

Today's Twain

Grinnell College Libraries
Department of Special Collections and Archives
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Be good + you will be lonesome.

Mark Twain

Although 2011 marks 101 years since the death of Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835-1910), the noted author, humorist, and public speaker continues to provoke interest and debate. In November of last year, the University of California Press published the first of three volumes of his unexpurgated autobiography. This was possible because the 100-year publication moratorium Twain had demanded before his death in 1910 finally expired. Readers can now access content he feared would provoke rancor, such as personal attacks, critiques of religion, and fierce commentaries on the social and political issues of his time.

Just this February, Twain entered the news again when Montgomery, Alabama-based publisher NewSouth Books released a Twain volume as well: an edition that combines *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885). The editor, Auburn University English professor Alan Gribben, decided to substitute pejorative racial terms with less polemical words in order to encourage wider readership of the two works. His choices have prompted praise and backlash, and, above all, challenging discussions about censorship and accessibility.

Given Twain's fresh publicity, we in the Department of Special Collections and Archives have decided to showcase a selection of his works from the College's holdings. We also attempt to address the controversial content of the recently published works. While we are limited to a few cases, we hope that this small exhibition will give you a sense of the breadth of Twain's work and evoke your own questions.

- Kathryn Vanney, '11

Cover image: Twain, Mark. *Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World*. Hartford: American Publishing Co., 1897.

***A Bibliography of Mark Twain Editions in the
Department of Special Collections and Archives***

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- Twain, Mark. *A Tramp Abroad*. Hartford: American Publishing Co., 1880.
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Select Web Resources

University of California Press website for Twain's autobiography:

<http://www.thisismarktwain.com/>

The Mark Twain Papers and Project at the Bancroft Library,
University of California, Berkeley:

<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/MTP/>

NewSouth Books: "A Word About the NewSouth Edition of Mark
Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn"

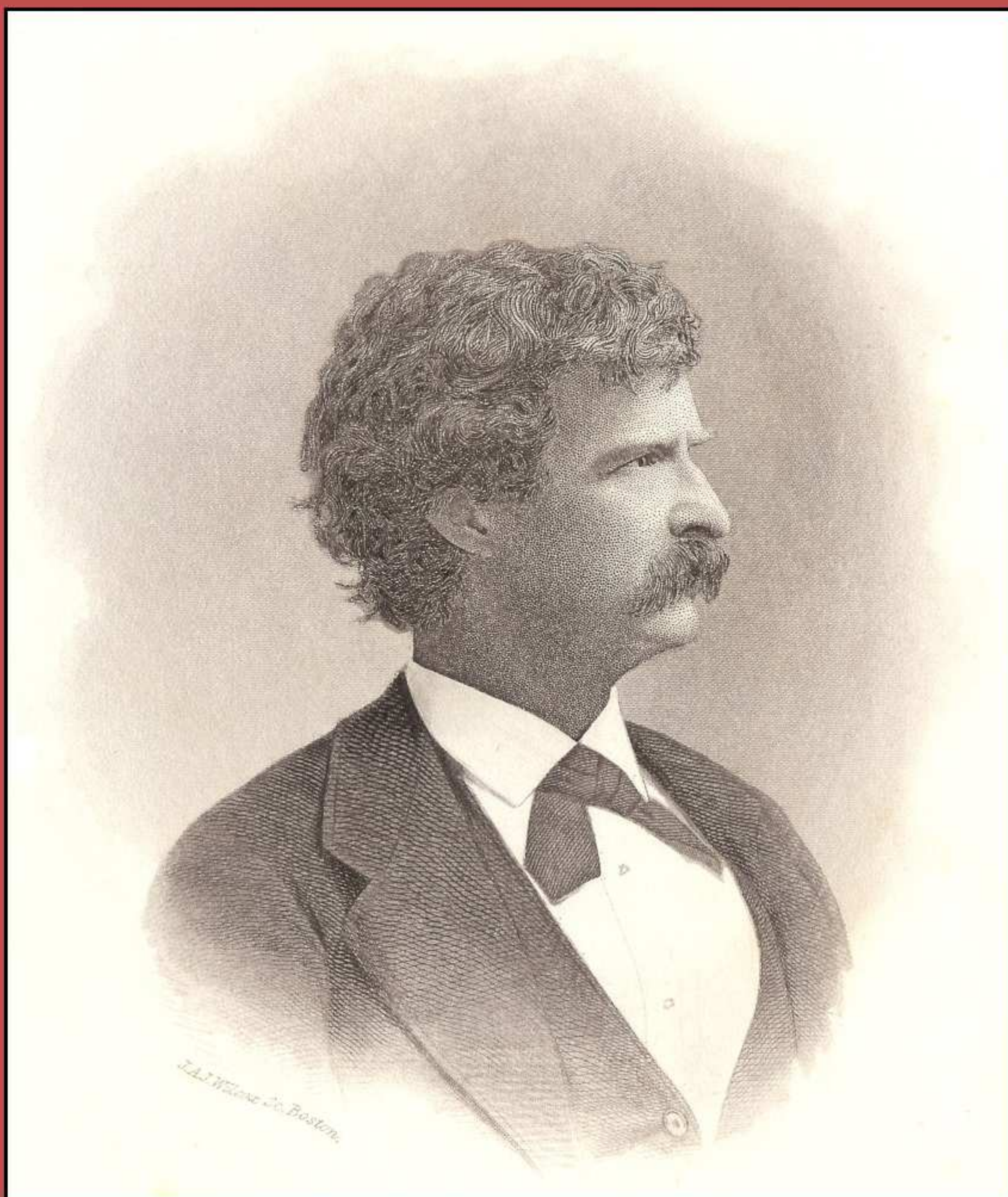
<http://www.newsouthbooks.com/pages/2011/01/04/a-word-about-the-newsouth-edition-of-mark-twains-tom-sawyer-and-huckleberry-finn/>

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Contact Us

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Above: Engraving by J.A.J. Wilcox from: Twain, Mark. *A Tramp Abroad*. Hartford: American Publishing Co., 1880.

Right: Autograph from George F. Pinne Autograph Collection, Department of Special Collections and Archives, date unknown

With pleasure
Yours truly
Samuel L. Cheever
Mark Twain