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**THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, TO PRESENT NEW MARK  
TWAIN EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 175TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LEGENDARY AUTHOR**

*SHOW INCLUDES ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT PAGES FROM SUCH GREAT WORKS AS  
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN AND LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND  
MORE THAN 100 OTHER RARE ITEMS*

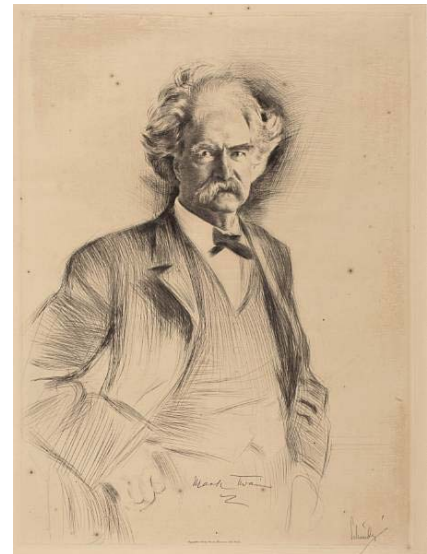
***Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* Opens at the Morgan on September 17, 2010;  
Examines Twain's Response to a Rapidly Modernizing America**

**\*\*Press Preview: Thursday, September 16, 10 a.m. until noon\*\*  
RSVP: (212) 590-0393, [media@themorgan.org](mailto:media@themorgan.org)**

**New York, NY, August 19, 2010**—The Morgan Library & Museum and The New York Public Library—which hold two of the world's great collections of manuscripts, rare books, letters, and other items related to the life of Mark Twain (1835–1910)—present a major exhibition at the Morgan exploring a central, recurring theme throughout the iconic author's body of work: his uneasy, often critical, attitude towards a rapidly modernizing America.

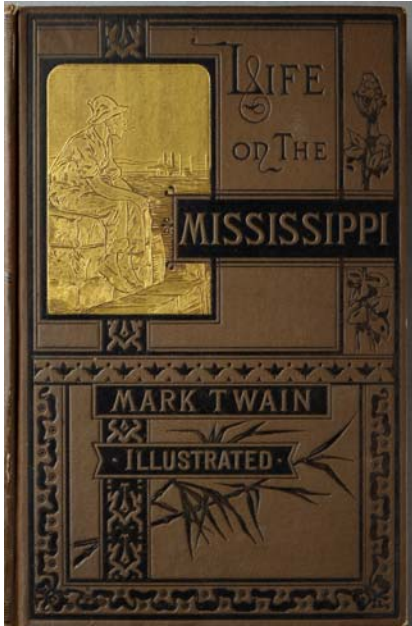
Opening September 17, 2010, the exhibition coincides with the 175th anniversary of Twain's birth in 1835 and includes more than 120 manuscripts and rare books, including original manuscript pages from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) and *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), as well as letters, notebooks, diaries, photographs, and drawings associated with the author's life and work. *Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* is on view through January 2, 2011.

Mark Twain's life spanned an era that saw much of the world—America in particular—embrace the Industrial Revolution. With the expansion of transportation and communications technology, there was a



Otto Schneider, *Mark Twain*. New York: Charles Barmore, 1906.  
Purchased for the Dannie and Hettie Heineman Collection as the gift  
of the Heineman Foundation, 2010; MA 7632.

cultural shift from small-town rural concerns to a large-scale national agenda centered on great cities. As a young man, Twain had traveled by foot, horse, and riverboat. As a mature man, and one of the most widely traveled Americans, he journeyed by international steamship and railroad, and even saw the advent of the automobile.



Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*. Boston: J. R. Osgood, 1883.  
The Morgan Library & Museum; PML 16789.

For Twain, such technological, industrial, and urban developments were the means by which America might become a more prosperous and just society and also realize the nineteenth-century dream of universal progress. While he saw this achievement embodied by the concentration of educational and cultural institutions in Northern cities and towns, his conflicted love affair with his native South and its traditions, his close observation of the natural world, and his skepticism about the possibility of changing human nature made him doubtful about the effectiveness of these means or even the possibility of human progress. In his final two decades, the skeptic saw his worst fears justified by the advance of European imperialism and its attendant atrocities in Africa and Asia, as well as by America's own expansionist ambitions. Throughout his life's journey, only his faith in the clarity and cleansing possibilities of the written word remained constant. *Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* captures the essence of the author's wit, humor, and philosophy towards his era's great changes in all their guises with examples of his work as a novelist, short story writer, fabulist, critic, lecturer, and travel writer.

"The Morgan is delighted to partner with The New York Public Library to present this exciting new exhibition on Mark Twain," said William M. Griswold, director of The Morgan Library & Museum. "The institutions are fortunate to hold two of the world's greatest collections of Twain material, affording the opportunity to look at this particularly important theme in the author's work. For Twain, the idea of progress was both enticing and, at the same time, challenging, and he approached it with his characteristic irony and incisive commentary."

"This fascinating and unique exhibit will feature rare gems from the collections of both The New York Public Library and the Morgan to highlight Mark Twain's philosophies about progress and technology, a critically important theme in his life and work," said Dr. Paul LeClerc, president of The New York Public Library. "The handwritten manuscripts, letters, drawings and other artifacts included will be a visual and

intellectual delight for anyone who visits, and we are proud to partner with the Morgan to bring those coveted items to the public.”

## THE EXHIBITION

Samuel Langhorne Clemens—better known by his pen name, Mark Twain—was the quintessential American author, humorist, lecturer, essayist, and master of satire. Twain enjoyed immense public popularity during his lifetime and became a friend to presidents, artists, industrialists, and royalty.



Series of seven photographic portraits of Mark Twain, each inscribed by Twain, 1906, gelatin silver prints on card. Purchased on the John F. Fleming Fund, 2008; MA 7253.

The exhibition features extensive portions of autograph manuscripts of two key nonfiction works. In *Life on the Mississippi*, Twain examines the history of the river and the impact of technological progress and urban development on river life and paints sharply contrasting portraits of urban life in the North and South. Twain casts his critical attention more widely in the extensive account of his world travels published in *Following the Equator* (1897), employing savage sarcasm to express his outrage at the crimes that the Western colonial powers perpetrated on the native populations of Africa, Asia, and Australasia.

*Life on the Mississippi* is Twain’s memoir of his youthful years as a cub pilot on a steamboat paddling up and down the Mississippi River. The author used his childhood experiences growing up along the Mississippi in a number of works, but nowhere is the great river and the pilot’s life more thoroughly described than in this account. Told with insight, humor, and candor, *Life on the Mississippi* is an American classic. Twain’s deep nostalgia for the world of his youth gives special acuity to his observations on advances in technology, urban development, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and social justice, which changed the traditional culture of the South while bringing benefits to many.

*Life on the Mississippi* is Twain’s memoir of his



Mark Twain’s memory buildera game for acquiring and retaining all sorts of facts and dates; the original three piece game. New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1981. Gift of Miss Julia P. Wightman, 1991; PM. 86967.

An inveterate traveler, Twain crisscrossed the Atlantic more than a dozen times and also visited Turkey, Palestine, Hawaii, Australia, India, and South Africa. Wherever he went, he always absorbed the scenery and

in his mind played the part of the American Vandal, the rube traveler who pretends to understand things he doesn't. The exhibition includes autograph manuscripts and an extensive display of illustration mock-ups, comprising numerous photographs and drawings for *Following the Equator* (1897), Twain's final work of travel literature, which began with the wildly successful *The Innocents Abroad* (1869).

Also on view will be four pages of Twain's greatest work, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, called by Ernest Hemingway the source of all modern American literature and numerous leaves of the autograph manuscript of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889), a fable that grows increasingly grim as Twain shows how the well-intentioned use of technology leads to self-destruction because of humanity's incorrigible selfishness and need to worship authority. The pages from *Huckleberry Finn* are from the first half of the book, which was thought lost and only found in 1990, and depict Huck and Jim on their raft in the Mississippi as well as a ribald song sung by a boatman, and which Twain is believed to have sung at his own wedding.

Twain's numerous attempts to participate in and capitalize on the entrepreneurial spirit of the times were predominantly failures. The exhibition introduces his experiments and includes an example of a memory game for acquiring and retaining all sorts of facts and dates. The original three-piece game was conceived and designed by Twain and produced by Charles L. Webster & Co. in 1891. The game includes a boxlike board with the game printed on one side and rules on the other as well as a small pamphlet of facts, along with a box containing the playing pins.

The exhibition is supplemented with handwritten manuscripts and typescripts of other works by Twain, his letters and correspondence, drawings and illustration mock-ups for printed editions, photographs, and several three-dimensional artifacts.

*Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* is co-curated by Isaac Gewirtz, Curator of the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at The New York Public Library and Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor Curator of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan.

This exhibition is generously supported by the Margaret T. Morris Fund for Americana and Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey C. Walker, with additional assistance from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, The Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation, and the F. M. Kirby Foundation.



The Morgan exhibition program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAM**

### Lectures and Discussions

#### **Reading Mark Twain: A Conversation with Fran Lebowitz, Toni Morrison, and Frank Rich**

Best-selling writer and humorist Fran Lebowitz (*Metropolitan Life, Social Studies*), Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison (*Beloved, Song of Solomon*), and noted *New York Times* columnist Frank Rich (*The Greatest Story Ever Sold*) discuss their lifelong reading of Mark Twain as well as his enduring legacy and unique place in American literary and cultural history.

**Tuesday, September 28, 6:30 PM\***

#### **“Originally of Missouri, Now of the Universe”: Mark Twain and the World**

Shelley Fisher Fishkin

An unlikely candidate to achieve a world readership at the start of his career, Twain went on to leave his indelible mark on world literature as well as American literature. Noted Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin (*The Oxford Mark Twain* and *The Mark Twain Anthology*), professor of English, Stanford University, will look at Twain in a global context, exploring what he learned from his travels, and what readers and writers around the world learned from him.

**Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 PM\***

\*The exhibition *Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* will be open at 5:30 PM especially for program attendees.

### Concert

#### **New-Trad Octet**

Combining instruments and elements of a traditional New Orleans brass band with those of a modern jazz group, Jeff Newell and the New-Trad Octet explore the early sources of America's musical heritage. To celebrate the period of American history covered in the exhibition *Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress*, the program will feature works by Stephen Foster, Scott Joplin, John Philip Sousa, and others. This concert also coincides with the reopening of the refurbished McKim building.

**Saturday, October 30, 4 PM**

### Film

#### **The Adventures of Mark Twain**

(1944, 130 minutes)

*Director:* Irving Rapper

A delightful dramatization of the life of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Fredric March), who grew up on the Mississippi, became a newspaper reporter in Nevada, and eventually found success as the novelist and humorist Mark Twain. Incorporating many stories from Twain's famous novels, such as *Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, as well as lesser-known works as “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” this film provides a charming overview of the beloved writer's life. With Alexis Smith as Twain's wife, Olivia, and musical score by Max Steiner.

**Saturday, September 25, 2 PM**

### Family Programs

#### **Honky-Tonk to Ragtime: Toe Tappin' Tunes**

Join opera singer and educator Jennifer S. Greene for an interactive, family-friendly exploration of musical selections by the great nineteenth-century American composers Stephen Foster and Scott Joplin. In this workshop, children will learn about the development of American folk music and ragtime, hear performances by live artists, and have an opportunity to sing along with musical selections. Appropriate for ages 6–14.

**Saturday, November 6, 2–3 PM**

#### **Winter Family Day Celebration**

Join us for our annual family day celebrating the exhibitions *Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress* and *Charles Dickens's Christmas Carol*. Travel back to Victorian London as you mingle with Dickens's characters (members of the troupe Grand Falloons), watch Mark Twain's America come alive with a show featuring

Tom and Huck, listen to live ragtime music by pianist Roy Eaton, learn the Two Step and the Cake Walk, and more. For a complete schedule, visit [www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org). All events are included with admission to the Morgan. Appropriate for ages 6-12.

**Sunday, December 5, 2-5 PM**

#### School Program

**Tours for Teens** is a flexible program at the Morgan tailored for New York City Middle and High School students meeting curriculum standards in English language arts and social studies. A Morgan educator will lead tours of the exhibitions with specific interactive activities to engage this younger audience.

#### Gallery Talks

##### **Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress**

Isaac Gewirtz, Curator, Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library

**Friday, October 15, 7 pm**

##### **Mark Twain: A Skeptic's Progress**

Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor Curator and Department Head, Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts, The Morgan Library & Museum

**Friday, November 19, 7 pm**

Docent-led tours will be scheduled on weekdays.

For ticketing and further information on these and other programs, please visit [www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org) or call 212-685-0008, ext. 560.

#### **The Morgan Library & Museum**

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Located at Madison Avenue and 36th Street, with a world-renowned collection that ranges from Rembrandt to Picasso, Mozart to Bob Dylan, Dickens to Hemingway, and Gutenberg Bibles to Babar the elephant, The Morgan Library & Museum maintains a unique position among cultural institutions in New York, the nation, and the world.

#### **General Information**

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

#### **Hours**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

#### **Admission**

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.