic works of fiction) revolves around travel as a central issue. The book focuses especially on his representations of time, place, and identity in the travel works *Roughing It*, *A Tramp Abroad*, *The Innocents Abroad*, *Life on The Mississippi*, and *Following the Equator*. All receive an in-depth analysis, noting Twain's strong sense of nostalgia for the disappearing American frontier, his growing concern over the assimilation of Native American cultures, and his continual search for a sense of personal and national identity. One appendix provides a complete list of the travel literature contained in Twain's personal library. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

Inge, M. Thomas. *Mark Twain in the Comics: An Exhibition*. Elmira, NY: Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies, 2009. Paper cover. 28 pages. Illustrations. [Text from author.]

Kaplan, Fred. *Coffee with Mark Twain*. Duncan Baird, 2008. Hardback. 144 pages. \$9.95. ISBN 978-1-84483-575-1. So you've already dreamed of shooting the breeze with the incomparable Mark Twain? Well, now you can—by a miracle of time travel. Revel in his caustic wit, tall tales, descriptive powers and colorfully expressed opinions. You may disagree with him, but you'll be spellbound by the force of his personality. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

McAllister, Pam. *The Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Mark Twain*. Continuum International, 2008. Paperback. 233 pages. Illustrated. ISBN: 978-0-8264-1813-5. \$19.95. This survey of Twainiana is a tribute to the world's first global celebrity and most quotable American. Chock full of illustrations, the text follows Sam Clemens from his early days as a "printer's devil" to his Mark Twain days as a "devil's advocate." The work includes summaries of Twain's works, long and short; a filmography; a crossword puzzle based on Twain's colorful quips; a map of Huck and Jim's trip down the Mississippi River; and short takes on long controversies. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

Messent, Peter. *Mark Twain and Male Friendship: The Twichell, Howells, & Rogers Friendships.* Oxford UP, 2009. Cloth. 250 pages. ISBN 978-0-19-539116-9. Biographies of America's greatest humorist abound, but none have charted the overall influence of the key male friendships that profoundly informed his life and work. Combining biography, literary history, and gender studies, *Mark Twain and Male Friendship* presents a new perspective as it examines three vastly different friendships and the stamp they left on Samuel Clemens's life. With accessible prose informed by impressive research, the study provides an illuminating history of the friendships it explores, and the personal and cultural dynamic of the relationships. In the case of Twain and his pastor, Joseph Twichell, emphasis is put on the latter's role as mentor and spiritual advisor and on Twain's own waning sense of religious belonging. Messent then shifts gears to consider Twain's friendship with fellow author and collaborator William Dean Howells. Fascinating in its own right, this relationship also serves as a prism through which to view the literary marketplace of nineteenth-century America. A third, seemingly unlikely friendship between Twain and Standard Oil executive H. H. Rogers focuses on Twain's attitude toward business and shows how Rogers and his wife served as a surrogate family for the novelist after the death of his own wife. As he charts these relationships, Messent uses existing work on male friendship, gender roles, and cultural change as a framework in which to situate altered conceptions of masculinity and of men's roles, not just in marriage but in the larger social networks of their time. In sum, *Mark Twain and Male Friendship* is not only a new resource on the great novelist but also a lively cultural history of male friendship in nineteenth-century America. [Text drawn from dust jacket.]

Ryan, Ann M., and Joseph B. McCullough, eds. *Cosmopolitan Twain.* U of Missouri P, 2009. Cloth. 288 pages. ISBN 978-0-8262-1827-8. *Cosmopolitan Twain* takes seriously Mark Twain's life as a citizen of urban landscapes: from the streets of New York City to the palaces of Vienna to the suburban utopia of Hartford. Traditional readings of Mark Twain orient his life and work by distinctly rural markers such as the Mississippi River, the Wild West, and small-town America; yet as this collection shows, Twain's sensibilities were equally formed in urban centers of the world. These essays project Twain both as a product of urban frontiers and as a prophet of American modernity, situating him squarely within the context of an evolving international and cosmopolitan community. As Twain traveled and lived in these locales, he acquired languages, costumes, poses, and politics that made him one of the first truly cosmopolitan world citizens. Beginning with New York City—where Twain spent more of his life than in Hannibal—we learn that his early experiences there fed his fascination with racial identity and economic privilege. While in St. Louis and New Orleans, Twain developed a strate-

gic detachment that became a part of his cosmopolitan persona. His contact with bohemian writers in San Francisco excited his ambitions to become more than a humorist, while sojourns in Buffalo and Hartford marked Twain's uneasy accommodation to domesticity and cultural prominence. London finally liberated him from his narrowly constructed national identity, while Vienna allowed him to fully achieve his transnational voice. The volume ends by presenting Elmira, New York, as a complement, and something of a counterpart, to Twain's cosmopolitan life, creating a domestic retreat from the pace and complexity of an increasingly urban, modern America. In response to each of these cities, Twain generated writings that marked America's movement into the twentieth century and toward the darker realities that made possible a cosmopolitan state. *Cosmopolitan Twain* presents Twain's eventual descent into skepticism and despair not as a departure from his early values but rather as a dark awakening into the new terms of American identity, history, and moral authority. It reveals a writer who is decidedly less static than the iconic portrait that dominates popular culture and offers a corrective to the dominant perspective of Twain as the nostalgic voice of America's rural past, presenting Twain as a citizen of modernity and a visionary of a global and cosmopolitan future. [Text drawn from advertising flyer.]

Scharnhorst, Gary, ed. *Mainly the truth: Interviews with Mark Twain.* Alabama 2009. 344 pages. ISBN 978-0-8173-5539-5. A collection of the most colorful and vivacious interviews that Mark Twain gave to newspapers and reporters throughout his career. A master storyteller and raconteur, Twain understood the value of publicity, and these interviews capture Twain both at his most lively and in moments of candor and introspection. In his interviews, Twain discussed such topical issues as hazing and civil service reform, and more enduring concerns, such as his lecture style, his writings, government corruption, humor, his bankruptcy, racism, women's suffrage, imperialism, international copyright, and his impressions of other writers (Howells, Gorky, George Bernard Shaw, Tennyson, Longfellow, Kipling, Hawthorne, Dickens, Bret Harte, among others). These interviews are both oral performances in their own right and a new basis for evaluating contemporary responses to Twain's writings. [Text drawn from publisher's website.]

Trites, Roberta Seelinger. *Twain, Alcott, and the Birth of the Adolescent Reform Novel.* University of Iowa Press, 2007. Cloth. 236 pages. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-58729-622-5. Scholars traditionally distinguish Mark Twain from Louisa May Alcott based on gender differences, but Roberta Seelinger Trites argues that there are enough similarities between the two authors' intellectual lives that their novels share interconnected social agendas. Trites does not imply that Twain and Alcott →

influenced each other—indeed, they had little effect on each other—but, paradoxically, they wrote on similar topics because they were so deeply affected by the Civil War, by cataclysmic emotional and financial losses in their families, by their cultural immersion in the tenets of Protestant philosophy, and by sexual tensions that may have stimulated their interest in writing for adolescents. Trites demonstrates how the authors participated in a cultural dynamic that marked the changing nature of adolescence in America, provoking a literary sentiment that continues to inform young adult literature. Both intuited that the transitory nature of adolescence makes it ripe for expressions about human potential for change and reform. *Twain, Alcott, and the Birth of the Adolescent Reform Novel* explores the effects these authors' extraordinary popularity had in solidifying what could be called the adolescent reform novel. The factors that led Twain and Alcott to write for youth, and the effects of their decisions about how and what to write for that audience, involve the literary and intellectual history of two people—and the nation in which they lived. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass*. Edited by Charles Honce. Foreword by Vincent Starrett. A Note on "A Celebrated Village Idiot" by James O'Donnell Bennett. Limited edition of 500 copies. Privately printed by Keokuk Public Library, 2008. Hardcover, 83 pages. \$49.95. In 1928 book editor and Associated Press reporter Charles Honce, originally from Keokuk, published a collection of Samuel Clemens' writings in a limited edition of 375 books. Honce found three letters written by Clemens for the Keokuk *Daily Post* in 1856 and published them to preserve Clemens' earliest writing. The book was *The Adventures of Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass*, by Mark Twain. The Keokuk Public Library Foundation is now republishing the book. Five hundred numbered copies of this letterpress facsimile edition will be printed. The book will be a close reproduction of the 1928 edition, except for one addition—a photograph of a painting of Clemens as a young man to be used as the frontispiece. The portrait is owned by the Keokuk Public Library and is thought to be the earliest painting of Clemens. [Text drawn from book notice.]

Articles

Inge, M. Thomas. "Mark Twain, Chuck Jones, and the Art of Animation." *Studies in American Humor*, New Series 3, No. 17 (2008): 11-17.

———. "Hank Morgan in the Movies: Adaptations of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*." *Studies in American Culture*, 32.1 (October 2009): 23-43. [Citations from author.]

Fictional Representations

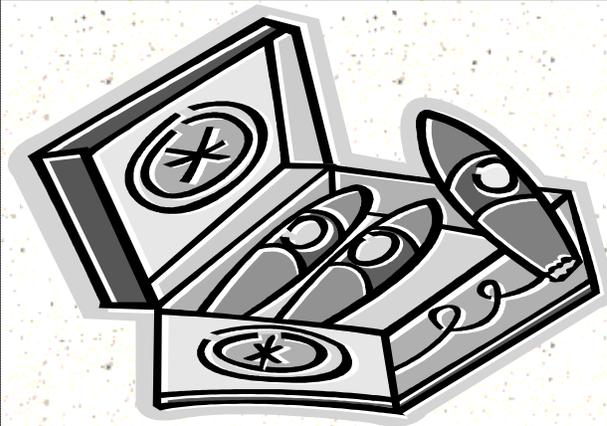
Hart, Lenore. *Becky: The Life and Loves of Becky Thatcher*. St. Martin's Press, 2008. 384 pages. ISBN 978-0-312-37327-6. A fictional sequel to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Oates, Joyce Carol. "Grandpa Clemens & Angelfish, 1906." In *Wild Nights!: Stories About the Last Days of Poe, Dickinson, Twain, James and Hemingway*. By Joyce Carol Oates. Ecco, 2008. 256 pages. Hardcover. \$24.95. ISBN 978-0061434792. This book is a collection of stories built around the dying days of famous authors. In the story "Grandpa Clemens & Angelfish, 1906," Oates focuses on Mark Twain's friendship with adolescent girls. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

Walker, Dan. *Huckleberry Finn in Love and War: The Lost Journals*. Publish America, 2007. 327 pages. Softcover. \$24.95. ISBN 1424194768. Dan Walker answers the questions Mark Twain avoided: What if Huck Finn carries out his promise, at the end of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, to "light out for the Territory"? Twain himself got sixty-two pages into the prairie and lost interest. But what if Huck, Tom Sawyer, Becky Thatcher, and the rest are caught up—as they surely would be—in the crisis of the Civil War? What choices will they make when history calls? For the boy who once said, "All right, then, I'll go to Hell," what might that mean in the Valley of Mexico, parted from the love of his life, apparently forever, or behind rebel lines in the wilderness of central Virginia, with the duty to kill or capture old friends on the other side? How would our ageless boy do in such trials? Hell might be preferable. [Text drawn from publisher's blurb.]

Happy 2010 Anniversaries to Mark Twain !

100 years since his death in 1910
125 years since the American publication
of *Huck Finn*
175 years since his birth in 1835



Mark Twain Circular Apr. '10

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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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