



## Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies



### The Trouble Begins at Eight Fall Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 20th, 2006, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.  
A Fossil Guide to Mark Twain's Essay "Was the World Made for Man?"

J. Michael Pratt, Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems, Elmira College

For six months beginning in September 1870, a spate of family tragedies and crises left Mark Twain struggling to repeat the success of his first book, *Innocents Abroad* (1868). To get back on track, Clemens invited his lifelong friend, Joe Goodman, to spend the summer with him at Quarry Farm. With Goodman's encouragement, Mark Twain finished his second book, *Roughing It* (1872) and regained his self-confidence. Perhaps to recall their Comstock adventures, he and Goodman mined the abandoned quarry at the farm but not for precious minerals but for more an intellectual treasure - ancient fossils.



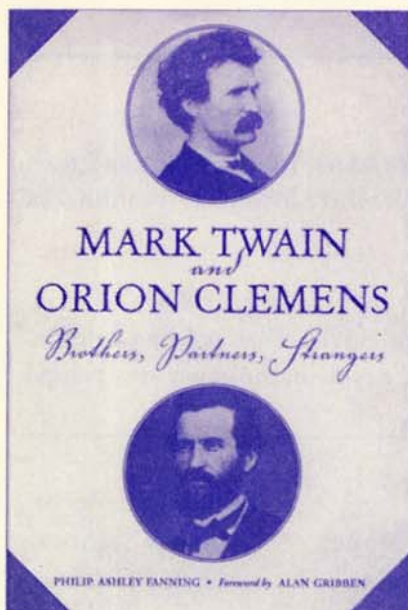
Clemens working in his Study with a view of the stone quarry in the window behind him.

Join Dr. Pratt as he explores Mark Twain's fascination with paleontology in several of his writings - in particular, his satirical essay, "Was the World Made for Man?" (1903). Dr. Pratt will also identify parts of the essay that seem to echo Clemens' fossil collecting experiences 32 years earlier at Quarry Farm.

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

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Wednesday, September 27th, 2006, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.  
Mark Twain, Orion Clemens, and the Mysterious Stranger  
Philip Ashley Fanning, Independent Scholar, San Francisco, CA



On and off for more than a decade toward the end of his life, Mark Twain worked on what are today known collectively as The Mysterious Stranger Manuscripts. These pieces were not intended for publication, but were for the author's own edification, and for many years scholars have puzzled over their meaning and significance. Philip Fanning believes he has found a key to them: the writer's conflicted relationship with his older brother.

Copies of *Mark Twain and Orion Clemens: Brothers, Partners, Strangers* will be available for purchase and signing in the Barn.

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

(More on back.)



# The Trouble Begins at Eight

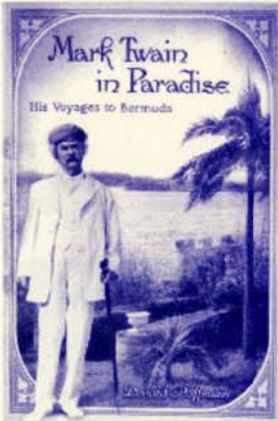
Fall Lecture Series



Wednesday, October 11th, 2006, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

Sailing to Bermuda with Mark Twain

Donald Hoffman, Independent Scholar, Kansas City, Missouri



What took Mark Twain to Bermuda so many times between 1867, at the beginning of his career, and 1910, at the very end of his life? The answers to this simple question call into consideration Mark Twain's peculiar temperament and the particular circumstances of his extraordinarily restless and energetic life.

Where did he stay on the islands? What did he see? Who were his companions? How did he spend his time in such a small and isolated place? And what did he write about Bermuda in his letters, magazine articles, and autobiography?

Copies of *Mark Twain in Paradise: His Voyages to Bermuda* will be available for purchase and signing in the Barn.

*Light refreshments will precede this closing lecture. Doors open at 7:30. The Trouble Begins at Eight.*

Thursday, November 30th, 2006, in the Tifft Lounge, Elmira College Campus Center, at 7 p.m.

Mark Twain's 171st Birthday Celebration

Mark Twain, Virtually

Stephen Railton, Professor of English, University of Virginia

Mark Twain would have loved the internet ~ and probably lost a fortune when the dot.com bubble burst. Against the background of the ambivalent role advanced technology plays in Twain's life and art, we'll look hard at the online electronic archive "Mark Twain In His Times." Since it began ten years ago, over 5,000,000 people have used it to study and teach Mark Twain's work. How does it work? What can putting Twain online reveal? What are the capabilities and limitations of electronic technology as a way to appreciate Twain's achievement and meanings?



*Birthday cake and punch will be served following the lecture.*

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.

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