Cyril Clemens Collection

**Creator:** Clemens, Cyril, 1902-1999

**Collection Number:** MTA.006

**Extent:** .83 linear ft. (2 boxes)

**Donated by:** Tom Tenney

**Inclusive Dates:** 1980

**Access:** unrestricted

**Languages:** English

**Repository:** Mark Twain Archive, Gannett-Tripp Library, Elmira College, Elmira, N.Y.

**ABSTRACT:**

This collection is comprised of facsimiles of portions of the Cyril Clemens Collection owned by the Mark Twain House and Museum, Hartford, Connecticut. The collection contains correspondence between Mark Twain and family, friends and contemporaries. The collection also contains the correspondence of Cyril Clemens, primarily in regard to his interest in Mark Twain and his position as founder and president of the International Mark Twain Society and editor of the Mark Twain Quarterly/Mark Twain Journal.

**CATALOG TERMS:**

**Persons:**
Clemens, Cyril, 1902-1999
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910

**Genre/Forms:**
Correspondence
Facsimiles

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**
The collection is entirely comprised of facsimiles from the Cyril Clemens Collection from the Mark Twain House and Museum, Hartford, Connecticut. The collection contains a trove of Mark Twain correspondence, including letters written by his wife, Olivia, and children. The collection also contains correspondence of Cyril Clemens as founder and president of the International Mark Twain Society.

Clippings, book excerpts, photocopied photographs, deeds and reminiscences of Mark Twain and Laura Hawkins complete the collection.

The collection was copied from Cyril Clemens original papers in 1980. The print has faded significantly from a number of these documents making them difficult to read.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Cyril Clemens was born on July 14, 1902, the son of James Ross Clemens and Katharine Boland Clemens, prominent citizens of St. Louis, Missouri. He attended St. Louis University High School and received a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University, returning to St. Louis for graduate degrees in English and History from Washington University. He recalls meeting his distant cousin, Mark Twain, in Redding, Connecticut as a child, but attributed his passion for the author from later experiences of which inspired him to found the International Mark Twain Society in 1923. In 1936, Clemens began publishing the Mark Twain Quarterly. The Mark Twain Quarterly became the Mark Twain Journal in 1954. Clemens continued to edit the journal until 1983. He died in Kirkwood, Missouri on May 16, 1999.

**ORGANIZATION NOTE:**

This collection is organized alphabetically by folder title. All materials were copied from the Cyril Clemens Collection in 1980. This collection was donated by Cyril Clemens to the Hartford House and Museum in 1985.

Container List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Book Materials -- Includes <em>Mark Twain the Letter Writer</em> by Cyril Clemens [copy] and several copies of booklets, cover of Twain publications, and books signed by Twain [1980]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cyril Clemens Correspondence -- Primarily letters in regard to Mark Twain's legacy [1980]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Samuel Clemens Correspondence (1) -- Letters written by Twain [1980]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Samuel Clemens Correspondence (2) -- Letters written by Twain [1980]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letters written by Family, Friends and Contemporaries -- Includes letters by Olivia Langdon Clemens, Twain's children and others [1980]

Miscellaneous -- News clippings, photocopied photographs and deeds and other miscellaneous materials [1980]

Reminiscences -- Includes reminiscences of Mark Twain and Laura Hawkins [1980]