Littery Man: Mark Twain and Modern Authorship

Richard S. Lowry
*College of William and Mary, rslowr@wm.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.wm.edu/asbook](https://scholarworks.wm.edu/asbook)

Part of the American Literature Commons

**Recommended Citation**
Lowry, Richard S. "Littery Man: Mark Twain and Modern Authorship" (1996). Oxford University Press. [https://scholarworks.wm.edu/asbook/21](https://scholarworks.wm.edu/asbook/21)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arts and Sciences at W&M ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arts & Sciences Books by an authorized administrator of W&M ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@wm.edu.
"LITTEY MAN"

Mark Twain & Modern Authorship

Richard S. Lowry
“Littery Man”
The Commonwealth Center Studies in American Culture series is published in cooperation with the Commonwealth Center for the Study of American Culture at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, by Oxford University Press, New York

Daniel A. Cohen

“Littery Man”: Mark Twain and Modern Authorship
Richard S. Lowry
“Littery Man”
Mark Twain and
Modern Authorship

Richard S. Lowry

New York  Oxford
Oxford University Press
1996
For Joyce
This page intentionally left blank
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As solitary an activity as writing is, no one writes a book alone. After having
written this one, I wonder why anyone would want to. From the time I began
this project in a very different form as a dissertation, I have benefited from the gen-
erosity of a number of friends, mentors, and colleagues. R. W. B. Lewis, Alan
Trachtenberg, Jean-Christophe Agnew, and Richard Brodhead not only proved to
be model advisors and challenging critics, they also served, long after they had seen
the last of my dissertation, as ideal readers.

A faculty fellowship from the Commonwealth Center for the Study of American
Culture at the College of William and Mary came at just the right time for me to
recast the dissertation into a book. Beyond that year, the center provided me and my
colleagues with an intellectual environment perfectly suited to encourage interdisci-
plinary work. Without the center’s support, and that of Director Chandos Brown in
particular, this book would not have been possible. Equally important have been the
students of William and Mary’s American Studies Program, whose energetic engage-
ment with the study of culture has provided me with a valuable resource for thinking
through my own ideas. I am also grateful for two summer research grants from the
College of William and Mary.

Scott Donaldson, Bruce McConnachie, and Richard John each read portions of
the manuscript. Alexandra Michos was an exacting and adroit research assistant.
Robert Gross, Christopher Wilson, Joel Pfister, and Chandos Brown each read the
entire manuscript; their sympathetic and searching critiques are reflected in the book’s
strengths. Any weaknesses, of course, are mine.

A part of chapter 2 appeared in The New Orleans Review (Summer 1991); por-
tions of chapter 3 appeared in Rivista di Storia Contemporanea (January 1991). I am
grateful to the publishers for permission to use the material here.

I owe my deepest thanks to my wife, Joyce, to whom this book is dedicated, and
to my daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, who continue to remind me of the joy, too
often forgotten in the labor, of reading and writing.