Mark Twain: The Youth Who Lived on the Sage

“Mark Twain’s later writings reflect his involvement in the process of aging and the quest for fulfillment. (In them we encounter) characters who combine the perspectives and experiential resources of old age with the outlook and the creative elan of youth ... (as well as) patterns of symbolic transformation and regeneration.”

Professor Tuckey is an award winning teacher as well as the recipient of Mark Twain research grants from the Purdue Research Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Among his principal publications in The Devil’s Race-Track: Mark Twain’s Great Dark Writings. Professor Tuckey is currently editing the still unpublished literary manuscripts of Mark Twain for the Mark Twain Papers Series of the University of California Press.

Leo Marx, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of American Cultural History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mark Twain, ‘Classic’ American Literature, and the Belief in Progress

“Although Mark Twain did his best to dissociate himself from the ‘romantic’ pastoralists of Emerson and Thoreau’s time, his work displays many close affinities with their’s. As he became a more serious writer, for example, he developed a more skeptical view of the prevailing American belief in technological ‘progress’ and ... his work took on several features of the ‘pastoral’ reaction to industrialisation which characterized the work of other ‘classic’ American writers who came before and after him.”

Professor Marx is a past president of the American Studies Association and currently serves as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies. He is a former Guggenheim and Rockefeller Fellow, Fulbright Lecturer, and Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar. An author of numerous essays and reviews, he has also edited works by Hawthorne, Melville, Thoreau, Whitman, and Twain. Professor Marx’s own chief work is The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America.