

# MARK TWAIN HANDBOOK

By

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## PREFACE

THROUGH THE YEARS a great deal of Mark Twain scholarship has accumulated. From 1940 through 1950 more items of research were published about Samuel Clemens than any other American author, his work is beginning to receive more serious attention abroad, and at the same time his general popularity remains secure with the reading public. But as with most major authors we find a diversity of opinion about his life and writings. My purpose has been not only to summarize Twain scholarship but to evaluate the various contributions; another objective has been to indicate what still needs to be done. For instance, there is no definitive edition of Twain's complete works; many fugitive pieces are undiscovered; full collections of his letters and speeches are yet to be made; and periods of his life, such as the years on the Mississippi and those spent abroad, await fuller investigation.

Even now important scholarship is in progress. Dr. Henry Nash Smith, literary executor of the Mark Twain Estate, is engaged upon a definitive biography; and recently a large collection of family letters, scrapbooks, and miscellany has been added to the Twain collection at the University of California, from which Dr. Smith will add to our knowledge of Mark Twain.

My research was supported in part by funds made available jointly by the Carnegie Foundation and Vanderbilt University, and I wish to thank Dr. Walter Clyde Curry for his kindness in securing this assistance for me. I am deeply grateful to the late Dixon Wecter for his many acts of friendship and his generosity in granting me ac-

cess to the unpublished materials of the Mark Twain Literary Estate. It was a privilege while at the Huntington Library to discuss Mark Twain with Dr. Franklin Walker and Dr. Norman Holmes Pearson. I am indebted to a number of other friends and scholars: Dr. Richmond Croom Beatty generously gave his time to read my entire manuscript; Dr. Sculley Bradley offered valuable suggestions and encouragement; Miss Edna Haney assisted me in reading proof.

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I am grateful to Dr. Gay W. Allen, general editor of the "Handbooks of American Literature," for his consideration and helpfulness. Dr. Walter Hendricks, the publisher, gave his time and interest to make this a better book. And to my wife I am especially indebted for help and encouragement.

E. H. L.

*Waco, Texas*

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*The Ordeal of Mark Twain* by Van Wyck Brooks, copyright 1933 by E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc.

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*Mark Twain* by Stephen Leacock, copyright 1933 by Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc.

*Life of Bret Harte* by Thomas E. Pemberton, copyright 1903 by Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc.

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*The League of Frightened Philistines* by James T. Farrell, copyright 1937 by Vanguard Press, Inc.

*American Literature: A Journal of Literary History, Criticism, and Bibliography*, published by Duke University Press.

*Michigan Alumnus*, published by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

### Significant Events in Mark Twain's Life, and Publication Dates.

- 1835 Born at Florida, Missouri, November 30.
- 1839 The Clemens family moved to Hannibal, Missouri.
- 1847 John Marshall Clemens died in March.
- 1847 Worked as a printer on either the *Hannibal Journal* or *Gazette*, following his father's death.
- 1848-50 Probably worked for Joseph P. Ament as a printer on the *Hannibal Courier*. Worked perhaps until 1851.
- 1850-52 Orion Clemens started the *Western Union* in September, 1850. In the spring of 1851 he combined it with the *Hannibal Weekly Dollar Journal* under the name *Hannibal Journal and Western Union*, which became the *Journal* in February, 1852. Sam helped his brother.
- 1852 "The Dandy Frightening the Squatter" appeared in the *Carpet-Bag* for May.
- 1853 Left Hannibal in June to go to St. Louis.
- 1853 August, in New York. Visited Philadelphia during the winter and corresponded for the *Muscatine (Iowa) Journal*.
- 1854 February, visited Washington, D. C.
- 1854 Summer, in Muscatine, Iowa with his mother and Orion. Probably worked on *Muscantine Journal*.
- 1855 Winter and spring, in St. Louis. Joined Orion in Keokuk during the summer.
- 1856 Worked for his brother, in Keokuk until fall. Left again for St. Louis.
- 1856 October 18, began the Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass letters for Keokuk (*Iowa Daily Post*). Moved from St. Louis to Cincinnati.
- 1857 Lived in Cincinnati during the winter and met the Scotchman named Macfarlane.

- 1857 April, boarded the *Paul Jones* for New Orleans, intending to go to South America, but met Horace Bixby, who agreed to teach him the river.
- 1858 Learned the river as a "cub" and piloted freighters.
- 1858 June, brother Henry killed in steamboat explosion. Sam reproached himself because of quarrel with the pilot which had caused him to be left behind instead of Henry.
- 1859 April 9, Samuel Clemens' pilot license granted.
- 1859 Wrote "Sergeant Fathom" burlesque of Isaiah Sellers, New Orleans (daily) *Crescent*, May 17.
- 1861 Outbreak of the Civil War put an end to piloting. January 21, first "Quintus Curtius Snodgrass" letter in New Orleans (daily) *Crescent*, the last appearing on March 30.
- 1861 June, "campaign that failed" service in Missouri.
- 1861 Twenty-one day journey by stagecoach to Carson City, Nevada, during late July and early August.
- 1862 The "Josh" letters for the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise*, written between mid-February and the last of July.
- 1862 August, joined the staff of the *Enterprise*, to remain there until May, 1864.
- 1862 "The Petrified Man" hoax published in *Territorial Enterprise*, probably October 5; reprinted by *San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin*, October 15.
- 1862 During November and December, reported the Second Territorial Legislature of Nevada from Carson City for the *Enterprise*.
- 1863 February 2, in a dispatch to the *Enterprise* from Carson City, first signed himself "Mark Twain."
- 1863 Early summer, first visit to San Francisco, in company with friendly-rival newspaperman, Clement T. Rice (The Unreliable).
- 1863 "The Empire City Massacre" hoax printed in *Territorial Enterprise*, October 28.
- 1863 December, met Artemus Ward, at Virginia City.

- 1864 January, elected "Governor" of the Third House by fellow newspapermen at Carson City.
- 1864 February 21, New York *Sunday Mercury* published "Those Blasted Children," Twain's first known Eastern publication. Reprinted by the San Francisco *Golden Era*, March 27.
- 1864 May, became involved in a controversy with a rival editor, leading to a proposed duel, in violation of Nevada law, which caused Mark's exit to San Francisco.
- 1864 Summer and fall, worked for the San Francisco *Morning Call*, the *Golden Era*, and the *Californian*.
- 1864 Exposure of municipal corruption led to departure from San Francisco to the Tuolumne Hills in the Mother Lode Country in December.
- 1865 January, pocket-mining at Angel's Camp.  
February, returned to San Francisco; wrote "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog" which reached Artemus Ward too late for inclusion in his book.
- 1865 November 18, the "Jumping Frog" story printed in the New York *Saturday Press*.  
Supported himself in San Francisco by writing pot-boilers for the press.
- 1866 March 7, sailed for the Sandwich Islands to write a series of travel letters for the Sacramento *Union*; in Hawaii four months and a day.
- 1866 June 25, special dispatch on the burning of the clipper ship *Hornet* at sea.
- 1866 October 2, embarked on the lecture platform, talking on the Sandwich Islands at the San Francisco Academy of Music. Popularity of this lecture brought a tour of California and Nevada, resulting in great popularity.
- 1866 December, sailed for New York, crossed the isthmus.
- 1867 January, arrived in New York.
- 1867 March and April, visited St. Louis, Hannibal, and Keokuk.
- 1867 May, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras*



- County, and Other Sketches* published by C. H. Webb in New York.
- 1867 May 6, lectured successfully at Cooper Union in New York.
- 1867 June 8, sailed on the *Quaker City* for the Holy Land excursion as correspondent for the San Francisco *Alta California*.
- 1867 November 19, returned to New York.
- 1867 November, served briefly as private secretary to Senator William M. Stewart of Nevada.
- 1867 December 27, first meeting with Olivia Langdon.
- 1868 January 2 or 3, first date with Olivia, to hear Charles Dickens read.
- 1868 March, journeyed to California to secure publishing rights to his *Alta* correspondence. Lectured there during the spring and summer. July 6, sailed for New York.
- 1868 August, first visit with the Langdon family in Elmira.
- 1868 November and December, conducted strenuous lecture tour.
- 1869 February 4, became engaged to marry Olivia.
- 1869 July, *The Innocents Abroad* published.
- 1869 August, purchased a partnership in the *Buffalo Express* through loan of \$25,000 from Jervis Langdon.
- 1869 November and December, lectured under James Redpath's management.
- 1870 January, continued lecture tour.
- 1870 February 2, married Olivia Langdon.
- 1870 March, wrote for the *New York Galaxy*, until April, 1871.
- 1870 July 5, hasty trip to Washington, photographed by Matthew Brady, and met General Grant.
- 1870 August 6, Jervis Langdon died.
- 1870 November 7, Langdon Clemens prematurely born in Buffalo.
- 1871 February, *Mark Twain's (Burlesque) Autobiography and First Romance* published in New York.
- 1871 Spring and summer, the Clemens family vacationed at

- Quarry Farm, Elmira, New York, henceforth to be their favorite summer retreat.
- 1871 October, moved to Hartford, Connecticut, renting a house at Nook Farm.
- 1871 Fall lecture tour to finish paying debts caused by sacrifice of Buffalo interests.
- 1872 Lecture tour continued through early February.
- 1872 February, *Roughing It* published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1872 March 19, Olivia Susan (Susy) Clemens born.
- 1872 June 2, Langdon Clemens died (Twain's only son).
- 1872 August, sailed for England.
- 1872 November 9, honored at Lord Mayor's dinner in London.
- 1873 Summer spent in Britain and on the Continent with family.
- 1873 November–December, lectured in England.
- 1873 December, *The Gilded Age* in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner, published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1874 January, sailed home from England.
- 1874 June, Clara Clemens born.
- 1874 September, dramatized version of *The Gilded Age* opened in New York.
- 1875 *Old Times on the Mississippi* appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, January–June and August.
- 1875 July 21, *Sketches, New and Old*, published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1876 December, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1877 April, production of a play *Ah Sin* in collaboration with Bret Harte, which opened in Washington, May 7.
- 1877 May 16, visited Bermuda with Rev. Joseph Twichell.
- 1877 September, *A True Story and the Recent Carnival of Crime* published by James R. Osgood.
- 1877 December 17, made Whittier birthday speech in Boston.

- 1878 March, *Punch, Brothers, Punch! and Other Sketches* published by Slote, Woodman and Company.
- 1878 August, walking tour with Twichell through the Black Forest.
- 1878-79 Lived abroad in Germany and Italy.
- 1880 March, *A Tramp Abroad* published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1880 June, the so-called "Cleveland Edition" of *1601, or Conversation as It Was by the Fireside in the Time of the Tudors*. The "West Point" edition seems to have been 1882.
- 1880 July 26, Jean Clemens born.
- 1881 November, visited Canada for a fortnight.
- 1882 January, *The Prince and the Pauper* published by James R. Osgood.
- 1882 April-May, trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans, and a return journey with Horace Bixby.
- 1882 June, *The Stolen White Elephant* published by James R. Osgood.
- 1883 May, *Life on the Mississippi* published by James R. Osgood.
- 1883 May, again visited Canada briefly.
- 1884 Summer, campaigned for Grover Cleveland.
- 1884 November-December, lecture tours with Cable.
- 1885 January, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.
- 1885 January-February, continued lecture tour with Cable.
- 1885 Fall, published General Grant's *Memoirs*.
- 1888 Master of Arts degree from Yale.
- 1889 December, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.
- 1890 Summer, engrossed in the Paige typesetting machine.
- 1890 Autumn, Susy entered Bryn Mawr.
- 1891 June, family closed Hartford home and went to Europe.
- 1891-92 Winter in Berlin.
- 1892 March, *Merry Tales* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.

- 1892 May, *The American Claimant* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.
- 1893 February 25, *The £1,000,000 Bank-Note* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.
- 1893 Spring, family in Italy; Twain made trips to America to stave off failure of the Paige machine.
- 1894 Spring, *Tom Sawyer Abroad* published by Charles L. Webster and Company.
- 1894 April 18, Charles L. Webster and Company executed assignment papers, carrying Samuel Clemens into bankruptcy with it.
- 1894 Summer, Clemens' family remained in France. Twain visited the United States in July and August.
- 1894 November, *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the Comedy Those Extraordinary Twins* published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1894 Winter in Paris.
- 1895 May, returned home, spent early summer at Quarry Farm.
- 1895 Mid-July, commenced the lecture trip which produced *Following the Equator*.
- 1896 May, *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* published by Harper.
- 1896 August 18, Susy, favorite child, died.
- 1896 November 17, *Tom Sawyer Abroad, Tom Sawyer, Detective, and Other Stories* published by Harper.
- 1896 Winter in London.
- 1897 March, *How to Tell a Story and Other Essays* published by Harper.
- 1897 November, *Following the Equator* published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1898 Last debts paid during the winter.
- 1900 May, *How to Tell a Story and Other Essays*, with new material added, published by the American Publishing Company.
- 1900 June, *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Stories and Essays* published by Harper.

- 1900 October, *English as She Is Taught*, published by the Mutual Book Company of Boston.
- 1900 Autumn, returned to America, where he received a national welcome; took house at 14 West Tenth Street, New York.
- 1901 February, *To the Person Sitting in Darkness*, published by the Anti-Imperialist League of New York.
- 1901 Summer on Saranac Lake; fall cruise to Nova Scotia on Henry Rogers' yacht.
- 1901 October 20, Yale conferred the Litt. D. degree on Clemens.
- 1902 April, *A Double Barrelled Detective Story*, published by Harper.
- 1902 June, University of Missouri conferred LL. D. degree on Clemens.
- 1903 April, *My Debut as a Literary Person with Other Essays and Stories*.
- 1903 October, Clemens family settled in Italy for Livy's health.
- 1904 April, *Extracts from Adam's Diary*, published by Harper.
- 1904 June 5, Olivia Langdon Clemens died.
- 1904 September, *A Dog's Tale*, published by Harper.
- 1905 September, *King Leopold's Soliloquy* published by the R. P. Warren Company of Boston.
- 1906 *Eve's Diary; The \$30,000 Bequest and Other Stories*, both published by Harper.
- 1907 February, *Christian Science* published by Harper.
- 1907 Oxford honored Clemens with the Litt. D. degree.
- 1907 October, *A Horse's Tale* published by Harper.
- 1909 April, *Is Shakespeare Dead?* published by Harper.
- 1909 *Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven* published by Harper.
- 1909 December 23, death of Jean.
- 1910 Mark Twain died April 21, buried at Elmira, New York.
- 1910 July, *Mark Twain's Speeches* published by Harper; a second edition issued in 1923.

- 1916 *The Mysterious Stranger* published by Harper.
- 1917 *What Is Man? and Other Essays* published by Harper.  
First published anonymously, August 20, 1906, at the De Vinne Press.
- 1917 *Mark Twain's Letters* published by Harper.
- 1919 *The Curious Republic of Gondour and Other Whimsical Sketches*, published by Boni and Liveright.
- 1923 *Europe and Elsewhere* published by Harper.
- 1924 *Mark Twain's Autobiography*, published by Harper.
- 1926 *Sketches of the Sixties* by Bret Harte and Mark Twain, published by John Howell, San Francisco.
- 1928 *The Adventures of Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass*, published by Pascal Covici, Chicago.
- 1935 *Mark Twain's Notebook*, published by Harper.
- 1935 *Slovenly Peter* (Der Struwelpeter) translated by Mark Twain, published by the Limited Editions Club, later by Harper.
- 1938 *The Washoe Giant in San Francisco* (Sketches for the Golden Era) published by George Fields, San Francisco.
- 1938 *Mark Twain's Letters from the Sandwich Islands*, published by Stanford University Press.
- 1940 *Mark Twain's Travels with Mr. Brown*, published by Knopf.
- 1940 *Mark Twain in Eruption* (Autobiographical material), published by Harper.
- 1941 *Mark Twain's Letters to Will Bowen*, published by the University of Texas, Austin.
- 1942 *Mark Twain's Letters in the Muscatine Journal*, published by the Mark Twain Association of America, Chicago.
- 1946 *The Letters of Quintus Curtius Snodgrass*, published by Southern Methodist University Press in Dallas.
- 1949 *Mark Twain to Mrs. Fairbanks*, letters published by the Huntington Library.
- 1949 *The Love Letters of Mark Twain*, published by Harper.
- 1952 *Report from Paradise*, published by Harper.

## CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Chronological Table	xiii
I The Growth of Mark Twain Biography	3
II Backgrounds	89
III The Man of Letters	167
IV Mind and Art	275
V Fundamental Ideas	353
VI Mark Twain's Place in Literature	399
Index	435

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