AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY AND ECONOMICS IN THE NEW GILDED AGE

A QUARRY FARM WEEKEND SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 5-7, 2018
Lawrence Howe, Matt Seybold, and Henry B. Wonham, Co-Chairs

The economic expansion of the U.S. during Mark Twain's lifetime was unprecedented, in this country or any other. Twain was fascinated by the technological innovations that transformed commerce and industry, the volatile financial markets that strained to keep up with the demands of entrepreneurs and investors, the infamous magnates that accumulated private fortunes unimaginable to previous generations, the corrosive symbiosis of private wealth and public servants, the precarious plight of consumers and laborers who both drove the economy and were periodically driven over by it, and the fledgling field of philosophical inquiry, political economy, aimed at understanding the organizing principles of capitalist society.

Before anybody suspected he would become the literary figure who defined this era, Twain gave it its lasting nickname, the Gilded Age, recognizing that the luxurious lifestyles of America's nouveau riche celebrities and the bedazzling technologies advertised by American entrepreneurs disguised deep disparities of wealth, exploitative employment practices, systemic corruption, and widespread financial fraud. As we find ourselves in what is now frequently called "The New Gilded Age," characterized by many of the same phenomena, CMTS's Fifth Quarry Farm Weekend Symposium will feature scholars who explore the intersections of economic history, economic theory, mass media, and literature.

The symposium will begin on Friday, October 5, 2018, with a dinner in Meier Hall on the Elmira College campus, followed by a keynote address by David Sloan Wilson, co-founder of The Evolution Institute and Evonomics.com, as well as author of numerous books, most recently Does Altruism Exist?: Culture, Genes, & the Welfare of Others. We will continue throughout the next day with presentations and discussions in the tranquil atmosphere of Quarry Farm, where breakfast, lunch, and dinner will also be served. Registrants will be invited back to Quarry Farm on Sunday morning to enjoy an autumnal breakfast and casual discussions.

Housing is available at the Holiday Inn Riverview at a rate of $139 per night plus NYS Room Tax fees ($149 for a King Bed). Please call the hotel directly at (607) 734-4211 by Saturday, September 1 to reserve rooms at the reduced symposium rate. The Group ID is MTS. Additionally, limited shuttle service will be available between the Holiday Inn Riverview and Quarry Farm on Saturday.

The registration fee is $175.00. Price includes five full meals, with beer/wine at dinner, shuttles from the Holiday Inn Riverview, and a conference program.

If you are interested in attending the symposium, please contact Dr. Joseph Lemak (jlemak@elmira.edu). You will be given a registration form and all necessary information at that time.

Attention Graduate Students: CMTS will waive all registration fees and provide free lodging for a select number of graduate students. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Dr. Lemak (jlemak@elmira.edu).
REGISTRATION FORM: There are three different ways to register for the symposium:

**By Mail:** Mail this form to Center for Mark Twain Studies,
One Park Place, Elmira, NY 14901

**By Email:** Scan this form and pay by credit card by sending and email to
Patricia Cordell (pcordell@elmira.edu)

**By Fax:** Pay by credit card by faxing the Center directly at (607) 735-1192

Once your registration has been processed you will receive a receipt via email.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

Space is limited to only 50 people.

Name ________________________________  College/University _______________________________

Address ______________________________ Phone _________________________________________

City-State-Zip _________________________ Email _________________________________________

Any dietary accommodations or special circumstances __________________________________________

Enclose check for $175.00 payable to “Center for Mark Twain Studies.” Payment includes five meals and drinks.

If paying by credit card, enter credit card number: ________  ________  ________  ________

Circle one: (V) (MC) Exp. Date _________/_________  Three digit security number: ______

Attention Graduate Students: CMTS will waive all registration fees and provide free lodging for a select number of graduate students. In order to receive these benefits all graduate students must receive written acknowledgment from Director Joseph Lemak (jlemak@elmira.edu). All attending graduate students are required to complete the registration form.