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**MARK TWAIN IN BUFFALO** -*New book benefits Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System*

**AUTHOR & SCHOLAR TALKS TWAIN** – *Free lecture, Saturday, downtown Library*

**HANDWRITTEN TWAIN LETTER DISCOVERED** – *Now on display*

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Literally, hot off the press, a new book has been published chronicling the personal letters of Mark Twain during his time in Buffalo. This, along with other Twain anecdotes, will be discussed during a free lecture Saturday, September 25 featuring Twain scholar and author, Robert H. Hirst, Ph.D. The event, open to the public, takes place at 2:00 p.m. in the downtown Central Library located in Lafayette Square.

Dr. **Hirst** is General Editor and Official Curator of the Mark Twain Project and Papers, housed at the University of California, Berkeley. He is co-editor of the new book, *Mark Twain in Buffalo* (co-edited by Buffalonian Patrick Martin and published by W.S. Hein and Co.) Hirst is also editor of *Who Is Mark Twain?*- a collection of 24 wickedly funny, thought provoking essays and stories by Twain, none of which have ever been published before—and all of which are steeped in contemporary relevance and humor.

As 2010 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twain's death, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library is proudly displaying a newly found letter from Twain in its Mark Twain Room located on the main floor of the Central Library. This handwritten letter, folded into a book, was discovered this past spring by an employee researching for an exhibit. In the letter, Mark Twain writes to an unknown woman, regarding a passage from *Is Shakespeare Dead?* in which Twain compares the credentials of William Shakespeare and Satan.

The new leather-bound, hardcover **Mark Twain in Buffalo** book, available through the library at [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org) (716-858-7189)\*, offers readers access to dozens of original documents as a way to shed light on the circumstances, motives, and aspirations that brought Mark Twain to live and work in Buffalo, in August 1869—his residence for one-and-a-half years, from 1869 to 1871—and the reasons for and circumstances of his departure, to live instead in Hartford, Connecticut. This brief, formative period in Mark Twain's life had far reaching consequences for him, for Buffalo itself, and for anyone interested in how Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835–1910) came to be Mark Twain, author of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the complete manuscript of which now resides—as a gift from Mark Twain—in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

The downtown Buffalo Central Library houses the **Mark Twain Room**, permanent home to Twain's handwritten masterpiece manuscript, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as well as Twain's collections including hundreds of first edition publications. The room also features the antique mantel from the now demolished Delaware Avenue home where Mark Twain resided during his brief newspaper career in Buffalo.

\*Talking Leaves Books will also be selling *Mark Twain in Buffalo* beginning September 27.

For more information, visit [www.Buffalolib.org](http://www.Buffalolib.org).

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