



# Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 27

November 2013

Number 2

**The President's Column**  
**Linda Morris**  
**University of California, Davis**

It was good seeing so many of the Circle members at the Seventh International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College in August. It was even better getting to hear your papers. One of the highlights of the conference for me was the presence of a number of international scholars from Japan, India, Germany, France, Hong Kong, and England. Independent scholars were well represented on the program, as were presenters from each of the major Mark Twain centers, archives, and houses. Hal Holbrook was there in person for a preview of the documentary film "Holbrook/Twain" and to answer questions in his always-generous way. Victor Fischer of the Mark Twain Project and Papers assembled a stunning exhibition, "Mark Twain in the West," that hung in the Campus Center throughout the conference. Peter Kaminsky, one of the creators of the Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize, delivered the Keynote address and stayed through to the picnic at Quarry Farm, which concluded, as is now the custom, with singing and smoking cigars at the former site of the octagonal study.

The Mark Twain Circle was pleased to give out two awards at the conference, one the newly named the Louis J. Budd Mark Twain Circle Certificate of Merit Award to Bruce Michelson in recognition of his years of dedication to the Mark Twain Circle and for his distinguished scholarship. The second was the

**The *Mark Twain Circular* is  
Becoming the *E-MTC*:**

Beginning spring 2014, the *Mark Twain Circular* will be distributed to all Circle members electronically: a pdf *MTC* file sent directly to members' email inboxes will replace the hard copy members now receive through the mail. Members will continue to receive their newsletters in November and April via email *and in living color*.

Please act now to update your email with the Circle's executive coordinator: **Sharon McCoy**  
([sdmccoy@uga.edu](mailto:sdmccoy@uga.edu))

Thomas A. Tenney Service Award to James S. Leonard for his years of service to the Mark Twain Circle and for his work as Managing Editor of the *Mark Twain Annual*. The Elmira Center also presented two major awards, one The Henry Nash Smith Award to Ann Ryan for her scholarship, her service to Mark Twain Studies as the Editor of the *Annual*, and for her many contributions to the Center for Mark Twain Studies. The final award, the John Tuckey Lifetime Achievement Award, was presented to Robert H. Hirst, Editor since 1980 of the Mark Twain Papers and Project. With characteristic modesty, Bob accepted the award, as he said, on behalf of all of his col-

leagues and fellow editors of the Mark Twain Papers.

After all the excitement of the Elmira conference it is time for us to look forward as well. Elsewhere in the *Circular* you will find the call for papers for the American Literature Conference to be held in Washington, D. C., in May. One is an open call, while the second honors the fact that the conference will be meeting in our nation's capital by asking for papers on Twain's political writing, broadly defined. In addition to our traditional two panels we are joining with the Faulkner Society for a panel featuring work that links these two literary giants.

As most of you are no doubt aware, Vol. 2 of the *Autobiography* was released by the University of California Press in October under the editorship of Ben Griffin and Harriet E. Smith. It was recently reviewed in the Mark Twain Forum by Barbara Schmidt. What you may not know is that there is a digital edition available through the Mark Twain Papers website, containing not only the full text and textual commentary of the printed edition but also much additional editorial material.

Finally, there are changes of note within the leadership of the Mark Twain Circle itself. After six years, Ann Ryan has stepped down as Editor of the *Annual*, and Chad Rohman has become the new Editor, with Kerry Driscoll to serve as the book review editor. The best welcome you can give him is to send him your favorite article for consideration for publication. We are pleased to welcome Joe Csicsila as the new Editor of the *Circular*, taking over that responsibility from Chad. Tradition carries on. □



Mark Twain Circular November 2013

## ALA 2013 MTC Business Meeting Minutes:

President Linda Morris opened by acknowledging Ann Ryan's six years of service on the *Mark Twain Annual*, commending Ann for bringing it into such good shape.

President Morris announced that Chad Rohman has agreed to take on the *Annual* editorship. The Circle acknowledged Chad's long service in editing the *Mark Twain Circular*.

Michelson nominated Joe Csicsila as Editor of the *Mark Twain Circular*, seconded and unanimously endorsed.

Bruce Michelson nominated Sharon McCoy as Executive Coordinator of the Mark Twain Circle, seconded and unanimously endorsed.

Chad reports—reading from Sharon's report—that we have more than 200 members and a balance of \$10k in our account. [See the full treasurer's report on page 3.]

He reports that a significant number of members have not yet renewed. The report was unanimously accepted.

Tracy Wuster says that Paypal is essentially free, costing no more per member than a mailing. He has a form and a link to Paypal.

Tracy and John Bird will interact about building this into the new Mark Twain website.

John Bird reports that the domain name has been acquired: [marktwaincircle.org](http://marktwaincircle.org).

The site has a clickable 'follow' link for visitors; John will interact with Tracy about getting an online membership signup and payment system. We are also on Facebook with more than 200 'likes.'

[The ALA minutes continue on pg. 6 →]

**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 Chad Rohman (Dominican University), featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.

**Call for Papers, ALA, May 22-25, 2014,  
Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency, Washington, D. C.**

1. "William Faulkner and Mark Twain": A Joint Session sponsored by the Mark Twain Circle and the William Faulkner Society

The William Faulkner Society and the Mark Twain Circle invite proposals for papers that bring together Faulkner and Twain in creative and thought-provoking ways. The possibilities are endless for productive dialogues, and we anticipate a fun and interesting session. Please send 250-300 word proposals to Deborah.Clarke@asu.edu. **and** Linda Morris, lamorris@ucdavis.edu.  
Deadline: January 13, 2014.

2. "Mark Twain and the Politics of the Gilded Age":

In honor of the ALA meeting being held in Washington, D. C., we encourage the submission of papers on Mark Twain's political writing, broadly defined. Papers are not limited to U.S. political writing. Send 250-300 word proposals to Linda Morris, lamorris@ucdavis.edu.  
Deadline: January 13, 2014.

3. "Mark Twain—Open Topic":

Papers may be on any aspect of Twain's writing, his life and times, his autobiographical writings, religion, relationship to other writers, and the like. Send 250-300 word proposals to Linda Morris, lamorris@ucdavis.edu.  
Deadline: January 13, 2014.

To:

**Professor Sharon McCoy  
MTC Executive Coordinator  
Department of English  
University of Georgia  
254 Park Hall  
Athens, GA 30602**

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 \$30.00 (\$25.00 for graduate students, and \$32.00 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)

**2013 MTC Treasurer's Report (Sharon McCoy)**

**Membership:**

**181 national members  
28 international members  
Total: 209**

**Treasury balance: 10,938.98**

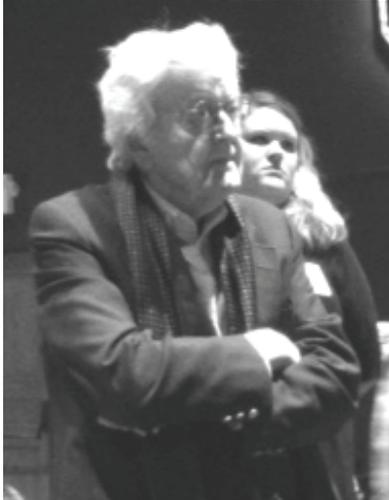
**Our annual editorial stipend from Wiley-Blackwell was not received this year due to the change of press. Each year, Wiley-Blackwell had sent us an editorial stipend, then sent us an invoice for the cost of printing and distribution, amounts that were roughly equal. Our income each year came from the royalty checks that would follow later in the spring. Because the stipend was paid at the beginning of each editorial year, this year's (2012 *Annual*) invoice was not counterbalanced by an editorial stipend for 2013.**

**Our arrangement with the new press will prevent the appearance of an artificial increase in our treasury. Wiley-Blackwell Invoice 2012 *Annual*: - \$4,650 Royalty payment: +\$1819**

**A significant number of members have still not renewed for 2013. If all members renew, this should result in another \$3000 in the treasury.**

**Photos from the Seventh International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies:**

**One Man, Many Legacies  
Elmira, NY, August 1-4, 2013**



**From Top Left to Bottom Left:**

**Joe Csicsila and Chad Rohman at Twain's study.**

**Kerry Driscoll enjoying the Quarry Farm porch and view.**

**Hal Holbrook in Emerson Hall's Gibson Theatre.**

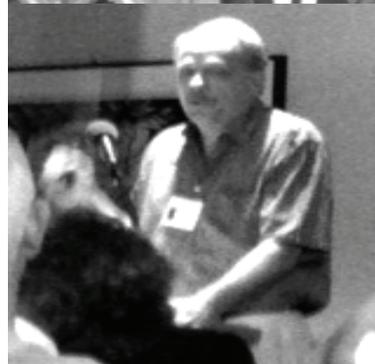


**Top Right: Barb Snedecor presents the 2013 Henry Nash Smith Award to Ann Ryan, Campus Center dining room.**

**Middle Right: Robert H. Hirst, General Editor of the The Mark Twain Papers & Project, gives the closing plenary in Peterson Chapel (Cowles Hall).**



**Above: Paula Harrington and friend visiting Twain's study.**



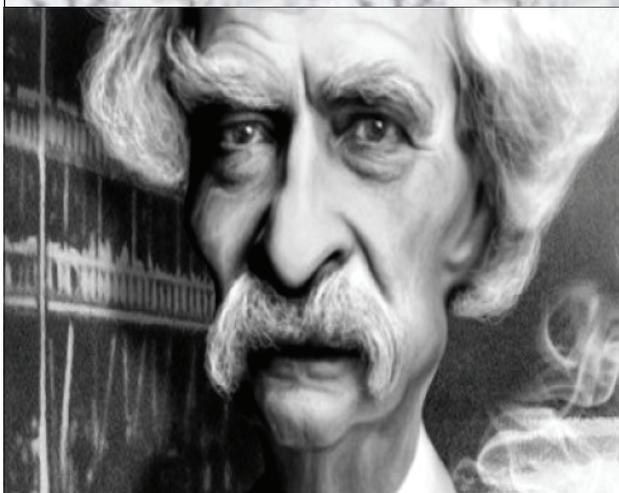
**Left: Hal Bush giving his paper in the Tift Lounge, Campus Center.**

Dates to Circle:

- **Mark Twain Circle @ SAMLA (Atlanta): November 8-10, 2013.**
- **Mark Twain Circle @ MLA (Chicago): January 9-12, 2014.**
- **The Red Lion Inn Symposium on Humor: A Joint Project of the Mark Twain Circle and the American Humor Studies Association. The Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Thursday-Saturday, February 20-22, 2014.**
- **Mark Twain Circle @ the 25th Annual American Literature Association Conference (Washington D.C.—Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency): May 22-25, 2014.**
- **The AHSA/MTC quadrennial conference: New Orleans, Louisiana. Conference hotel: the Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter. December 4-7, 2014.**

**Check Out the Mark Twain Circle Website:**

**A FINE WORDPRESS.COM SITE @**  
**<http://marktwaincircle.org/>**



**The Mark Twain Circle at MLA 2014**

*January 9-12, 2014, Chicago, IL*

297. *Beyond Huck and Pudd'nhead: Mark Twain and Race.* [Time: 12:00 noon+1:15 p.m.]

Date: Friday, 10 January 2014

Location: Sheffield Room, Chicago Marriott

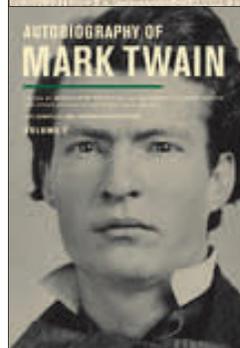
Presiding: Chad Rohman, Dominican University

- "The Forgotten Fool: The 'Goshoot' Episode and the Politics of Irony in *Roughing It*," Alex Young, Univ. of Southern California
- "From Cosmopolitan to World Citizen: Color, Clothes, and Cultural Self-Scrutiny in *Following the Equator*," Susan K. Harris, Univ. of Kansas
- "Constructing a Legacy of Whiteness in *The Autobiography of Mark Twain*," Jeffrey W. Miller, Gonzaga Univ.

**MTC Organizer: John Bird**

**Now Available from the University of California Press:**

*Autobiography of Mark Twain: The Complete and Authoritative Edition, Volume 2.*



**Editors Benjamin Griffin and Harriet Elinor Smith et al from the Mark Twain Papers & Project**

**Hardcover: \$45.00**

**ISBN: 978-052027278-1**



[ALA 2013 Minutes, cont. from pg. 2]

The first MLA Panel is on Mark Twain's attitudes on race, beyond *Huck Finn* and *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.  
Second panel, not approved yet on "Mark Twain's Style(s)."

John also relayed news of a special *SAH* issue on *MAD Magazine*.

John also relayed news of an ALA special symposium at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans in October on "Literature and War" -- the Circle will issue a CFP for a panel for this meeting.

Linda asked Jim Leonard to report on the outcome of negotiations to find a new home for the *Mark Twain Annual*, now that Wiley has gone out of the business of literary journals. Wiley helped the Circle find candidates for a new publisher; the Circle chose Penn State University Press. There will be royalties coming in from JSTOR; moreover, the hard copies will be available to libraries (not just to Circle members) as well as electronic access. The cover design has been stabilized. All back issues are expected to be available on the Penn State website for the *Mark Twain Annual*.

Chad confirmed that current membership is \$30 (\$32 for non-U.S.)—providing, among other benefits, the *Annual* (both electronic and hard copy) and the *Mark Twain Circular*.

Jim was asked by Linda to talk about his new job as Managing Editor of the *Mark Twain Journal*; the Editor, after the passing of Tom Tenney, is Alan Gribben. The *Journal*, when taken over by Alan, was about three years behind schedule; he is producing double-issues at a fast pace to bring the journal up to speed. The plan is that there will be two issues a year after 2013 after the *MTJ* gets caught up. Alan is taking critical articles as well as biographical and bibliographical, and is building a relationship with the Center for Mark Twain Studies, with Barbara Snedecor as Executive Editor.

Linda asked Jim to talk about the upcoming Elmira conference. Jim gave details and urged everyone to come, preferably the night before, as the conference will get going promptly on Thursday morning.

Ann discussed the workings of the *Annual*, and the special challenge of finding book reviewers. Ann is looking for a book review editor. She recommended a small stipend (ca. \$500) to compensate the editor for conference travel. Ann moved; Chad seconded; motion was carried unanimously.

Linda raised the possibility of making the *Mark Twain Circular* an all-electronic publication, allowing for a more ambitious and colorful format, and saving the expense of printing and mailing. Tracy indicated that production on a WordPress site allows for some record-keeping with regard to readers. Chad reports the current expenses run ca. \$750 for production. Judith encouraged doing the *Circular* as a PDF attachment; that is indeed the plan. Chad said that this changeover could happen as soon as the next issue.

David Sloane raised the possibility of a work-in-progress at a New England inn sometime in the winter when rates are low. He is proposing the weekend of February 20-21, at one of several possible sites, including the Red Lion (Stockbridge) and the Woodstock Inn. David proposes the Red Lion at a midweek rate of \$109 a night. The theme is 'research in American humor studies.' The current plan is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday span.

David moved that the Circle join with the AHSA in promoting the conference, with no financial obligations at this point. Jan suggested a symposium afterwards, a possible publication of the presentations and proceedings. The broader motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. □

## Current Mark Twain Bibliography

*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 websites (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, please send it by email to the current editor: [jsicsila@emich.edu](mailto:jsicsila@emich.edu)

### Books

**Rasmussen, R. Kent, Editor.** *Dear Mark Twain: Letters from His Readers.* Foreword by Ron Powers. University of California Press (2013). Hardcover. Pp. xviii + 295, illus. and indexes. \$27.50. ISBN 978-0-529-26134-1.

A voracious pack-rat, Mark Twain hoarded his readers' letters as did few of his contemporaries. *Dear Mark Twain* collects 200 of these letters written by a diverse cross-section of correspondents from around the world—children, farmers, schoolteachers, businessmen, preachers, railroad clerks, inmates of mental institutions, con artists, and even a former president. It is a unique and groundbreaking book—the first published collection of reader letters to any writer of Mark Twain's time. Its contents afford a rare and exhilarating glimpse into the sensibilities of nineteenth-century people while revealing the impact Samuel L. Clemens had on his readers. Clemens's own and often startling comments and replies are also included. [Text from Amazon.com]

**Reigstad, Thomas J.** *Scribblin' for a Livin': Mark Twain's Pivotal Period in Buffalo.* Prometheus Books (2013). Softcover Pp. 322. \$19.00. ISBN: 978-1-61614-591-0.

In August 1869, a thirty-three-year-old journalist named Samuel Clemens—or as he was later known, Mark Twain—moved to Buffalo, New York. At the time, he had high hopes of establishing himself as a successful newspaper editor of the *Buffalo Morning Express* in the thriving, up-and-coming metropolis at the end of the Erie Canal. In this engaging portrait of the famous author at a formative and important juncture of his life, Thomas J. Reigstad—a Twain scholar—details the domestic, social, and professional experiences of Mark Twain while he lived in Buffalo. [→]

Based on years of researching historical archives, combing through microfilm of the *Express* when Twain was editor, and even interviewing descendants of Buffalonians who knew Twain, Reigstad has uncovered a wealth of fascinating information. The book draws a vivid portrait of Twain's work environment at the *Express*. Colorful anecdotes about his colleagues and his quirky work habits, along with original Twain stories and illustrations not previously reprinted, give readers a new understanding of Twain's commitment to full-time newspaper work. Full of fascinating vignettes from the illustrious writer's life, as well as rare photographs, *Scribblin' for a Livin'* will appeal to Mark Twain enthusiasts, students and scholars of American literature, and anyone with an interest in the history of Western New York. [Text from Amazon.com]

**Ritzenberg, Aaron.** *The Sentimental Touch: The Language of Feeling in the Age of Managerialism.* Fordham Press. Hardcover. Pp. 192. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-82324-552-9 [Includes a chapter devoted to Huck Finn.] *The Sentimental Touch* explores the strange, enduring power of sentimental language in the face of a rapidly changing culture. Analyzing novels by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain, Sherwood Anderson, and Nathanael West, the book demonstrates that sentimental language changes but remains powerful, even in works by authors who self-consciously write against the sentimental tradition. Sentimental language has an afterlife, enduring in American literature long after authors and critics declared it dead, insisting that human feeling can resist a mechanizing culture and embodying, paradoxically, the way that literary conventions themselves become mechanical and systematic. [Text from publisher's website.]

### Articles Briefly Noted

#### Reesman, Jeanne Campbell.

"The Literary Careers of Mark Twain and Jack London." In *Critical Insights: Jack London*. Ed. Lawrence I. Berkove. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem Press, 2011.

"Bad Fathering in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*." In *The Turn Around Religion: Literature, Culture, and the Work of Sacvan Bercovitch*. Eds. Nan Goodman and Michael Kramer. New Brunswick, NJ: Transactions Press at Rutgers University Press, 2011. 157-82. □

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## Mark Twain Circle Officers

### Executive Board

#### *President:*

- Linda Morris  
University of California, Davis

#### *Vice-President:*

- John Bird  
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#### *Executive Coordinator:*

- Sharon McCoy  
University of Georgia

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- James S. Leonard (Past President)  
The Citadel
- Bruce Michelson  
University of Illinois
- Chad Rohman (Editor, *Mark Twain Annual*)  
Dominican University

### Editor, *Mark Twain Circular*

- Joe Csicsila  
Eastern Michigan University

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 Chad Rohman, former *Circular* editor, and Sophia Stolarz (Dominican University) for their valuable help on this *Circular* issue.