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### Title

*Our Mark Twain: The Making of His Public Personality*. By Louis J. Budd. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. PP. XV + 266. Introduction, bibliography, index.

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### Author

de Leon-Maestas, Mary Ann

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Arab's legal rulings and close association with the court. Rather than research the points of dispute or examine the biographical literature for a better explanation, Arjomand maintains that one of the two was "insincere" and the other "inconsistent." (pp. 134-36) Native Iranians also supposedly responded to the immigrants by developing an anti-rationalist polemic. Yet, al-Amili, a Syrian immigrant, was a leading anti-rationalist of the period (pp. 145, 302n30); the main proponent of the polemic was an Iranian who felt constrained to spend most of his life in Arab territories (p. 145). One prominent Syrian, Zayn al-Din, in fact never immigrated to Iran as Arjomand states (p. 302n30).

Adherence to an elaborate Weberian argument seems to have precluded research in relevant primary sources. With such a vast amount of the primary literature as yet unstudied by scholars of Shi'i doctrine and history, it seems premature for Arjomand to conclude, for example, that Shi'i doctrine was "fully systematized" by the Safavid period (pp. 5, 21), or that no "systematic public law" has been espoused by Shi'i clerics. (p. 10)

Arjomand's argument is novel and interesting. Moreover, his work both neatly delineates important issues involved in discussing the nature of the political attitudes of the clergy in Shi'i and Iranian history, and outlines the positions of previous scholars on the question. Clearly, however, only much more research in the primary sources will determine the validity of Arjomand's own response to a question which has preoccupied scholars for many years.

Andrew Newman  
University of California, Los Angeles

*Our Mark Twain: The Making of His Public Personality.* By LOUIS J. BUDD. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. PP. xv + 266. Introduction, bibliography, index.

For every centennial an amplitude of books descends upon the American public about the famous personality involved. The centennial of Huck Finn and his creator is no different, and already countless books have been published about the famous American writer and personality. The obvious question would be, why do we need yet another book on Mark Twain?

The answer is because no one has written a more ambitious or erudite work on Mark Twain than Louis J. Budd, the author of *Our Mark Twain: The Making of His Public Personality*. Budd, who is professor of English

at Duke University, is an eminent authority on Twain. He puts his knowledge and research to work in his brilliant dissertation about the public persona of Twain. Budd's book explores the complex personality of the many-faceted author, humorist, and public person. What is different about Budd's work is that he delves into the reasons why Twain needed to become famous, and he examines the legends which Twain himself created. For example, Twain once described his decision to become a writer in his book, *Roughing It*: "What to do next . . . It was a deliberate offer to me of twenty-five dollars a week to be the city editor of the ENTERPRISE."

However, Budd shows, as with most things in Twain's life, this was not quite the chance happening which Twain described, but a cognizant effort on his part as a way of becoming a known figure. Budd sets out, then, to analyze "not merely Twain's status as a culture hero but his constant effort to shape and protect it and to raise it higher" (p. xii).

*Our Mark Twain* gives the reader an in-depth analysis of how Twain became the "architect of his own reputation" (p. 19). It depicts a man who "hungrily sought applause" (p. 20) and it discloses the reasons why Twain needed this constant adulation.

Budd tries "to catch that rounded uniqueness, which serves us better than the flattened mold that the mass or elitist media keeps manufacturing" (p. xv), and he does accomplish this. If his book merits any criticism it would be that it was written for scholars more than the fans who love Twain's work. It is a relatively short book, but it is not the type of work which can be read in one sitting.

With all of his faults, Twain was a great and an enthralling writer who gave to the world Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer, and innumerable other characters who will live forever. Their creator will also "live on as a personality until American character and underlying human nature have changed more than we can imagine" (p. 229).

Mary de Leon-Maestas  
University of New Mexico

*The Story of an African Working Class: Ghanaian Miners' Struggles, 1870-1980.* By JEFF CRISP. London: Zed Press, 1984. Pp. 200. Intro. (xv-xviii), notes, index, bibliography.

In *The Story of an African Working Class* Jeff Crisp attempts to analyze the development of workers' consciousness in the gold mines of Ghana and to clarify the limits of that consciousness. This is not a new topic in