



Elmira College
Center for Mark Twain Studies



The Trouble Begins at Eight

Spring 2008 Lecture Series

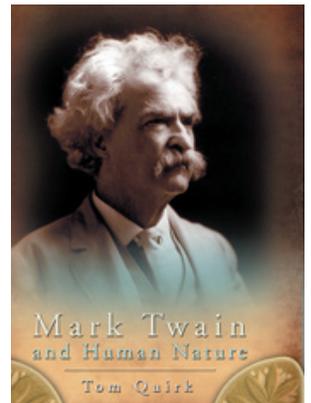
Commemorating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Gift of Quarry Farm
and the Establishment of the Center for Mark Twain Studies

Wednesday, May 7th, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

How Mark Twain Changed His Very Own Mind

Tom Quirk; Professor of English; University of Missouri-Columbia

One of the remarkable and often neglected facts about Mark Twain is that he had the capacity to change his mind, even well into old age, when most of us nestle in the Barca-lounger of settled opinion. Many are of course familiar with his change in attitude toward race (though we may have been misled about how that change occurred), but he also changed his mind on women's suffrage, trade unions, capital punishment, patriotism, and the insanity plea. Tom Quirk will touch upon all of these subjects but will emphasize the last, partly because the record of that change is protracted and at times an obsessive concern for Twain. Dr. Quirk will posit that these changes were the byproduct of Mark Twain's thinking on human nature and that, more than anything else, they were the result of careful and consistent reasoning, not of some sudden revelation or conversion experience, still less of an impulse to conform to prevailing opinion.



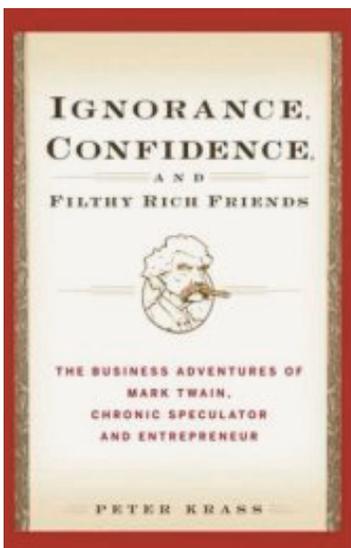
Doors open at 7:30. *The Trouble Begins at Eight.*

Wednesday, May 14th, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

Mark Twain: His Business (Mis)-Adventures

Peter Krass, Independent Scholar

There have been many books on Mark Twain, but none have fully developed his rabid entrepreneurial side and pursuit of great wealth in the spirit of the robber barons until now. Peter Krass will discuss what he discovered in writing *Ignorance, Confidence, and Filthy Rich Friends: The Business Adventures of Mark Twain*, which explores this oft-neglected side of Twain's life. The talk will illuminate his rollercoaster ride through America's Industrial Revolution and Twain's rich experiences, which were at times hilarious, exuberant, and painful, yet always instructive.



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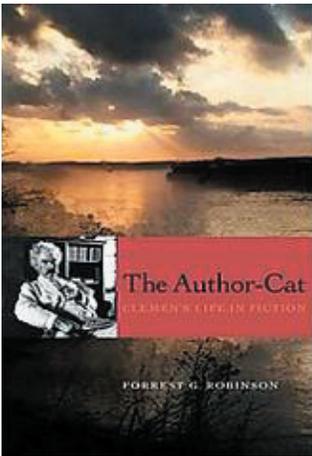
Spring 2008 Lecture Series



Wednesday, May 28th, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

The Author-Cat: Bad Faith in Clemens's Life and Work

Forrest Robinson, Professor of American Studies
University of California, Santa Cruz



After defining the key term, “bad faith,” Forrest Robinson will illustrate the operation of bad faith in Clemens’s work (offering examples from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson*), and in his life (illustrated by an example from *Following the Equator*), with special attention to the vexed issue of race slavery. Dr. Robinson will explain the origin of “The Author-Cat” and will also elaborate more broadly on the significance of bad faith in our favorite humorist’s career.

Light refreshments will precede this concluding lecture of the Spring series.

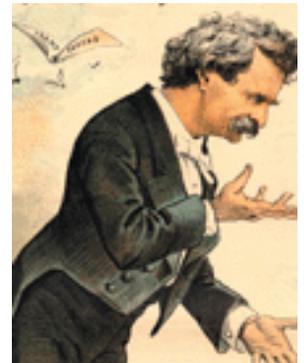
Doors open at 7:15. The Trouble Begins at Eight.

Unable to attend our lecture series? Why not listen online?

Within a week of each lecture, go to <http://www.elmira.edu/twain>. Click on The Center for Mark Twain Studies and then on *The Trouble Begins at Eight*. Scroll down and click on the link for the appropriate audio file where live audio recordings of lectures will be available (with individual speakers’ permission).

Directions to Quarry Farm for local attendees:

From Elmira College, head east on Washington 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, natural environment. Please exercise care.



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