

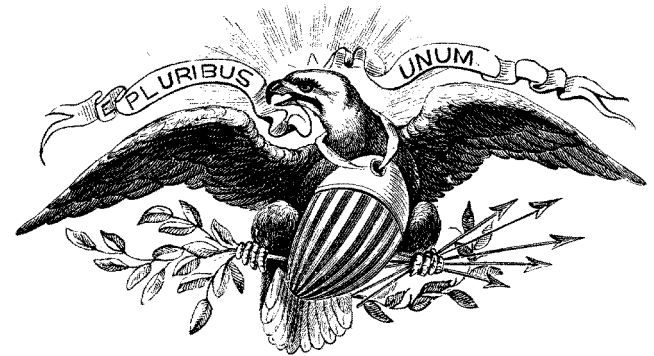
*NEWS from*

# The Mark Twain Circle of New York

## Mark Twain on Independence Day: “The noblest thing that ever happened” — Or was it?

New York, June 27, 2011 — Writing to his friend William Dean Howells in 1887, Mark Twain rated “the 4th of July & its results” as “the noblest & the holiest thing & the most precious that ever happened in this earth.” But by 1900, after his country had sent conquering armies into Cuba, China, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, Twain emerged as one of the most outspoken and eloquent opponents of American expansionism. “I am an anti-imperialist,” he declared. “I am opposed to having the eagle put its talons on any other land.”

The following July 4th (1901) Twain’s name led all others on a fervent, widely published appeal from the American Anti-Imperialist League. “Today the President exercises a power as despotic as the Czar’s over the whole Filipino nation [and] is the absolute ruler of Cuba,” it said in part. “To believers in free government this policy is monstrous . . . a radical and mischievous change in our system of government . . . We urge all lovers of freedom to organize in defense of human rights now threatened by the greatest free government in history.”



Join our "Mark Twain's New York" walking tour this Independence Day weekend for a closer look at Mark Twain’s evolving views on our national holiday and its meaning for Americans at the dawn of the 20th Century. You’ll also get the “inside story” on Twain’s many connections with New York City, as we visit nearly two dozen Mark Twain landmarks in lower Manhattan, from his gaudy Greenwich Village homes to the hotel where Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) met his future wife and the offices of the publisher who, to his lasting sorrow, turned down Twain’s first book.

**WHERE:** 500 Broadway, between Broome & Spring Streets

**WHEN:** 1:00 PM, first and third Saturday every month, through October 15

**PRICE:** \$20

**INFO & RESERVATIONS:** 917-620-5371; [MTNY@salwen.com](mailto:MTNY@salwen.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.MarkTwainsNewYork.com](http://www.MarkTwainsNewYork.com)