

[Editor's note: Before he retired from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Professor Lawrence Berkove developed a very well received course on Mark Twain and his circle. He no longer has a copy of the syllabus, but he has graciously provided some comments about the course, along with a Table of Contents of the texts.]

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English 455 "Mark Twain and His Circle"

Some notes from Professor Berkove about the course:

Although the course centered on Twain, my goal was to make clear that Twain did not develop in a vacuum; he had predecessors and contemporaries who influenced him, and then there were later contemporaries with whom he interacted, or who independently arrived at some of the same ideas he had. As a consequence, although Twain was the major author, the course gave students exposure to other authors of the period and thus mitigated the danger of an undergrad major author course resulting in premature specialization.

The textbooks were mainly Mark Twain Project paperback editions of *Roughing It* (RI), *Huckleberry Finn* (HF), *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (CY), the paperback *Letters from the Earth*, and materials that I compiled in a Course Packet sold by the campus bookstore. (If I were to offer this course again, I would list my edition of *The Sagebrush Anthology* as a recommended text and put it on reserve, and look for equivalents of such old standards as Hennig Cohen and William B. Dillingham's *Humor of the Old Southwest* and Claude M. Simpson's *The Local Colorists*. One caveat, however: it would be a mistake of underestimation to assume that the local colorists of New England, the old Southwest, the Middle States, and the Sagebrush School were only humorists. Read carefully, many of their works skillfully treat issues of political, psychological, and moral seriousness.) I also prepared an extensive annotated bibliography of 6 or 7 pages, which I kept updated, of what I considered important books and articles. Although I included my own works, I also was concerned to include well-argued other points of view as being necessary to ongoing research.

The first 7 or 8 authors in my course pack consisted of predecessors. After first reading and interpreting RI and HF we did the same with each of the vernacular predecessors, and then related their techniques to those we found in RI and HF. Poe, Cable, and Harris were part of the middle group—the contemporaries (although Poe preceded Twain)—and again we discussed individual works and looked for counterpart uses of their techniques in RI and HF. After interpreting CY, we discussed Bierce and Howells. Although Bierce independently arrived at some values that were similar—but not identical—to Twain's, "Owl Creek" is essentially the same kind of hoax that drives HF (and was also influenced by his familiarity with Sagebrush authors and their works), and Howells's story has a main character who was shaped after Twain.

There were several papers during the class, and each one was on a topic I had not discussed directly. Although my own views of the authors guided the course, I wanted students to use their minds and not repeat my interpretations back to me; hopefully they saw possibilities I had missed. The students' term papers tended to be original, insightful, and occasionally extraordinary.

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Longstreet, Augustus Baldwin	"The Horse Swap"
	"Georgia Theatrics"
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Hooper, Johnson Jones	"The Captain Attends a Camp-Meeting"
Phoenix, John (George Horatio Derby)	"Melancholy Accident—Death of a Young Man"
Thorpe, T.B.	"The Big Bear of Arkansas"
Billings, Josh (Henry Wheeler Shaw)	"Essa on the Muel"
Ward, Artemus (Charles Farrar Browne)	"Interview with President Lincoln"
	"California"
Harte, Bret	"The Luck of Roaring Camp"
	"The Idyl of Red Gulch"
	"Plain Language from Truthful James"
Twain, Mark (Samuel L. Clemens)	"Petriified Man"
	"A Bloody Massacre near Carson"
De Quille, Dan (William Wright)	"House-keeping with Mark Twain"
Twain	"Frightful Accident to Dan De Quille"
De Quille	"An Infamous Proceeding"
	"Mark Twain Takes a Lesson in the Manly Art"
Twain	"Washoe—Information Wanted"
De Quille	"The Solar Armor" -- Parts 1 and 2
	"The Silver Man"
	"Pilot Wylie"
	"The Fighting Horse of the Stanislaus"
Poe, Edgar Allan	"William Wilson"
	"The Purloined Letter"
Cable, George Washington	"Madame Delphine"
Harris, Joel Chandler	"Free Joe and the Rest of the World"
Bierce, Ambrose	"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

Howells, William Dean
"A Difficult Case"

English 455: Bibliography for Mark Twain

[Editor's Note: Professor Berkove updated this bibliography every time he taught the course. The following version dates to 2003.]

For some decades, two of the major efforts of Mark Twain scholarship have been to establish correct texts of his work and to find out more about his life. A major result of this effort has been the scholarly enterprise known as the Mark Twain Project (MTP), located at the University of California. Its work is divided into two categories, the Works of Mark Twain and the Mark Twain Papers. In the former category are new editions of the works Twain published in his lifetime, such as his stories, novels, and travel books. In the second category are editions of his correspondence, diaries, notebooks, and miscellaneous unpublished or uncollected material. Both series are also published by the U of California Press.

The end result of this remarkable scholarly enterprise is that more is known about Mark Twain today than at any other time. The Papers, for example, are each year making available *for the first time* a great deal of personal and private material that has hitherto been unknown or inaccessible. What before could only be conjectured about can now be known. The Works are also establishing definitive texts, using the most advanced and sophisticated editorial standards. Surprising though it may seem, **all** previous editions of Twain's books have had editorial problems, some minor, some quite complicated. Now, *for the first time*, reliable texts of Twain's works are being made available. From now on, to be taken seriously, scholarship must use these editions as they become available.

What is done under the auspices of the MTP may normally be regarded as highly reliable. A glance at the editorial apparatus and the introductions that accompany the texts makes clear why this is so. The editors have usually eschewed—sometimes excessively—critical analyses or interpretations of their texts and have instead confined their efforts to narrowly defined editorial issues, e.g. which of several competing versions of the same material has been selected, and why; which accidental and substantive errors have been encountered in the text, and where and how they have been corrected; what dates of composition can be assigned to various parts of the manuscripts; identification of names, places, and events that appear in the text, etc. As a consequence, although human error may occur even in these carefully prepared editions, extraordinary care has gone into their preparation, and one would need compelling reasons indeed to doubt their accuracy or to prefer another text.

Not all new factual and editorial material, however, comes—or can come—to us via the MTP. Every year or so, new and sometimes important biographical information is published in other venues. With surprising frequency, short works of his or works by others that bear directly on his life and career are discovered and published independently. Some of these publications are well done, some not.

Since the end of World War II, there has been an incredible flood of interpretive as well as edited material appearing in books and numerous periodicals. We have long since passed the point where any normal individual could keep up with this flood, let alone hold it in his memory.

Furthermore, even scholarship that was good when it first appeared may diminish in usefulness in the light of new material, or be entirely superseded. What follows, therefore, is a selective bibliography prepared for this class which reflects the main books and articles I would recommend. No claim is made to be exhaustive or even objective.

REFERENCE WORKS

American Literary Realism, vols. 10-16 (1977-83). An annual update of Tenney's Mark Twain: A Reference Guide appears in each of these seven volumes.

Dolmetsch, Carl. "Huck Finn's First Century: A Bibliographical Survey." American Studies International 22:2 (Oct. 1984): 79-121. Lists and broadly categorizes over 500 works on Huckleberry Finn.

Doyno, Victor. Huck Finn: The Complete Buffalo and Erie County Library Manuscript (CD). Buffalo, NY: Buffalo and Erie County Library, 2003.

Gribben, Alan. Mark Twain's Library: A Reconstruction. 2 vols. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1980. An absolute necessity for anyone who wants to know which books Twain read during his lifetime, and where evidence of his use of them in his works, or even only of his knowledge of them, appears. An updated and revised edition is being prepared and will soon appear.

----- "Removing Mark Twain's Mask: A Decade of Criticism and Scholarship." Part I. ESQ 26:2 (1980): 100-9; Part II. ESQ 26:3 (1980): 149-71. Valuable review essay listing, summarizing, and evaluating the main achievements of Twain scholarship in the 1970s.

Long, E. Hudson and LeMaster, J.R. The New Mark Twain Handbook. New York: Garland, 1985. A disappointing revision of a respected reference work of 1957. A useful survey of older material, but seriously incomplete coverage of books published since 1957, and utterly inadequate for critical articles published after 1957.

The Mark Twain Circular, vols. 1- (1987-). An ongoing update of notes and news of interest to Twain scholars, and bibliographical material related to Mark Twain appear in most issues.

The Mark Twain Encyclopedia, ed. J. R. LeMaster and James Wilson. New York: Garland, 1992. A valuable but uneven reference work. Most (but not all) of its interpretive entries on Twain's works, themes, life, and associates were written by scholarly authorities.

The Oxford Mark Twain ed. Shelley Fisher Fishkin. 29 vols. New York: Oxford UP, 1996. The undeniable value of this set consists mainly of its making available authoritative texts of the first editions. Although the text of a first edition is not automatically the same thing as a *definitive* text, first edition texts are important for scholarship because they often reveal useful information. The set also has introductions by well-known personalities and afterwords by established scholars. However interesting the introductions may be—and they vary—few of

their writers are particularly knowledgeable about Twain; the afterwords tend to be more substantial.

Tenney, Thomas. Mark Twain: A Reference Guide. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1977. Indispensable. The Reference Guide is a superbly useful record, listed chronologically and with an index, of all books and articles published about Twain from the beginning to 1974. Short summaries of each item appear after the bibliographical citation. The Reference Guide collected data until 1974; the annual supplements in ALR update it from 1977-1983, and the Mark Twain Circular update it in issues from 1987 to the present, and the Mark Twain Journal annually updates it since 1995. An updated and revised edition of the Reference Guide is being prepared and will soon appear.

Rasmussen, R. Kent. Mark Twain A to Z. NY: Facts on File, 1995. A highly readable, informative, accurate, and recommended factual companion to The Mark Twain Encyclopedia. It includes synopses of all Twain's books and major short works, analytical discussions of many characters who appear in Twain's works, and a valuable chronology that relates major events in Twain's life to the wider world.

Wilson, James D. A Reader's Guide to the Short Stories of Mark Twain. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1987. Very useful and accurate summary of historical and bibliographical background of most of Twain's short stories.

TWAIN'S LIFE

Berkove, Lawrence I. Ethical Records of Twain and His Circle of Sagebrush Journalists. Elmira, NY: Elmira College Ctr. for Mark Twain Studies; 1994. (Quarry Farm Papers 5). Relates Twain's ethical development to his association with Nevada journalist colleagues.

Branch, Edgar Marquess. The Literary Apprenticeship of Mark Twain. Urbana: U of Illinois Pr, 1950. More a critical analysis than a biography, this book is nevertheless an excellent early assessment of the development of Twain as a writer from his earliest work to his work in California and Hawaii. Relates Twain to many lesser writers who taught him his craft.

Dixon, Terrell. Searching for Jim: Slavery in Mark Twain's World. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 2003. An excellent report of Twain's exposure to slavery in Hannibal, MO, his home town.

Dolmetsch, Carl. "Our Famous Guest": Mark Twain in Vienna. Athens, GA: U of Georgia Pr, 1992. A valuable report and assessment of an underestimated period of Twain's life, the twenty months he spent in Vienna at the turn of the century.

Hill, Hamlin. Mark Twain: God's Fool. New York: Harper & Row, 1973. Concentrates on the latter years of Twain's life and the later works.

Emerson, Everett. The Authentic Mark Twain: A Literary Biography of Samuel L. Clemens. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania Pr, 1984. Argues that Twain betrayed himself to achieve success.

Kaplan, Justin. Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1966. Best currently available overview of Twain's life after the age of thirty-one.

The Mark Twain Journal. Specializes in making available new biographical information about Twain. Excellent source.

Mark Twain's Own Autobiography. Ed. Michael J. Kiskis. Madison, WI: U of Wisconsin Pr, 1990. No absolutely complete and fully satisfactory version of Twain's autobiography can exist, because Twain did not (1) compose his autobiography in chronological sequence, (2) ever make use of all the autobiographical material he wrote over the years, (3) reveal everything he knew, or (4) always recount things accurately. This edition is based upon the original publication of a series of chapters Twain published in the North American Review in 1906-07. Kiskis argues that this arrangement of material is a complete Twain work in its own right. As such the Kiskis edition is valuable and probably the best version we are likely to see. It is scholarly, with useful introduction, notes, bibliography, and index.

Mark Twain's Autobiography. Ed. A.B. Paine. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Bros., 1924. Compiled by Paine from autobiographical fragments composed over a number of years. Fascinating, valuable, but unreliable alone. Requires substantiation.

Mark Twain in Eruption: Hitherto Unpublished Pages about Men and Events. Ed. Bernard DeVoto. New York: Harper & Bros., 1950. More autobiographical material. Valuable, but partly superseded by later works.

Skandera-Trombley, Laura E. Mark Twain in the Company of Women. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 1994. New and insightful information on Twain's relationships with women beginning with, but not limited to, those of his family.

Paine, Albert Bigelow. Mark Twain: A Biography. Centenary Edition. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Bros., 1935. This biography was authorized by Twain. A valuable source of information, although it is not always accurate and should be checked against other sources.

Wecter, Dixon. Sam Clemens of Hannibal. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1952. Respected early biography of Twain's youth and the influence of Hannibal on his work.

BOOKS

Baetzhold, Howard G. and McCullough, Joseph B., eds. The Bible According to Mark Twain. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1995. A significant collection of Twain's writings, some hitherto unpublished and others in new, fuller, and more accurate editions, on the Bible, God, and religion.

Bellamy, Gladys. Mark Twain as a Literary Artist. Norman: U of Oklahoma Pr, 1950. Highly recommended.

Budd, Louis J. Critical Essays on Mark Twain, 1900-1980. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1983. Good collection.

----- Mark Twain: Social Philosopher. Bloomington: Indiana U Pr, 1962. Recommended.

----- Our Mark Twain: The Making of His Public Personality. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania Pr, 1983. Regards Twain as the deliberate creation of Samuel Clemens.

Blair, Walter. Mark Twain and Huck Finn. Berkeley: U of California Pr, 1960. An early standard on the topic.

Covici, Pascal, Jr. Mark Twain's Humor: The Image of a World. Dallas: Southern Methodist U Pr, 1962. Excellent explanation of Twain's use of the hoax technique.

Cummings, Sherwood. Mark Twain and Science: Adventures of a Mind. Baton Rouge: Louisiana St U Pr, 1989. An important study of the impact Twain's study of new developments in science had upon his philosophy, particularly his late pessimism and determinism.

Davis, Sara deSaussure, ed. & intro.; Beidler, Philip D. The Mythologizing of Mark Twain. University: U of Alabama Pr, 1984. Useful collection of essays.

Doyno, Victor. Writing Huck Finn. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania Pr, 1991. An important new work, based on a "genetic" study of the second half of the manuscript of Huckleberry Finn, that reveals the unexpected impact of historical and biographical events on the composition of the novel. Supplemented by a CD ROM, published in 2003, that reproduces and analyzes the newly-discovered first half of the novel's manuscript and collects many major essays on the novel.

Fatout, Paul, ed. Mark Twain Speaking. Iowa City: U of Iowa Pr, 1976. Reconstructed speeches Twain used during his career. Texts not definitive but probably the best possible.

Gerber, John C. Mark Twain. Boston: Twayne, 1988. A solid overview of Twain's works and biography, and of critical debate up to its date of publication.

Sattelmeyer, Robert and Crowley, J. Donald, eds. One Hundred Years of Huckleberry Finn: The Boy, His Book, and American Culture. Columbia: U of Missouri Pr, 1985. Anthology of essays written for the centennial of Huckleberry Finn in 1985 plus selected bibliography.

Smith, Henry Nash. Mark Twain: The Development of a Writer. Cambridge: Harvard U Pr, 1962. Very good.

-----. Mark Twain's Fable of Progress. New Brunswick: Rutgers U Pr, 1964. Discussion of economic and political views in A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.

ARTICLES

Books contain only a small part of the available and useful information on Twain. The richest source of critical material and the cutting edge of new insights usually occur in scholarly periodicals. Critical articles are particularly valuable as soon as one develops an interest in details, new insights, or uncommon perspectives. There are far too many excellent or useful articles to attempt here a representative selection. The essential PMLA Annual Bibliography annually lists between 50 and 75 new publications (mostly articles) from all over the world that were printed the previous year or two. Researchers seeking information on specific topics typically work backward from the current PMLA Annual Bibliography and overlap one year on Tenney's Reference Guide and updates. The PMLA entries are only descriptive; Tenney's bibliographical reports are almost always more informative and evaluative. Check with reference librarians to use the PMLA database which provides semi-annually updated on-location access to all PMLA bibliographical information from the present back to 1981. Despite appearances, this is the most efficient way to make a systematic search for material. The selective articles listed below are only those which may be particularly pertinent for this class.

Bellamy, Gladys Carmen. "Mark Twain's Indebtedness to John Phoenix." American Literature 13 (1941): 29-43. Documents influence on Twain of an earlier humorist.

Berkove, Lawrence I. "Nevada Influences on Mark Twain." A Companion to Mark Twain, ed. Peter Messent and Louis J. Budd. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005. 157-71. Assesses formative years Twain spent in Nevada

----. "Mark Twain: A Man for All Regions." A Companion to the Regional Literatures of America, ed. Charles Crow. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003. 496-512. Reviews claims each region of America has on Twain.

----. "No 'Mere Accidental Incidents': Roughing It as a Novel." Mark Twain Annual 1 (2003): 7-17. Makes case for considering RI to be a novel.

----. "The Trickster God in Roughing It." In Trickster Lives: Culture and Myth in American Fiction. Ed. Jeanne Campbell Reesman. [Repr. from Thalia 18:1 & 2 (1998).] Athens: U of Georgia P, 2001. 84-96. Identifies and analyzes purposeful patterns in book that undercut its humor.

----. "Assaying in Nevada: Twain's Right Turn in the Wrong Direction.." American Literary Realism 27:3 (Spring 1995): 64-79. Supplies evidence that in Appendix C of Roughing It, Twain ridiculed a worthy man he had admired, probably to increase sales of his book.

----. "'The Carnival of Crime in Connecticut': A Poe-Twain Continuum." ESQ (2000). Supports an influence of Poe on Twain by analyzing a thematic connection of Poe stories dealing with conscience on Twain's story; takes issue with reading HF as a victory of a wholesome heart over a deformed conscience.

----. "Mark Twain's Mind and the Illusion of Freedom." Journal of Humanities Special Issue (1992): 1-24. Overview of Twain's Calvinistic beliefs and of their application to his major works.

-----. "The Reality of the Dream: Structural and Thematic Unity in A Connecticut Yankee." Mark Twain Journal 22:1 (Spring 1984): 8-14. Argues that the novel advances Twain's belief that history is predestined and repetitive.

----. "The 'Poor Players' of Huckleberry Finn." Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters 53 (1968): 291-310. Rpt. Mark Twain Journal (2003): 16-26. Maintains that Twain denied possibility of human freedom; addresses the novel's use of the free man of color motif.

Branch, Edgar Marquess. "Mark Twain: The Pilot and the Writer." Mark Twain Journal 23:2 (Fall 1985): 28-43. Important and well argued essay that defends Twain's competence as a river pilot and as a writer in control of his material in Life on the Mississippi.

-----. "'The Babes in the Wood.' Artemus Ward's 'Double Health' to Mark Twain." PMLA 93 (Oct. 1978): 955-972. Reconstruction of famous Artemus Ward speech which probably had strong influence on Twain.

Brodwin, Stanley. "The Theology of Mark Twain: Banished Adam and the Bible." Mississippi Quarterly 29 (Spring 1976): 167-89. Daring proposal that Twain, objecting to the mystery and authority of the Bible, inverts the theology of Genesis: Adam becomes Satan, and Satan becomes a "new" Adam.

Ellis, James. "The Bawdy Humor of THE KING'S CAMELOPARD or THE ROYAL NONESUCH." American Literature 63:4 (Dec. 1991): 729-735. An interesting insight into how Twain's art transformed ribaldry into literature.

Gribben, Alan. "Mark Twain, Business Man: The Margins of Profit." Studies in American Humor 1:1 [new series] (June 1982): 24-43. Discusses controversial topic of Twain's business sense.

Krause, Sidney J. "The Art and Satire of Twain's 'Jumping Frog' Story." American Quarterly 16:4 (Winter 1964): 562-76. Relates the story to the political and economic background of the times.

Lorch, Fred W. "Mark Twain's 'Artemus Ward' Lecture on the Tour of 1871-72." New England Quarterly 25 (Sept. 1952): 327-44. A reconstruction of Twain's lecture on Artemus Ward, with an assessment of how it reflected what he learned from Ward and what he learned from the lecture.

Messent, Peter. "Caught on the Hop: Interpretive Dislocation in 'The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.'" Thalia 15: 1 & 2 (1995): 33-49. Detailed and persuasive argument

that the story is sophisticatedly "indeterminate," first provoking then frustrating definitive interpretations.

Rodgers, Paul C., Jr. "Artemus Ward and Mark Twain's 'Jumping Frog.'" Nineteenth-Century Fiction 28 (Dec. 1973): 273-86. Holds that Twain successfully adapted lessons learned from Ward's oral presentation to his own writing.

Rowlette, Robert. "Mark Ward on Artemus Twain": Twain's Literary Debt to Ward." American Literary Realism 6 (Winter 1973): 19-25. Argues that Ward's influence on Twain is greater than generally supposed.

Wilson, James D. "Religious and Esthetic Vision in Mark Twain's Early Career." Canadian Review of American Studies 17: No. 2 (Summer 1986): 155-172. Overview of Twain's attitudes toward Christianity and religious experiences in the mid- to late-1860s.