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Connecticut Yankee



Synopsis

“An exciting new edition of a Twain text that raises important questions about modernity, technology, and progress. I especially welcome the inclusion of all of Dan Beard’s original illustrations.”
• BEVERLY LYON CLARK, Wheaton College
“Artfully designed to make Mark Twain’s most conceptually ambitious and most wildly problematic novel accessible to today’s reader.”
• THOMAS COOLEY, The Ohio State University
This Norton Critical Edition includes:
• The first American edition (1889) of the novel, approved by Twain and published by his own company.
• All 241 original illustrations, bringing to life Twain’s admiration for King Arthur, Merlin, and Camelot as well as his deep interest in time travel, technology, and political satire.
• Five contemporary critical assessments from American and British sources along with seven recent essays on the novel’s major themes.
• A Compositional Chronology and Selected Bibliography.
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Customer Reviews

In this classic satiric novel, published in 1889, Hank Morgan, a supervisor in a Connecticut gun

factory, falls unconscious after being whacked on the head. When he wakes up he finds himself in Britain in 528--where he is immediately captured, hauled back to Camelot to be exhibited before the knights of King Arthur's Round Table, and sentenced to death. Things are not looking good. But Hank is a quick-witted and enterprising fellow, and in the process of saving his life he turns himself into a celebrity of the highest magnitude. His Yankee ingenuity and knowledge of the world beyond the Dark Ages are regarded as the most powerful sorcery--winning him a position of prime minister as well as the eternal enmity of a jealous Merlin. In an effort to bring democratic principles and mechanical knowledge to the kingdom, Hank introduces newspapers, telephones, bicycles, and other modern conveniences to the Britain of the Dark Ages. But when he tries to improve the lot of the common people, chaos and war result, giving a bittersweet tone to this comic masterpiece by one of America's greatest storytellers. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), best known to the world by his pen-name Mark Twain, was an author and humorist, noted for his novels *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), which has been called "the Great American Novel", and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876, among many others. Henry B. Wonham is Associate Professor of English at the University of Oregon. He is the author of *Mark Twain and the Art of the Tale* and *Charles W. Chesnutt, A Study of the Short Fiction* and editor of *Criticism and the Color Line*. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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