



Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies

The Trouble Begins at Eight

Fall 2009 Lecture Series



Wednesday, September 9th in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.

The Making of *Mark Twain Day By Day*: Rudyard Kipling Meets Mark Twain David Fears, *Independent Scholar*,



Join David Fears as he shares his experiences compiling his massive work ~ an accounting of the daily life and times of Mark Twain. For the past five years, Fears has devoted himself to producing *Mark Twain Day By Day*, a three volume annotated chronology of the life of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Fears' aim for these books has been "to provide a reference and starting-off place for the Twain scholar, as well as a readable book for the masses," one that provides many "tastes" of Twain and perspective into his complex and fascinating life. The focus of this presentation will center on Fears' research efforts to determine the exact date of Rudyard Kipling's visit to Quarry Farm in the summer of 1889 ~ a date heretofore variously referred to as occurring in the "summer of 1889" (Paine), or as "July or August," or "one hot August morning" in 1889 (Baetzhold).



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

Wednesday, September 16th in the Mark Twain Archive, Gannett-Tripp Library,
on the Elmira College Campus, 8 p.m.

"It is no use to keep private information which you can't show off."

A Look at the Collections of the Mark Twain Archive Mark Woodhouse *Elmira College*



The Mark Twain Archive in the Gannett-Tripp Library at Elmira College houses many valuable and important items of interest to Twain scholars and enthusiasts. In addition to fine collections of first and rare editions, photographs and letters, there are many volumes from Clemens' own library and from that of the Cranes at Quarry Farm containing marginal comments by Clemens. There are also several unusual items including stones on which Clemens wrote a three stanza verse to Mrs. Thomas Beecher and a traveling trunk on the lid of which he made notes. Mark Woodhouse will show some fine examples of items in the collection and discuss the history and growth of the archive and the ways in which it is used to help foster a greater appreciation of Clemens, his circle of family and friends, and the world they inhabited.

Seating is limited to thirty. Reservations Required. Please phone 735-1941 to save your place.

(Title quoece from "An Author's Soldiering," Mark Twain's Speech to the Union Veterans of Maryland, April, 1887.)

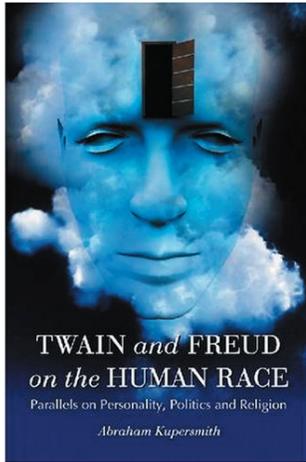


The Trouble Begins at Eight

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Wednesday, September 30th in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.



Twain and Freud on Personality and Politics

Abraham Kupersmith, *Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York, Emeritus*

This talk, based on Kupersmith's recently published book, *Twain and Freud on the Human Race; Parallels on Personality, Politics and Religion*, will provide an overview of the psychological insights and theories of Mark Twain and Sigmund Freud. Although at first glance these two men seem to constitute an unlikely pairing, each formulated a comprehensive theory of individual and group psychology and subsequently applied that understanding to the realms of religion, morality, patriotism, and politics. The talk will focus on the similarities and differences in their theories of personality and will provide examples of how Twain's theory of personality is reflected in the construction of some of his novels.

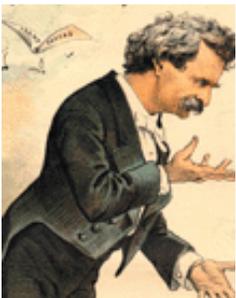
Light refreshments will precede this closing lecture. Doors open at 7:15. The Trouble Begins at Eight.

Monday, November 30th in Hamilton Hall on the Elmira College Campus, 7 p.m.
Mark Twain's 174th Birthday Celebration

A Centennial Meditation: Samuel Clemens, Family, Domesticity, and Autobiography
Michael Kiskis *Elmira College*

In "The Turning Point of My Life" in 1910, Samuel Clemens wrote, "To me, the most important feature of my life is its literary feature." That "literary feature" would have been vastly different if Clemens had not met and married Olivia Louise Langdon of Elmira, New York. Clemens' "Chapters from My Autobiography" is securely anchored in his relation to his family, to his deep emotional tie to the shared joys of home, as well as to plagues of conscience as he recalls the sufferings and deaths in that family. Join Michael Kiskis as argues that Mark Twain's autobiography is a project aimed at tuning Clemens' public image, or, more rightly perhaps, combining the private and public selves into a single unified self. For the careful reader, there is much here that argues a depth to Clemens' personality, a depth enhanced by a look behind the curtain that has separated his personal life from his professional personality.

Enjoy birthday cake and punch following the presentation.



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

Visit http://www.elmira.edu/academics/distinctive_programs/twain_center/trouble_at_eight/recordings. 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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