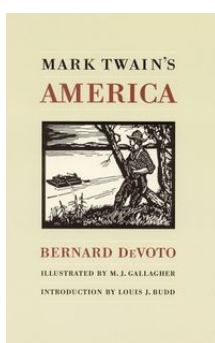


MARK TWAIN'S AMERICA

Beginning in 1835, the birth year of Samuel Clemens, and extending through the Gilded Age, Mark Twain's America depicts the vigorous social and historical forces that produced the creator of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Bernard DeVoto catches a people moving west: Twain's own family drifting down the Ohio, emigrants of every stripe, the famous and the obscure. Answering genteel critics such as Van Wyck Brooks, who blamed the American frontier...



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Author	Bernard DeVoto
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They came to Virginia City as soon as the true value of the Comstock was perceived. They constituted, no doubt, a deplorable source of gambling, pleasure and embroilment. They were not soft-spoken women, their desire was not visibly separate from the main chance, and they would have beheld Mr. Hartes portrayal of them at Poker Flat with ribald mirth. But let them have a moment of respect. They civilized the Comstock. They drove through its streets reclining in...

Reader's Opinions

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My copy, a 1932 first edition fished out of a dollar bin, is a substantial slab of the bookmakers art. Cloth boards, durably sewn spine, rustic-artisanal typeface, stark woodcuts at each chapter head, and thick, heavy pages I had to separate with a paper knife. Its a book I want to read at night, in a north woods cabin, snug in a stout...