

# NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

## **Mark Twain and the Holy Land**

**October 25, 2019 – February 2, 2020**

### **Selected PR Images**

*The New-York Historical Society celebrates the 150th anniversary of one of the best-selling travelogues of all time with Mark Twain and the Holy Land. This new exhibition traces the legendary American humorist's 1867 voyage to the Mediterranean and his subsequent 1869 book—The Innocents Abroad, or The New Pilgrims' Progress—through original documents, photographs, artwork, and costumes, as well as an interactive media experience. Organized by New-York Historical in partnership with the Shapell Manuscript Foundation.*

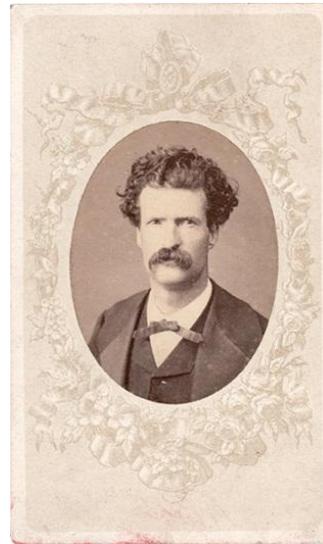
Abdullah Brothers

**Portrait of Mark Twain in Constantinople  
(autographed), 1867**

Carte de visite

Shapell Manuscript Collection

*Of all the topics that might have engaged young Samuel Langhorne Clemens' imagination in 1867, none was less likely or less promising than Palestine, the Holy Land. Known for his biting satire and humorous short pieces on California and the West, Clemens (1835–1910) found the subject that would propel him to national acclaim almost by accident.*



Louis Haghe (1806–1885)

after David Roberts (1796–1864)

**Church of the Purification, 1841**

Tinted lithograph

Dahesh Museum of Art, New York 1995.71

*In the 19th century, romanticism gave visual expression to fantasies of a sublime Holy Land. The monumental landscapes of David Roberts portrayed Egypt and Palestine in epic scale.*



Mark Twain (1835–1910)

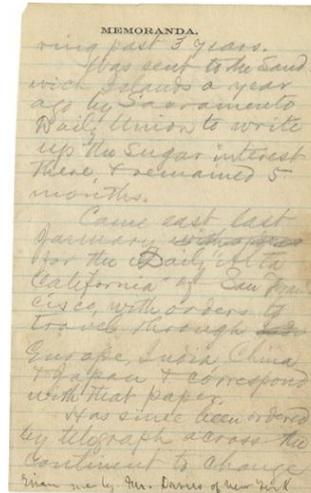
**Journal entry: intention to travel abroad,**

April 1867

New York City

Shapell Manuscript Collection

*Twain kept 70 journals over the course of his long literary career. This manuscript is believed to be the sole surviving leaf from the missing January through May, 1867 journal. Here he describes a trip to the Sandwich Islands and announces his plan to embark on a voyage to the Holy Land: "Has since been ordered by telegraph across the continent to change this route & accompany the Gen. Sherman Pleasure Excursion to Europe & the Holy Land and will sail on the 8th of June."*



Tommaso de Simone (1805–1888)

**The steamship Quaker City in the Port of Naples,**

1867

Oil on canvas

Shapell Manuscript Collection

*Although the Quaker City cruise was the first instance of organized tourism in American history, it reflected a national surge of interest in travel and tourism. By 1870, more than 25,000 Americans were traveling to Europe each year.*



**Quaker City receipt for voyage issued to Captain**

**William Hoel, June 3, 1867**

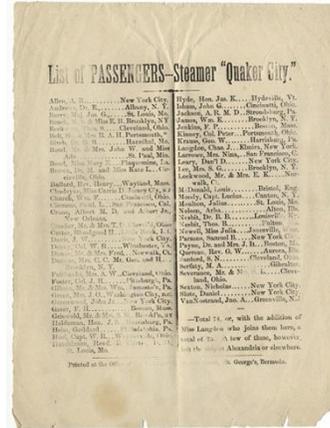
Shapell Manuscript Collection

*The Quaker City steamship was opulently outfitted—amenities included a library, printing press, piano, and pipe organ—but the notables who were expected to participate in Twain's voyage failed to materialize.*



**Quaker City passenger list, 1867**  
Shapell Manuscript Collection

*Instead, Twain found himself in the company of respectable, middle-class Protestants, eager to see the Biblical lands of their dreams. The disappointment soured him from the start. Moreover, the average age of the group was 50, and most were male.*



William E. James (1835–1887)  
**Quaker City passengers awaiting a visit from the Emperor of Russia, August 1867**  
Reproduction  
Courtesy of Randolph James

*This is the only image which shows Twain on board the Quaker City. He is pictured on the floor with his hand on his face to the right of the woman in white.*



William E. James (1835–1887)  
**Panorama of Jerusalem**  
Stereograph  
New York: G.W. Thorne, 1867  
Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, New-York Historical Society



*With a portfolio including images of post-war Charleston and President Lincoln’s funeral procession in New York City, William E. James’ greatest project came as a member of the Quaker City expedition. As the only photographer on board, James took dozens of stereoscopic images of “points of interest” for the Plymouth Church. He later sold them and presented the images in illustrated sermons at Sunday Schools.*

Hubert Sattler (1817–1904)  
**View of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives,**  
1847

Oil on panel  
Dahesh Museum of Art, New York 2012.17

*For Christian travelers in the Holy Land, the ultimate destination was Jerusalem. Yet, here too, Twain was disappointed. "A fast walker could go outside the walls of Jerusalem and walk entirely around the city in an hour." Yet Jerusalem was also a site rich in artifacts from the Biblical era.*



**Garden of Gethsemane, 1870–1890**  
Stereograph  
Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, New-York Historical Society

*For American Protestants of the 19th century, the Holy Land was sacred territory. In reality, this area, known as Palestine, was a province of Syria and an impoverished backwater of the declining Ottoman Empire. Jerusalem, its center, had a population of barely 8,000.*



Mark Twain (1835–1910)  
**Manuscript containing "At the tomb of Adam"**  
**passage from *The Innocents Abroad*, November**  
1870  
Buffalo, New York  
Shapell Manuscript Collection

*Chief among sites of interest was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Church was overrun with relic-peddlers, miracle mongers, and other frauds. Twain saved his most withering satire for the tomb of Adam, where he delivered a biting mock soliloquy: "The tomb of Adam! How touching it was here in a land of strangers, far away from home, and friends, and all who cared for me, thus to discover the grave of a blood relation."*

Buffalo, Nov. 1870.  
The passage is as follows:  
"The grave of Adam!"  
How touching it was, here in a  
land of strangers, far away  
from home, & friends, & all who  
cared for me, thus to discover  
the grave of a blood relation.  
But a distant one, but still a re-  
lation. The unerring instinct of  
nature thrilled its recognition.  
The foundation of my filial affec-  
tion was stirred to its profoundest  
depths & I gave way to tumultuous  
emotion."  
It is on page 547 - well  
towards the end of the book.  
Yours Truly  
Charles Clemens  
(Mark Twain.)

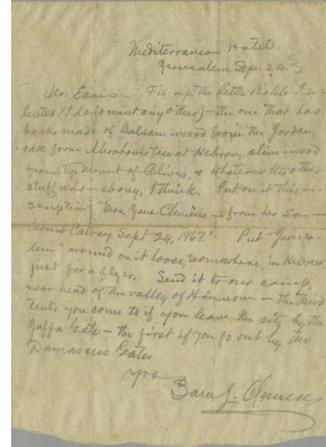
Mark Twain (1835–1910)

**Letter to Mr. Esais placing an order for a Bible,**  
September 24, 1867

Jerusalem

Courtesy of the Mark Twain Project, The Bancroft  
Library, University of California, Berkeley

*The flip side of Twain's caustic descriptions of the Holy Land and his profound disappointment with what he found there was his deep embrace of the Bible. His irreverence stopped short of the words of scripture, which he would not violate.*



**Bible purchased by Samuel L. Clemens in  
Jerusalem for his mother, September, 1867**

Oak, olive wood, and balsam wood cover

Courtesy of the Mark Twain Project, The Bancroft  
Library, University of California, Berkeley

*Twain's embrace of the Bible was something he received from his mother, the deeply religious Jane Clemens. Thus, it was fitting that he bought her a Bible in Jerusalem and had a cover made out of relic wood from an olive tree on the Mount of Olives, oak from Abraham's tree at Hebron, and balsam wood from the river Jordan.*



***The Innocents Abroad* prospectus and carrying  
case used by salesman William Aldrich, ca. 1870**  
From the collection of Susan Jaffe Tane

*Like many books of the day, Innocents was sold by subscription. Traveling salesmen would sign up subscribers, offering them the option of customizing their purchase. While some of the early reviews of Innocents found its irreverence and sarcasm offensive, most reviews were positive, and those positive reviews propelled the book's sales. During its first 18 months, it sold over 82,000 copies by subscription; by 1879, there were more than 150,000 copies in print. Twain's career as an author was launched.*



Jessie Tarbox Beals (1870–1942)

**Mark Twain**, ca. 1906

Gelatin silver print

Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, New-York  
Historical Society, Jessie Tarbox Beals Collection

*Having concluded Innocents Abroad, Twain was  
“moved to confess that day by day the mass of my  
memories of the excursion have grown more and  
more pleasant.” Such memories would only amplify  
over the years so much so that towards the end of  
his life Twain called his final residence in Redding,  
Connecticut “Innocence at Home.”*

