

***American Humor Studies Association
Mark Twain Circle of America
Quadrennial Conference
December 9-12, 2010
Bahia Hotel and Resort, San Diego***



*Program Organizers: Janice McIntire-Strasburg, Saint Louis University
John Bird, Winthrop University*

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Thursday, December 9

1:30-2:45 pm

Mark Twain's Life and Works: Intersections

“Who Taught Him Wicked Deeds? Jane Lampton Clemens, Through Mark Twain’s Letters to Her”

Ryo Waguri, Kyoto Koka Women’s University

“Twins of Genius: Mark Twain on the Stage and Huck Finn on the Page”

Lisa McGunigal, University of Virginia

“‘You’ve Made Your Procrustean Bed, Now Lie in It’: The Binary Mark Twain”

Laura Skandera Trombley, Pitzer College

3:00-4:15 pm

Roundtable: Sound and Sense – Reading Early Humor

[Bring your favorite humor pieces to read.]

Jan McIntire-Strasburg, Saint Louis University

John Bird, Winthrop University

Dennis Eddings, Emeritus, Western Oregon University

David E. E. Sloane, University of New Haven

4:30-5:45 pm

Mark Twain's Travels

"Twain's Comic and Tragic Uses of Rhetoric: The Overthrow of Captain Sellers in *Life on the Mississippi*"
Margy Thomas, Baylor University

"Mark Twain's Travel Encounters with the East during the Inception of the American Empire"
Yiwen Yu and Hsiu-ling Lin, National Taiwan Normal University

"Picture This: Following Twain's Lead as Travel Companion"
Debra Cochran, Saint Louis University

6:00-7:15 pm

Humor and Cultural Capital

"Cultural Citizenship and the Production of Charged Humor"
Rebecca Krefting, University of Maryland, College Park

"Tom Robbins' Comic Vision"
Liam O. Purdon, Doane College

7:30 pm

Ice Breaker

Friday, December 10

7:30-8:00 am

Join us for coffee and light breakfast food.

8:00-9:15 am

Reading, Speaking, and Teaching Mark Twain

"The Palimpsest: Clues for Reading Twain"
Janella Dawn Moy, Saint Louis University

"Bringing Twain's Works to a Wider Public—The Good, Bad, and Ugly"
John Greenman, Independent Scholar

"21st Century Teaching Strategies for Making Mark Twain Live in the Classroom"
Jocelyn Chadwick, Discovery Education

9:30-10:45 am

Mark Twain and the Bitter End

“Sensational Images: Slavery and Imperialism in Britain, America, and the Belgian Congo”
Joy Bracewell, University of Georgia

“Words and Images, Adam and Eve”
Bruce Michelson, University of Illinois-Urbana

“Immigrant and Jew in *No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger*”
Tom Peyser, Randolph-Macon College

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Beyond Southern Frontier Humor: Prospects and Possibilities

Panel Chair: Tom Inge, Randolph-Macon College

“Prospects and Possibilities: Henry Junius Nott and Southern Frontier Humor”
Ed Piacentino, High Point University

“Bawn in a Briar-patch and Frontier Bred: Joel Chandler Harris’s Debt to Humor of the Old South”
Gretchen Martin, University of Virginia at Wise

“Was There a Comic Poetry of the Old Southwest?”
David E. E. Sloane, University of New Haven

12:15-1:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00-2:15 pm

Mark Twain and American Culture

Panel Chair: Donaria Romeiro Carvalho, Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brazil

“‘I Dismounted in the Best Time on Record’: Mark Twain On (and Off) the Bicycle”
John Bird, Winthrop University

“Mark Twain’s Satire of Believers”
Dennis Meyhoff Brink, University of Copenhagen

“The Literary Buffoon and the Intellectual Cholera: What Mark Twain’s Feud with Josiah Gilbert Holland Tells Us about American Culture”
Tracy Wuster, University of Texas-Austin

2:30-3:45 pm

Charlie Chaplin: Body, Gender, Humor, and the Rhetoric of Sound

“Chaplin’s Slapstick and the Idea of Bodily Intelligence”

James E. Caron, University of Hawai’i at Manoa

“Masculinity, the Machine Age, and *Modern Times*: The Gendered Humor of Chaplin’s Little Tramp”

Lawrence Howe, Roosevelt University

“A Sound Statement on Silence: *The Great Dictator* Rhetorical Encomium

Benjamin Click, St. Mary’s College of Maryland

4:00-5:15 pm

Humor, Language, and Media

“The Visual Vernacular in Graphic Humor from *The Yellow Kid* to *The Simpsons*”

Judith Yaross Lee, Ohio University

“A Satirist in Paris”

Bonnie Applebeet, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

“‘It’s Funny Because It’s True’: The Comedy of Seriousness in Billy Wilder”

Catherine Fitzpatrick, University of Sheffield, UK

5:30-6:45 pm

Reading Jim and Huck

“Rereading ‘Trickster Jim’:” *Huckleberry Finn* in the Post Civil War Literary Marketplace”

Leila Mansouri, University of California-Berkeley

“Jim’s Dilemma”

Sharon McCoy, University of Georgia

“Haunted By Race: *Huckleberry Finn* and the Black Man in the Woods”

Ann Ryan, LeMoyne College

Saturday, December 11

7:30-8:00 Join us for coffee and light breakfast food.

8:00-9:15 am
War and Humor

“Tim O’Brien’s Transition from Self-Preferentiality to Self-Parody in *Tomcat in Love*”
Ty Hawkins, Saint Louis University

“Laughing with/at the Combat Underclass: The Sad-Eyed Humor of Mauldin’s Willie and Joe”
Vincent Casaregola, Saint Louis University

“Humor in American World War I Films”
Bill Rable, Saint Louis University

9:30-10:45 am
Humor and Identity

“Lurid Louisa or Angelic Alcott? Humor, Irony, and Identity in Louisa May Alcott’s Stories of the 1860s”
Judy Sneller, SD School of Mines & Technology

“From the Waldorf-Astoria to Proctor’s Continuous Vaudeville Theatre: May Isabel Fisk and the Art of the Comic Monologue”
Julia Hans, University of Massachusetts Amherst

“Re-imagining the American Woman: Humor & Gender in Caroline Kirkland’s *A New Home, Who’ll Follow?*”
Shelly Combs, Saint Louis University

11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Mark Twain Lost in Translation

Panel Chair: Donaria Romeiro Carvalho, Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brazil

“Translating Twain: Creative Decisions, Intriguing Elisions, Dumbfounding Misprisions”
Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University

“Comedy Can Be Deadly: The Story of How Mark Twain Killed Hara Hoitsuan”
Indra Levy, Stanford University

“Mark Twain and the 'Claptrap Sideshows' of the City of Jerusalem”
Rodney Aist, Independent Scholar

12:15-1:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00-2:15 pm

Exoticism and Erotica: Humor Connection

“The Limits of Parody: Pornographic Spoofs of Television Comedies”
Joseph W. Slade, Ohio University

“*That’s What She Said*: Blatant Sexism or Harmless Joking?”
Mallory Stites and Mary B. Shapiro, University of Illinois and Truman State University

“‘Big Bad Chinese Mama:’ How Internet Humor Subverts Stereotypes about Asian American Women”
Ina Seethaler, Saint Louis University

2:30-3:45 pm

Mark Twain and Other Writers

“[Tom Sawyer] Said He Was a Stranger from Hicksville, Ohio, and His Name Was William Thompson”
Hamada Kassam, University of Essex

“Strange Facts Indeed: Connecting Mark Twain and Robert Lewis Stevenson”
Kelli Gardner Bell, Saint Louis University

“Sam Clemens, Frances Harper, and The Tragedy of Valet de Chambre”
Michael J. Kiskis, Elmira College

4:00-5:15 pm

Roundtable: Reading Aloud – Twain and Vernacular Voice

[Bring your favorite passages to read.]

John Bird, Winthrop University

David E. E. Sloane, University of New Haven

Dennis Eddings, Emeritus, Western Oregon University

5:30-6:30 pm

Mark Twain and Dictionaries

“That Unspeakable Book: Mark Twain’s Fictional Depictions of Dictionaries”

Megan Gilge, Saint Louis University

“I See It Warn’t Nothing But a Dictionary”: Huck’s Self-Empowerment and Identity through Language Manipulation in *Huckleberry Finn*”

Christina Williams, Winthrop University

7:00 pm - ? Bring Your Own Joke. Bring your favorite joke to the closest local drinking establishment (to be announced). We can discuss and analyze, or we can simply tell them!

Sunday, December 12

8:30 am Breakfast Business Meeting. All invited to this short business meeting. Topic is the next quadrennial conference. Where should it be? Date changes? What you liked about this one, what you’d like to see in the next one.