



**ELMIRA COLLEGE**  
**MARK TWAIN ARCHIVE**  
**COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In support of the missions of both the Gannett-Tripp Library and the Center for Mark Twain Studies, the Mark Twain Archive is dedicated to supporting scholarship and pedagogy related to Mark Twain. The Mark Twain Archive serves as a repository of primary and secondary source materials related to Mark Twain and Mark Twain scholarship with particular focus on Mark Twain's association with Elmira and his Elmira circle. The Mark Twain Archive collects, appraises, organizes, describes, preserves and makes available its records to advance scholarship in the field of Mark Twain Studies and provides research support and instructional services to the campus community, the Twain scholarly community and the general public.

**SCOPE:**

**MARK TWAIN STUDY AND QUARRY FARM**

The Mark Twain Archive was conceived from two generous gifts from the Langdon Family: the Mark Twain Study in 1952 and Quarry Farm, the summer home of Mark Twain and his family, in 1982. In the decades following the gift of the Study, Elmira College began collecting a modest collection of Mark Twain materials. With the gift of Quarry Farm and the creation of the Center for Mark Twain Studies, the Mark Twain Archive saw a substantial increase in its significance.

**MARGINALIA**

On the shelves in the parlor at Quarry Farm were discovered books that had been there since the time of the regular Clemens summer visits, among them several significant volumes which had been read and annotated by Mark Twain. The volumes include works by Browning, Dickens, Lecky and Macaulay.

The Archive received an additional 90 books from Mark Twain's library in Stormfield from Katherine and Robert Antenne, descendants of the Clemens' long-time housekeeper and friend, Katy Leary. Many of these books are signed and/or annotated by Mark Twain.

**PRIMARY SOURCES AND MANUSCRIPTS**

In addition to various editions containing Mark Twain's marginalia, the Archive has collected a number of letters written by Twain, including correspondence between Twain and members of his Elmira circle, E.M. Van Aken, Dr. Frank Darby and Julia Jones Beecher. Manuscripts include:



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*The Recent Great French Duel* and typescripts for the short stories, *You've Been a Dam Fool Mary*, *You Always Was* and *Sold to Satan*.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

In the collection are original photographs of Mark Twain, his family and his Elmira circle. The collection includes a set of prints from the nitrate negatives of Major Pond's photographs of the first-leg of Twain's around the world lecture tour of 1895. These images have been compiled in the Center for Mark Twain Studies publication, "Overland with Mark Twain: James B. Pond's Photographs and Journal of the North American Lecture Tour of 1895."

## RARE BOOKS

Through the generosity of friends over the years, the Archive has also acquired a fine collection of first edition and rare Mark Twain titles, including the Jules Merron collection of two hundred volumes from his extensive collection of first editions and memorabilia. The Archive has collected a sizeable collection of first editions and rare books and will continue to selectively acquire materials to fill under-represented areas of the collection.

## MARK TWAIN AND HIS ELMIRA CIRCLE

The collection contains manuscripts, letters, photographs, and publications of Twain's circle of family and friends in Elmira. Notable items include the "wager stones," a contract with Julia Jones Beecher written on stone, Thomas K. Beecher sermon transcriptions, letters between Susan Crane and Thomas K. Beecher, and photographs of many of Twain's Elmira circle. The Archive is actively soliciting materials that will continue to expand the understanding of Mark Twain's Elmira.

## MARK TWAIN SCHOLARSHIP

The Archive has acquired significant gifts from Mark Twain scholars over the years and contains the working papers of legacy scholars John Tuckey, Lou Budd, Harold Baetzhold, and Herbert Wisbey, Jr.

## EPHEMERA AND MEMORABILIA



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The Archive collection of Mark Twain memorabilia and ephemera is extensive, containing news clippings, publications, Twain scholarship materials, Twain related advertisements, etc. Due to space limitations materials of this nature must be appraised by the archivist before being accepted.

The Mark Twain Archive continues to collect: Marginalia, primary sources and manuscripts, rare books, materials on Mark Twain and his Elmira Circle, materials regarding Mark Twain scholarship and Mark Twain ephemera and memorabilia.

**SELECTION:**

Material for the Mark Twain Archive will be acquired based on the collections scope as defined by this policy. The Mark Twain Archive actively solicits donations and welcomes inquiries regarding donations. Please contact: Nathaniel Ball, Archivist and Curator, 1 Park Pl., Elmira, N.Y., 14901; (607) 735-1869; [nball@elmira.edu](mailto:nball@elmira.edu)