



Elmira College

1855-2005

Sesquicentennial Fall Lecture Series
Center for Mark Twain Studies



The Trouble Begins at Eight

Wednesday, September 28th, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

Mark Twain, Imperialism, and America's Christian Mission Abroad

Susan K. Harris, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture,
University of Kansas

In 1898, the United States invaded Cuba in order to support the Cuban rebels against Spanish colonial rule. By the end of that year, it had acquired Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii, and Guam. Join Dr. Harris as she discusses Mark Twain's understanding of American imperialism and his attacks on American Protestant missionaries who, he came to feel, represented the country's fusion of the rhetoric of benevolence with capitalist agendas.

Wednesday, October 19th, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

A History of Mark Twain Collecting, 1885-2005

Kevin Mac Donnell, Antiquarian Bookseller; Austin, Texas

Join Kevin Mac Donnell as he reviews trends and changing tastes in Mark Twain collecting from 1885 to the present day. Learn how Mark Twain collecting compares with that of other authors and how discoveries in Mark Twain collecting influence scholarship in the field. Understand the changing market in Mark Twain collecting.

Wednesday, October 26th, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

Mark Twain on the Move: The Making of America's Greatest Travel Writer

Jeffrey Melton, Associate Professor of English and Philosophy, Auburn University Montgomery

For readers in the late nineteenth century, Mark Twain was first and foremost a travel writer rather than a novelist. He earned the greatest patronage from his contemporaries not as the author of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, as most modern readers assume, but as the endearing narrator of *The Innocents Abroad*, his most popular work and the best-selling travel book of the century. Join Dr. Melton as he examines Mark Twain's development as a travel writer and argues for its importance to our understanding of a master.

Wednesday, November 30th, Mark Twain's Birthday Celebration, in Hamilton Hall, 8 p.m.

Because Sam Clemens Had Daughters: Susy, Clara, Jean and Mark Twain's Literary Work

Michael J. Kiskis, Professor of English, Elmira College

Samuel Clemens' writing was heartily influenced not only by the presence of children in his life but also by the weight and responsibility tied to being a father. His reaction to both the joys and terrors of the world was heightened and deepened by his hopes for his children; his understanding of the Clemens' privilege is often spotlighted by his attention to those children living on the margins. And behind Clemens' creative answer to the challenges of his daughters' lives was the shadow of Langdon Clemens, the first born whose absence marks much of Sam's fiction and worry.