

Editorial Signs

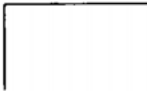
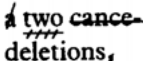
THE EDITORIAL conventions used to transcribe Mark Twain's letters were designed, in part, to enable anyone to read the letters without having to memorize a list. The following is therefore offered less as a necessary preliminary than as a convenient way to look up the meaning of any convention which, in spite of this design, turns out to be less than self-explanatory. Only the editorial conventions used in this volume are given here, since each new volume will require a slightly different list. New or newly modified conventions are identified by an asterisk (*). Not included are the typographical equivalents used to transcribe Mark Twain's own signs and symbols in manuscript. For those equivalents, and for a more discursive explanation of editorial principles, see the Guide to Editorial Practice on pp. 551–78.

EDITORIAL HEADING

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| From . . . | Clemens is named in the heading only when he wrote jointly with someone else. |
| . . . with a
note to . . . | Used when two persons are addressed in the same letter, but Clemens intended the second to read <i>only</i> the briefer part, or "note." |
| <i>per</i> . . . | Precedes the name or identity of the amanuensis or agent who inscribed the document sent or received. |
| 2? May | On this day—give or take a day. |
| 1–3 May | On any day (or days) within this span. |
| 1 and 2 May | On both days. |

- (MS) The source document is the original letter, almost invariably Clemens's holograph manuscript.
- (*damage emended*) The source document has sustained significant damage, and the transcription therefore includes, without brackets, emendation to restore the affected text.
- (MS facsimile) The source document is a photographic facsimile of the MS, not the MS itself.
- (*Paraphrase*) The source document preserves some of the *words* of the original letter, but is manifestly not a deliberate transcription of it.
- (Transcript) The source document is a printed, handwritten, or typed (TS) transcription of the letter, not necessarily made at first hand.

LETTER TEXT

- NEW-YORK Extra-small small capitals with no initial capitals signify printed text *not* originated by Clemens, such as letter-head or the postmark.
-  *Italicized* extra-small small capitals within an oval border transcribe monograms or initials printed or embossed on personal stationery.*
- Feb. 13, Text above a dotted underscore was inscribed in a printed blank in the original document.
- Editorial ellipsis points (always centered in an otherwise blank line) signify that an unknown amount of the original letter is judged to be missing.
-  Ruled borders are an editorial device to represent the edge of a document, usually printed or partly printed, such as a telegram blank or newspaper clipping.
-  ~~two cancellations,~~ Cancellation is signified by slashes for single characters (and underscores), rules for two or more characters.

- ~~Well, I pass.~~ A hairline rule signifies a mock, or pretended, cancellation: words lightly and distinctively crossed out, easily read, and often still necessary to the sense.
- marking it up, Insertion is signified by a single caret for single characters, two carets for two or more characters.
- shaded words Gray background identifies parts of a letter originated and inscribed by someone other than Clemens.
- [] Author's square brackets are transcribed this way to avoid any confusion with editorial brackets.
- [] Editorial square brackets enclose [*editorial description*]; words or characters omitted by the writer an[d] now interpolated by [the] editors; and text modified by description, such as [*in margin*: All well].
- ◊diamond The diamond stands for a character, numeral, or punctuation mark the editors cannot read because it is physically obscured or obliterated. It *never* stands for the space between words.*
- double=hyphen The hyphen is to be retained. Single hyphens at the ends of lines therefore signify division only.
- Sam^l Superscript ell is always italicized to prevent confusion between one (^l) and ell (^l). The sign transcribes the author's paraph.
- ✉———— The envelope and full-measure rule signal that everything transcribed below them was written, stamped, or printed on the envelope or on the letter itself at the time of transmission or receipt.
- | Signifies the end of a line in the source document.

