

Wednesday, October 5th in the Barn at Quarry Farm

8 p.m.

“Mark Twain & France: The Making of a New American Identity”

Ronald Jenn *Université de Lille, France*



Born and raised in formerly French-owned Missouri, Samuel Clemens internalized stereotypes toward the French that he later struggled to reconcile with the positive image French culture enjoyed among Americans. Torn between bias and admiration for that nation’s world reputation as a major cultural and political player, this prime maker of American identity fed the fledgling American nation with the spoils of a waning French Empire and culture. From outright dislike in 1879 to a somewhat milder stance in the 1890s, he sought, in France and Europe, a second wind for his writing career, and wrote his labor of love *Joan of Arc*. Ronald Jenn will be presenting the book he has co-authored with Dr. Paula Harrington, forthcoming at University of Missouri Press.

Ronald Jenn is a Professor of Translation Studies at Université de Lille, France. He wrote his dissertation on French translations of Mark Twain’s novels *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* (2004). Before co-authoring *Mark Twain and France* with Paula Harrington, he published *La Pseudo-translation, de Cervantès à Mark Twain*, (2013) and translations of a selection of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s tales (2010). He also directed a special issue of the French review of American Studies R.F.E.A devoted to 19th century American literature in French translation (2014). With Linda Morris of UC Davis, Ronald Jenn has received a grant from the 2016 France-Berkeley Fund for their project: “The ‘French Marginalia’ of Mark Twain’s *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc: Patriotism without Borders*.”

Tours of Quarry Farm begin at 7:00pm. *The Trouble Begins at Eight*.

Wednesday, October 12th in the Barn at Quarry Farm

8 p.m.

“You know the secret places of our hearts”: The Mark Twain-Joe Twichell Letters

Peter Messent *University of Nottingham, United Kingdom*

This talk will use selected highlights from the *The Mark Twain-Joseph Twichell Letters* (edited by Hal Bush, Steve Courtney, and Peter Messent, published by the University of Georgia Press in early 2017) in order to trace the development of the forty-year friendship between Mark Twain and Joseph Twichell, the Hartford Congregation minister. There will also be an emphasis on what the letters reveal, both about Twain as a family man, author, and celebrity, and about Twichell’s life as a minister, his key role as Twain’s “pastor” and the closest of personal and family friends, and his general position as minor satellite to Twain’s shining star.



The talk will also focus on the later years of both men’s lives, and the way that, as Twain’s misanthropy became more and more pronounced, Twichell acted in the role of optimist to his pessimist, serving as “equilibrium restorer” as Twain funnelled some of his most damning opinions about religion, politics and the human race at-large in his friend’s direction. The lecture will show how the two men’s exchanges are marked nonetheless by a (mostly!) good-humoured tolerance for each other’s positions.

Peter Messent is Emeritus Professor of Modern American Literature at the University of Nottingham, U.K. He has written on a wide variety of American authors and texts but his main work is on Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, and Crime Fiction. His books on Twain include *Mark Twain* (Macmillan Modern Novelists), *The Cambridge Introduction to Mark Twain*, *The Short Works of Mark Twain*, and, most recently, the award-winning *Mark Twain and Male Friendship: The Twichell, Howells and Rogers Friendships*. He also edited the *Blackwell Companion to Mark Twain* with Lou Budd. He is, at present, completing the *Mark Twain-Joseph H. Twichell Letters*, co-sharing the editorial mantle with Hal Bush and Steve Courtney.

Tours of Quarry Farm begin at 7:00pm. *The Trouble Begins at Eight*.

Wednesday, October 19th in the Barn at Quarry Farm

8 p.m.

“Dressing for Success: Mark Twain Fashions an Image to Suit His Disguise”

Martin Zehr, Independent Scholar



While famous for the attention-getting white linen suits he donned in his later years, Mark Twain was aware of the functional value of outer coverings throughout his life. A survey of Sam Clemens’s wardrobe choices underscores his sensitivity to the status value, shock value and even, in some cases, the capacity for crossing gender and social boundaries provided by garments. Just as he inhabited the dual, sometimes manufactured worlds of his Clemens and Twain personas, he was adept at noticing, and making use of, deliberately-fashioned images created from whole cloth.

Martin Zehr is an independent Mark Twain scholar and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home Foundation in Hannibal, Missouri. His Twain-related work has appeared in academic journals and he has presented on Twain-related subjects at conferences including those sponsored by the American Library Association, the Modern Language Association, the American Psychological Association and the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College. In 2010 he re-published Twain’s “The Treaty With China: Its Provisions Explained,” virtually unknown since its 1868 publication in the *New York Tribune* and cited by Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin as “a good candidate for ‘the most underappreciated work by Mark Twain.’” Dr. Zehr lives with his wife, Susan, in Kansas City, Missouri and is a neuropsychologist at the Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute.

Tours of Quarry Farm begin at 7:00pm. *The Trouble Begins at Eight.*

Wednesday, November 2nd in Cowles Hall on the Elmira College Campus

8 p.m.

“Mark Twain’s Brand: Comic Performance and the Modern American Self”

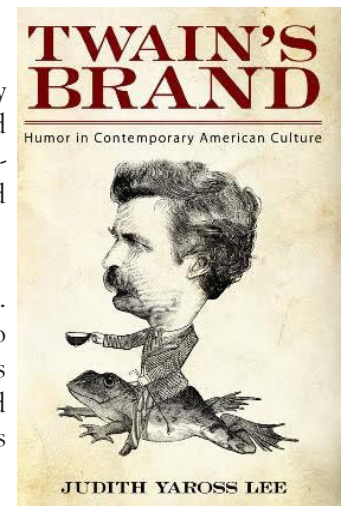
Judith Yaross Lee *Ohio University*

[NOTE TIME AND LOCATION OF THIS LECTURE]

Samuel L. Clemens pioneered a modern understanding of the new information economy emerging in the U.S. in the years after the Civil War because he understood and marketed Mark Twain as a brand-name comic commodity. Judith Yaross Lee explains how Clemens managed the Mark Twain brand by extending it to some activities, excluding it from others, and exploiting its modern conception of the self in his public performances.

Judith Yaross Lee is Distinguished Professor of Communication Studies and Charles E. Zumkehr Professor of Rhetoric & Culture in the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University. A contributor to the Mark Twain Encyclopedia and the Oxford Mark Twain, she is the author or editor of five books and some fifty essays and articles on American humor and related topics, most recently *Twain’s Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture*, as well as editor of *Studies in American Humor*, the journal of the American Humor Studies Association.

Tours of the Mark Twain Study and Exhibit begin at 6:00pm.



Directions and Parking for Quarry Farm

From Elmira College, head east on Washington Avenue, across the Clemens Center Parkway to Sullivan Street. Turn right on Sullivan. Turn left on East Avenue. Turn left on Crane Road. Quarry Farm will be on your left. Please park on the grassy area behind the Barn. Quarry Farm is a fragile environment. Exercise care. For GPS: 131 Crane Road Elmira, NY 14901

Parking for Cowles Hall on the Elmira College Campus

Parking is available along Washington Avenue as well as in the lot east of Cowles Hall. Consult the web at http://www.elmira.edu/admissions-aid/Visit/Campus_Map.html

Staff of the Center for Mark Twain Studies

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