

MARK TWAIN: THE MAN AND THE WRITER

Neelavva S. Koti

Saptapur, Dharwad-580 001

ABSTRACT

The article covers brief life sketch of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. The Biographical sketch includes his childhood and family events. In 1963 Clemens adopted 'pseudonym' Mark Twain. Chronologically enumerated the works of Mark Twain from 1867 to 1890.

Critically analyzed the few noted works of Mark Twain such as chalice age, the adventures of Tom Sawyer etc. the author has quoted single reference to his article.

Keywords: 19th century English literature, Biography, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Mark Twain.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, well-known with his pseudonym, 'Mark Twain's the greatest American humorist writer. Samuel Langhorne Clemens, was born in Florida in 1835. His parents John Marshall Clemens and mother Jane Lampton Clemens were Virginians. His father moved the family to Hannibal and Clemens spent his boyhood there. In March 1847, when Twain was 11, his father died of pneumonia.^[1] The next year, he became a printer's apprentice. In 1851, he began working as a typesetter and contributor of articles and humorous sketches for the *Hannibal Journal*, a newspaper owned by his brother Orion. When he was 18, he left Hannibal and worked as a printer in New York City, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. He joined the union and educated himself in public libraries in the evenings, finding wider information than at a conventional school.^[2] At 22, Twain returned to Missouri.

Mark Twain, had little education and he spent his early years in a printing press. He began writing burlesques. His one hobby was boating on Mississippi and he knew the river like a book. There was the disturbance of Civil War.

Twain joined Orion, who in 1861 became secretary to James W. Nye, the governor of

Nevada Territory, and headed west. Twain and his brother traveled more than two weeks on a stagecoach across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, visiting the Mormon community in Salt Lake City. The experiences inspired *Roughing It* and provided material for *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. Twain's journey ended in the silver-mining town of Virginia City, Nevada, where he became a miner.^[3] Twain failed as a miner and worked at a Virginia City newspaper, the *Territorial Enterprise*.^[4] Here he first used his pen name. On February 3, 1863, he signed a humorous travel account "*Letter From Carson – re: Joe Goodman; party at Gov. Johnson's; music*" with "Mark Twain".^[5]

Twain moved to San Francisco, California in 1864, still as a journalist. He met writers such as Bret Harte, Artemus Ward, and Dan DeQuille. The young poet Ina Coolbrith may have romanced him.^[6]

His first success as a writer came when his humorous tall tale, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County", was published in a New York weekly, *The Saturday Press*, on November 18, 1865. It brought him national attention. A year later, he traveled to the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii) as a reporter for the

Sacramento Union. His travelogues were popular and became the basis for his first lectures.^[7]

In 1867, a local newspaper funded a trip to the Mediterranean. During his tour of Europe and the Middle East, he wrote a popular collection of travel letters, which were later compiled as *The Innocents Abroad* in 1869. It was on this trip that he met his future brother-in-law.

Upon returning to the United States, Twain was offered honorary membership in the secret society Scroll and Key of Yale University in 1868.^[8]

Soon after he returned from Europe Mark Twain, married in 1870 Olivia Langdon of Elmira of New York. Yet she did not suit to his taste. Even she was an invalid. They lived together for 34 years and had three daughters--Susa, Clara and Jean and possibly a son. Mark Twain, like his father, was not systematic. In fact, he was rather 'innocent.' He is described as "the generous, erratic, moody, and vulnerable human being."^[9] He needed a critic always. His wife was one of them. His friend William Dean Howells, was another. The couple lived in Buffalo where he edited *Buffalo Express*. Yet Mark Twain's investment in printing was never a success. His next book *Roughing It* (1872), another travelogue was good enough. Next he moved to Hartford and stayed as a neighbor of Harriet Beecher Stowe. He published *The Gilded Age* in 1873, a satire written with Charles Warner. His *Old Times in the Mississippi* (1875) was a book of sketches, while *Tom Sawyer* (1876) was about his times in Mississippi. And finally there was his masterpiece *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) for the writing of which he took seven years and even he wanted to burn it.

Meanwhile, Mark Twain, involved in some projects. He, in collaboration with Bret Harte wrote a play; toured Europe and published *Tramps Abroad* (1880), and *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882), a children's

book. His next in-land travel book was the famous *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). Mark Twain put a lot of money in publishing business and lost much. Only the oil tycoon Henry Rogers' help consoled him. Twain wrote the work *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* (1896), which was the best work for him. Mark Twain was not happy with his project and he undertook the world tour and lecturing and when he was just off, he heard the illness of his daughter Susa. His *Following the Equator* (1897) is an account of his tour to Australia and India. In 1904 his wife Olivia died; and his last phase of life began. Now he settled in Stormfield and he wrote his *Autobiography* (1924). When his daughter Clara married and his daughter Jean died in 1909 Mark Twain became alone. He died the following year. Earnest Hemingway said, "*The Huckleberry Finn* is both the first and the best book in American literature. Twenty years later William Faulkner said much the same thing. Mark Twain, discovered both the American language and American consciousness. He was the 'writer's writer.' The unique characteristics of his style are that his style was clear. Language mastery was his trademark. He had a command over American vernacular. It is said, "Mark Twain's style, was easy, incisive to nuances of dialect, rich in the resources of comedy, satire, irony and corrosive anger.", Finally there was Mark Twain's humor. Twain's humor was an art. He excelled all others in his sketches of people. He imitated current funny men like Ward, Orpheus C. Kerr, and Josh Billings. He was often called 'phunny phelow.' It is said, "In his heart Mark Twain, must have realized that essentially he was a man of feeling, too sensitive to serve merely as a comedian, too undisciplined to be the philosopher he sometimes fancied himself. His forte was to recapture the sheer joy of living, when to be young was very heaven. A great river flowing through the wilderness set the stage for a boy's own

dream of self-sufficiency, of being a new Robinson Crusoe on Jackson's Island. In the background moved the pageantry of life, colored by humor, makes believe, and pure melodrama; but the complexity of the machine age and the city lay far, far away."

The following are Mark Twain's, major works.

The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County is an 1867 book of short stories by Mark Twain. As Twain's first book, it has 27 stories that were previously published in magazines and newspapers. The title story first appeared in print in 1865 and has also been published as "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" and "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog." In it, the narrator retells a story he heard from a bartender, Simon Wheeler, at the Angels Hotel in Angels Camp, California, about the gambler Jim Smiley. Twain describes him: "If he even seen a straddle bug start to go anywheres, he would bet you how long it would take him to get to—to wherever he going to, and if you took him up, he would follew that straddle bug to Mexico but what he would find out where he was bound for and how long he was on the road."

The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today^[10] is an 1873 novel by Mark Twain, and Charles Dudley Warner that satirizes greed and political corruption in post-Civil War America. The term gilded age, commonly given to the era, comes from the title of this book. Twain and Warner got the name from Shakespeare's *King John*: "To gild refined gold, to paint the lily... is wasteful and ridiculous excess." Gilding a lily, which is already beautiful and not in need of further adornment, is excessive and wasteful, characteristics of the age Twain and Warner wrote about in their novel. Another interpretation of the title, of course, is the contrast between an ideal "Golden Age," and a less worthy "Gilded Age," as gilding is only a thin layer of gold over baser metal, so the title now takes on a pejorative

meaning as to the novel's time, events and people. Although not one of Twain's more well-known works, it has appeared in more than 100 editions since its original publication in 1873. Twain and Warner originally had planned to issue the novel with illustrations by Thomas Nast. The book is remarkable for two reasons—it is the only novel Twain wrote with a collaborator, and its title very quickly became synonymous with graft, materialism, and corruption in public life.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain is a popular 1876 novel about a young boy growing up in the antebellum South on the Mississippi River in the fictional town of Hannibal, Missouri. An imaginative and mischievous 12 year old boy named Thomas Sawyer lives with his Aunt Polly and his half-brother, Sidney, in the Mississippi River town. After playing hooky from school on Friday and dirtying his clothes in a fight, Tom is made to whitewash the fence as punishment on Saturday. At first, Tom is disappointed by having to forfeit his day off. However, he soon persuades his friends to trade him small treasures for the privilege of doing his work. He trades these treasures for tickets given out in Sunday school for memorizing Bible verses and uses the tickets to claim a Bible as a prize. He loses much of his glory, however, when, in response to a question to show off his knowledge, he incorrectly answers that the first two disciples were David and Goliath.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn as shortened to *Huck Finn*, is a novel written by Mark Twain and published in 1884. It is commonly regarded as one of the great American novels, and is one of the first major American novels written in the vernacular, characterized by local color regionalism. It is told in the first person by Huckleberry "Huck" Finn, best friend of Tom Sawyer and narrator of two other Twain novels. *Huck Finn* is noted for its colorful description of people and places

along the Mississippi River. By satirizing a Southern society that was already anachronistic at the time, the book is a scathing look at entrenched attitudes, particularly slavery. The drifting journey of Huck and his friend Jim, a runaway slave, down the Mississippi River on their raft may be one of the most enduring images of escape and freedom in world literature. The book is a famous children's classic as well the one that attracts all adults. It is taken as a sequel to Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. It has been the continued object of study by serious literary critics. The book was criticized upon release because of its coarse language, and became even more controversial in the 20th century because of its perceived use of racial stereotypes and because of its frequent use of the racial slur, "nigger."

Tom Sawyer Abroad is a novel by Mark Twain published in 1894. It features Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn in a parody of Jules Verne-esque adventure stories. In the story, Tom, Huck, and Jim set sail to Africa in a futuristic hot air balloon, where they survive encounters with lions, robbers, and fleas to see some of the world's greatest wonders, including the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Like *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*, this story is told using the first-person narrative voice of Huck Finn.

Pudd'nhead Wilson is an ironic novel by Mark Twain. It was serialized in *The Century Magazine* (1893-4), before being published as a novel in 1894.

Mark Twain's work on Joan of Arc is titled in full *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc, by the Sieur Louis de Conte* who is identified further as Joan's page and secretary.

The Mysterious Stranger is an unfinished work, and the last novel attempted, by Mark Twain. It was worked on periodically from 11.

roughly 1890 up until his death in 1910. The body of work is a serious social commentary by Twain addressing his ideas of the Moral Sense and the "damned human race".

Conclusion: it is a very usefully in mathematics, in microbiological structure, in statistics and many areas of science and technology it is very essential to useful.

It is a history of the given things as mentioned in this paper to reaches a maximum goal in this world.

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