



THE NORTH UNIVERSITY OF BAI A MARE
THE FACULTY OF LETTERS
FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Second Anniversary International Conference in Baia Mare

A Century under the Spirit of Mark Twain

October, 22nd - 24th, 2010

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Shelley Fisher FISHKIN -
Stanford University, California (via video)

Prof. Lawrence HOWE -
Roosevelt University, Chicago

The conference is organized to honor **Mark Twain**, one of the leading figures in American literary history, at 100 years from his death (1910) and 175 years from his birth (1835). We invite you all to express your views on Twain's works and life, as well as on any other aspects related to his activity as novelist, writer of children's stories, humorist, journalist, mason etc. - a collection of eclectic elements which make up this famous character.

At the same time, we would like to dedicate this anniversary not only to Mark Twain, but to children and youth literature and culture, as well. We think that children and youth literature are a very important part of literature, not always treated very seriously. Therefore, *Under the Spirit of Mark Twain* can also refer to this important chapter of world literature and culture.

Papers are invited in the following sections:

- **American Literature**

Works are welcomed to portray Mark Twain as an American literary icon and focus on his works. Twain is to some extent the first to set up a story line which would later become a



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common feature of the science fiction genre. He is also well known for his children's stories. Specialists and fans all over the world may express their points of view on any of Twain's works!

- **Comparative Literature**

Considering the influence this American icon has had over world literature, papers may approach Mark Twain's works in the broader context of universal literature and focus on similarities, common techniques and recurrent literary themes that link the American symbol to other writers. You are also welcomed to discuss on precursors, affiliations, followers, and Twain's influence on the course of universal literature. Papers dedicated to other issues related to Comparative Literatures within the domain of children and youth literature could also find an appropriate framework within this panel.

- **Cultural Studies**

This panel is a meeting place for those who would like to present papers about Mark Twain and his day's or today's media, to movies based on his literary work, to his icon in American and world culture, to his trademark in American imagology and identity, etc. We would also appreciate any contribution related to inter-cultural studies about children and youth culture, from media, to movies, to music and video games, etc.

- **Translation Studies**

Participants are welcomed to comment on the translations of Twain's works into Romanian or other languages. Translators may share their experience, comment on



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possible difficulties that may be encountered when translating the literary heritage of this exquisite master of words.

- **Romanian Section**

All of the above sections are open for Romanian-speaking participants as well. So those of you who do not feel very confident in expressing themselves in a foreign language are heartily welcomed to submit papers in Romanian in any of the above sections.

Therefore, please fill in the registration form below, and send it to the organizing committee on marktwain.conference@yahoo.com by 15 August, 2010. For further queries please refer to our website <http://marktwain.ubm.ro> or contact Mrs. Ramona Demarcsek.

All participants will have 15 minutes for paper presentation and 10 minutes for discussions. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

For those who would like to participate, but who, for reasons of distance and cost, cannot be present in person, we offer the possibility of video conferencing.

The conference registration fee is 50 € and it covers participation costs, coffee breaks, lunches and conference portfolio. Participation through video conference is 30 € .

The Foreign Languages Department looks forward to an exciting conference highlighting one of the most famous and beloved American writers whose influence still inspires the arts throughout the world. We also hope to shed new light on issues related to children and youth literature and culture, by referring to the great master, or to other authors.