



2024 Fall Trouble Begins Lecture Series

Wednesday, October 2 at Quarry Farm (7:00PM)

Benjamin Griffin, University of California, Berkeley

"Authority and Corruption: Editing the California Pudd'nhead Wilson"

In this illustrated talk I discuss the preparation of the new edition of Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, published this year by the University of California Press. The outstanding feature of the edition is that it contains three texts: the text of the *Morgan Manuscript*, which is the first-completed version, which has never before been published in full. Then follows an edited text of the published (1894) version, thoroughly reconstructed to eliminate the depredations of the *Century Magazine*; and *Those Extraordinary Twins*, Clemens's exhibition of bits of the original version, reworked to form a not very satisfactory magazine article. Editorial work can be daunting but this talk shows it is far from pointless. Examination of the original materials has worked very dramatic changes in the text, and opened many new avenues of interpretation. New light, that is to say, on the central problem of Clemens's shifting intentions as he overhauled his tale -- and on the practices of the editors and printers who labored to tame the text.

Benjamin Griffin is an Associate Editor at the Mark Twain Project of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, where since 1967 a team of editors has been creating a scholarly edition of Mark Twain's works. Ben's editorial credits in that series include the three volumes of *Mark Twain's Autobiography; A Family Sketch and Other Private Writings; Mark Twain's Civil War*; and the three-text edition of *Pudd'nhead Wilson*. During his twenty years at the Project he has published in many scholarly journals, and taught an undergraduate seminar in Mark Twain and textual criticism.

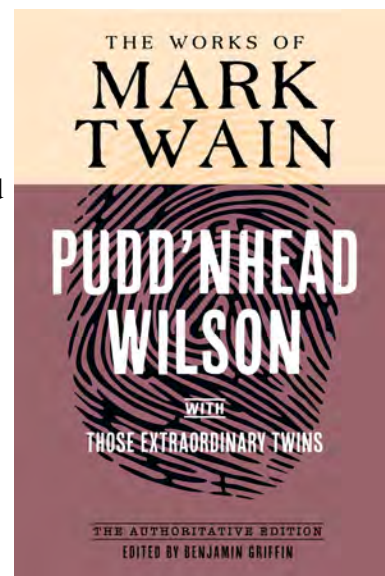
Wednesday, October 9 at Quarry Farm (7:00PM)

Kathryn Dolan, Missouri University of Science and Technology

"Mining Gilt"

In The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today (1873) Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner satirize the exploitation of land, specifically through mining, in much the same way as they do with Washington politics. In so doing, they predict the significance of coal in much the same way that they predicted the era now referred to as the Gilded Age.

Dr. Kathryn Dolan is Associate Professor of Nineteenth-Century American Literature at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Her research focuses on sustainability, food studies, and globalization. She teaches courses on American Romanticism, American Gothic literature, and U.S. short story. In 2015, she taught on Mark Twain in London for a Missouri exchange program. She has published on nineteenth-century expansion and culture in *Beyond the Fruited Plain: Food and Agriculture in U.S. Literature, 1850-1905* (2014) and *Cattle Country: Livestock in the Cultural Imagination* (2021). Her most recent book, *Breakfast Cereal: A Global History* (2023), examines the cultural history of breakfast cereal, and has been translated into Chinese, Arabic, and Japanese. Her current project, *Imagining Tomorrow's Bread*, studies sustainability in descriptions of food in futuristic texts.



CMTS will have copies of the new edition of *Pudd'nhead Wilson* for purchase.



"The Last Blast." Image from *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner (1873) Chpt. LXII.

Wednesday, October 16 at Quarry Farm (7:00PM)

Timothy Donahue, *Oakland University*

“Mark Twain, the Novel, and 1492”

This talk reads No. 44, *The Mysterious Stranger* as a work of novel theory—that is, as an account of the novel-genre’s origins and possibilities. Twain suggests that the genre emerges in response to global transformations following from 1492. In this and other late manuscripts, he also strives to imagine a democratic novelistic form for our colonial modernity.

Timothy Donahue is Associate Professor of English at Oakland University, where he teaches and researches the literatures of the U.S. and the Americas, with a focus on the nineteenth century. His writing has appeared in *American Literary History*, *Novel*, and *J19*, as well as in the collections *The Oxford Handbook of Ralph Waldo Emerson* and *Apocalypse in American Literature and Culture*. He is currently finishing a book on aesthetics, translation, and political sovereignty in North America’s nineteenth-century borderlands, and beginning a second project on Reconstruction’s hemispheric dimensions.

Wednesday, October 23 at Quarry Farm (7:00PM)

Linda A. Morris, *University of California, Davis*

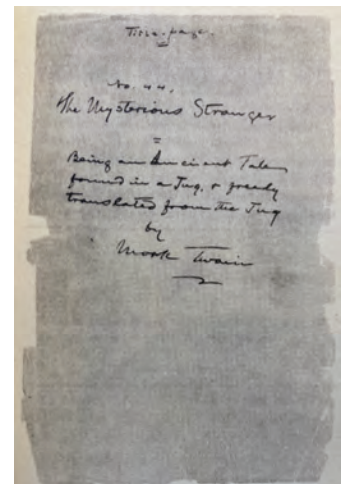
“Before There Was Twain There Was Whitcher”

This talk will examine the role of the town of Elmira, New York, in Frances M. Whitcher’s satirical sketches published anonymously in the late 1840s. It will consider briefly Samuel Clemens’s interest in these sketches some years later, but primarily it will focus on the sketches that created an uproar when Whitcher’s authorship was revealed to the town.



Daguerreotype of Miriam Whitcher,
circa January 1849

Linda A. Morris is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of California, Davis. Her book-length studies include *Women’s Humor in The Age of Gentility: The Life and Works of Frances Miriam Whitcher*; *American Women Humorists: Critical Essays* (Ed.); and *Gender Play in Mark Twain: Cross-Dressing and Transgression*. She has published a number of essays about Mark Twain, including “What is Personal about *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*?,” “The Sources of Mark Twain’s *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*” (with Ronald Jenn); “Gender Bending as Child’s Play;” “Identity Switching in *Huckleberry Finn*,” “Twice Told Tales: Aunt Sally Phelps and the “Evasion” in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*,” “The Eloquent Silence in ‘Hellfire Hotchkiss;” “Becky Thatcher and Aunt Polly in Three Dimensions;” and “Susy Clemens: The Final Years.” Her essays on American women’s humor include “Good Food, Great Friends, Cold Beer: The Domestic Humor of Mary Lasswell;” “Domestic Manners of the Americans: A Transatlantic Phenomenon;” and “Roz Chast: From Whimsey to Transgression.” She was the recipient of “The Charlie Award” by the American Humor Studies Association, and “The Olivia Langdon Clemens Award” by the Mark Twain Circle of America.



Manuscript title page for No. 44, *The Mysterious Stranger*. Title reads “No. 44, *The Mysterious Stranger* - being an ancient tale found in a jug, and freely translated from the jug.”

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