Mark Twain letters to Mary J. Mason Fairbanks: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Diann Benti.
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Mark Twain letters to Mary J. Mason Fairbanks

Dates (inclusive): 1867-1895

Collection Number: mssHM 14219-14325

Creator: Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910.

Extent: 107 pieces in 2 boxes.

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Abstract: This collection contains 105 letters from American author Samuel Clemens (also known as Mark Twain) to his friend and confidante Mary J. Mason Fairbanks, written between 1867 and 1895.

Language: English.

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Preferred Citation

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Provenance

Purchased from William H. Bixby, 1918.

Access

Items are available with curatorial approval. Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Historical Note

American author Samuel Clemens met Mary Mason Fairbanks (1828-1898) in 1867 on board the steamship the Quaker City, going to Europe and the Near East, and they became friends. Fairbanks was married to Abel Fairbanks, an owner of the Cleveland Herald, and she was traveling in the role of a correspondent for the Herald under the pen name, "Myra." Following the trip, Clemens and Fairbanks corresponded regularly, most notably during the time Clemens was courting his future wife Olivia Langdon.

Scope and Content

This collection contains 104 letters from American author Samuel Clemens (also known as Mark Twain) to his friend and confidante Mary J. Mason Fairbanks. In addition, there are also single letters from Clemens to Fairbanks's husband Abel Whitmore Fairbanks (HM 14232) and the Fairbanks's children Charles Mason Fairbanks (HM 14317), and Mary Paine Fairbanks Robinson (HM 14292). The collection also includes one letter to Mrs. Fairbanks from Olivia Langdon Clemens (HM 14262). The letters from Samuel Clemens to Mary Fairbanks are often addressed to "Dear mother," and signed "Mark," or, occasionally, "Your son."

- Samuel Clemens Family Papers (mssHM 53346-53483)
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens Collection (mssHM 453, etc.)

Arrangement

The letters are arranged chronologically.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects

Clemens, Olivia Langdon, 1845-1904.
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910 -- Archives.
Authors, American -- Archives.
Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.

Contributors
Clemens, Olivia Langdon, 1845-1904, correspondent.
Fairbanks, Abel, -1894, addressee.
Fairbanks, Charles Mason, 1855- addressee.
Fairbanks, Mary Mason, addressee.
Robinson, Mary Paine Fairbanks, 1856- addressee.

Box 1

Correspondence, 1867-1871

HM 14219. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1867]
December 12.

HM 14220. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
January 3.

HM 14221. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
January 24.

HM 14222. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
February 9.

HM 14223. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
February 20.

HM 14224. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
March 10.

HM 14225. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
March 18.

HM 14226. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1868 May
1.
A.L.S. 6 p. Virginia, Nevada

HM 14227. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868]
June 17.

HM 14228. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868
June?].
A.L.S. (incomplete) 1 p. This fragment is dated April 2-14, 1868, in Mark Twain's Letters
(University of California Press), volume 2.

Mark Twain letters to Mary J.
Mason Fairbanks: Finding Aid  mssHM 14219-14325  3
HM 14229.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868] July 5.**

HM 14230.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868] August 3.**

HM 14231.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868] August 17.**

HM 14232.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Abel Whitmore Fairbanks. [1868] October 5.**

HM 14233.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868] October 5.**

HM 14234.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868 October 26?]**

HM 14235.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1868] October 31.**

HM 14236.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] January 6.**

HM 14237.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 January 7?]**

HM 14238.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 January 12.**

HM 14239.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 February 5.**

HM 14240.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 February?] 10.**

HM 14241.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 February 13.**
HM 14242.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 February 17.**

HM 14243.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 February 21?].**
A.L.S. 4 p. Elmira, New York. Incomplete: p.s. only. This item is dated November 27, 1868, in the *Mark Twain's Letters* (University of California Press), volume 2, and included as a postscript to a November 26, 1868, letter.

HM 14244.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] February 27.**

HM 14245.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] February.**

HM 14246.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] March 13.**

HM 14247.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 March 24.**

HM 14248.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 March 31 and April 1.**

HM 14249.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] April 12.**

HM 14250.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 April 15.**

HM 14251.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] June 4.**

HM 14252.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] July 5.**

HM 14253.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869] August 14.**

HM 14254.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1869 September 27.**
HM 14258. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 September 28].
A.L.S. 2 p. P.S. only.

HM 14255. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 November 19].

HM 14256. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 December 10].

HM 14257. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1869 December 12].

HM 14259. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 January 6].

HM 14260. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 February 13].
A.L.S. 10 p. Buffalo, New York. Following the letter is a note from Olivia Clemens, signed "Livy." The P.S. is written alternately by Clemens and his wife (3 p.)

HM 14261. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 March 22].


HM 14263. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 May 29]


HM 14265. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 September 2].

HM 14266. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 October 13].

HM 14267. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1870 November 5].

HM 14269. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1871 January 26.]

HM 14270. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1871 January].
    A.L.S. 2 p. This letter is dated November 19, 1870, in the Mark Twain's Letters (University of California Press), volume 4.

HM 14271. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [approximately 1871 January?].
    A.L.S. (incomplete) 1 p. Consists of page 5 only. This page is dated January 26, 1871, in the Mark Twain's Letters (University of California Press), volume 4, and is probably the continuation of HM 14269.

HM 14272. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1871 February 14].
    A.L.S. 4 p. This letter is dated March 14, 1871, in the Mark Twain's Letters (University of California Press), volume 4.

HM 14273. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1871 April 18.


Box 2

Correspondence, 1872-1895


HM 14277. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1872 February?].

HM 14278. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1872 August 11.

HM 14279. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1872 November 2.


HM 14286. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [approximately 1875].
A.L. (incomplete) 1 p.

HM 14287. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1876 before April].


HM 14294.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1877 October 31.*
A.L.S. 7 p.

HM 14295.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1878 February 5.*

HM 14296.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1878 March 9.*

HM 14297.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1879 March 6.*

HM 14298.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1879 May 15.*

HM 14299.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1879 September 23*  


HM 14301.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1879 December?]*  
A.L.S. 4 p.

HM 14302.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1880?] February 6.*  
A.L.S. 1 card. Hartford, Connecticut. Accompanied by an illustration of the Clemens's house created with "Dan Slote's new engraving process."

HM 14303.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1881 March 5.*  

HM 14304.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1881 September 18.*  


HM 14306.  *Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. [1882?]*  
HM 14307. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1883 May 7.


HM 14311. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1886 November 16.


HM 14314. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1887 November 25.

HM 14315. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1887 December 30.


HM 14317. Samuels Langhorne Clemens letter to Charles Mason Fairbanks. 1890 June 25.


HM 14319. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1891 May 29.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| HM 14320 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1893 January 18.  
A.L.S. 4 p. Florence, Italy. |
| HM 14321 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1893 May 8.  
| HM 14322 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1893 November 10.  
| HM 14323 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1894 April 22.  
| HM 14324 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1894 July 16.  
| HM 14325 | Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Mary J. (Mason) Fairbanks. 1895 February 9.  