

The Austen Intelligencer

Jane Austen Society of North America
Greater New York Region

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A Word From Your Regional Coordinators

AGM 2012:

We are very excited to announce that JASNA-NY will host the 2012 AGM! We have signed a contract with the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge (near Borough Hall). So put October 4th to October 7th, 2012, on your calendar, and plan to come. Our theme will be "Money, Sex and Power in Jane Austen's Fiction." The theme, which should provide great plenary and breakout sessions, fits perfectly with the "mover and shaker" image of our marvelous city. Thank you, Gene Gill and Elsa Solender, for coming up with this wonderful theme.



For new members who are wondering, "What is an AGM?": It is the JASNA Annual General Meeting, usually celebrated during a weekend in October. Each year, a willing region hosts the weekend. The New York Region hosted JASNA's first AGM in 1979. It again

hosted an AGM in 1987. In 2003, we hosted the 25th Anniversary AGM in Winchester and Chawton, England. By 2012, it will be 25 years since the last AGM in New York City. We know it is still four years away — but if you are interested in volunteering to work on the 2012 AGM, do let us know. We will need you.

Port Jefferson Weekend, May 15-17, 2009:



While JASNA was negotiating with the Marriott for the AGM, our own Assistant RC Kerri Spennicchia was hard at work negotiating for rooms and conference space with Danfords Hotel in Port Jefferson on Long Island. We will enjoy lively lectures on Jane Austen, discuss all manner of transportation in her time, and even have dinner aboard the Martha Jefferson, an 85-foot Mississippi River paddleboat that cruises around beautiful Long Island Sound. We will also visit the Carriage Museum in nearby Stony Brook, which features displays of horse-drawn equipages, including European royal coaches, firefighting equipment, and gypsy wagons. It will be a fun, exciting, and educational weekend – so mark your calendar!

Between now and next spring we have many other wonderful events to look forward to. Check the Calendar of Events on page 16 so that you won't miss anything.

Nili and Jerry

**Jane Austen's Regency World
Awards**

2007 Nominees and Winners

Best Actor in a Jane Austen Adaptation

James McAvoy (*Becoming Jane*) - Winner

J. J. Feild (*Northanger Abbey*)

Blake Ritson (*Mansfield Park*)

Rupert Penry-Jones (*Persuasion*)

Best Actress in a Jane Austen Adaptation

Anne Hathaway (*Becoming Jane*) - Winner

Billie Piper (*Mansfield Park*)

Felicity Jones (*Northanger Abbey*)

Sally Hawkins (*Persuasion*)

Best New "Regency Know-How" Book

Patrice Hannon

(*101 Things You Didn't Know About Jane Austen*) - Winner

Margaret C. Sullivan

(*The Jane Austen Handbook*)

Josephine Ross

(*Jane Austen's Guide to Good Manners*)

Best New "Jane Austen Fiction"

Alexandra Potter

(*Me and Mr. Darcy*) - Winner

Kathryn L. Nelson (*Pemberley Manor*)

Syrie James

(*The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*)

Best New "Jane Austen Film"

***Becoming Jane* - Winner**

Northanger Abbey

Persuasion

Mansfield Park

Best "Jane Austen Website"

www.janeausten.co.uk - Winner

www.pemberley.com

www.jasa.net.au

www.jasna.org

Outstanding "Jane Austen Contribution"

Andrew Davies - Winner

Maggie Lane

Susannah Fullerton

Marsha Huff

**"So Flattering an Invitation!"
The Jane Austen's Regency
World Awards Dinner
*Patrice Hannon***

On March 7th, 2008, I received a call from Jacquinn Williams, my publicist at Adams Media, who informed me that my book, *101 Things You Didn't Know About Jane Austen*, had been nominated for a Jane Austen's Regency World Award in the category of "Best New 'Regency Know-How' Book." Although I didn't know exactly what that meant, I greeted the news with exclamations of surprise and delight. I soon learned that *Jane Austen's Regency World* magazine, which is published by The Jane Austen Centre in Bath, was launching an annual series of awards to "recognise the contribution of the nominees in furthering the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the work of Jane Austen." Knowing what a large number of books must have been considered for this inaugural award, I felt especially flattered and gratified by my nomination.

I had further reason to celebrate that nomination when I learned the winners were to be announced and the awards presented at a black-tie dinner in Bath. For some time I had had a strong desire to visit England again, and here was the perfect excuse. How many times in my life would I have the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony where I was a nominee? Moreover, I had never been to Bath. I decided to go, and started planning my very Austen-based trip.

Two months later, on Sunday, May 11th, I arrived in Lyme (or Lyme Regis as it is now commonly known, having somehow recovered the longer official name that Jane Austen never used). I enjoyed three days of spectacular weather — warm, sunny days, cool, breezy nights — while I explored the beautiful region about which Austen wrote so feelingly in *Persuasion*. I paced Broad Street, "the principal street almost hurrying into the water," and gazed, captivated, at the bay, "as all must linger and gaze on a first return to the sea, who ever deserve to look on it at all." Again and again I walked out on the Cobb, enjoying "its old wonders and new improvements, with the very beautiful line of cliffs stretching out to the east of the town." I climbed to the top of Golden Cap, the highest of those cliffs — in fact the highest point on the south coast of England — for a stunning, sweeping view of Lyme Bay. Of course, I descended all three sets of steps from the Upper Cobb to the Lower, not sure which, if any, might be the set from which Louisa Musgrove made her disastrous jump. Standing at the far end of the Cobb with my back to the land, it was easy to imagine that Jane Austen herself had gazed upon nearly the identical scene. I loved everything about Lyme and felt that Austen's spirit was profoundly part of the place. I hated to leave on Wednesday morning, though I was headed to renowned Bath, where the company of a good friend and the excitement of the awards dinner awaited me.

Happily, the beautiful city of Bath more than earns its reputation, and I was soon caught up in the thrill of seeing all the places that were so important to Austen's life and to the two "Bath novels." Many reading this account will know exactly what I mean. Laura Place — where Lady Dalrymple and Miss Carteret resided! Great Pulteney Street — where Catherine Morland stayed with the Allens! 4 Sydney Place — home of the Austens! Edgar's Buildings, Union Passage, the Pump Room, The Assembly (Upper) Rooms, the Gravel Walk, and the site where once stood the White Hart Hotel (demolished, alas, in 1869), the setting of one of the greatest scenes in all of literature, in which Anne Elliot debates with Captain Harville the comparative constancy of men and women, while Captain Wentworth secretly writes a passionate letter to Anne in which he declares his own faithful love. I even made time to explore the fascinating and impressive Roman Baths, despite the fact that they were not known to Jane Austen, the ruins having only been discovered during the Victorian era. (I drew a peculiar look from my friend Dorinda, who had come from London to meet me, when I carelessly remarked that the Roman Baths weren't there in Jane Austen's time).

Oh! Who can ever be tired of Bath?

I met the lovely staff at The Jane Austen Centre on Queen Square, where I signed a gratifyingly large pile of my books for the gift shop. Though I didn't go so far as to attack the ladies with "barefaced questions, ingenious suppositions, and distant surmises," I did try in vain to read from their manner whether or not I had won my category. Playing their cards close to the vest, I thought!

When Dorinda and I arrived at the Bath Hilton on Thursday night, we were greeted by a man in period costume (Martin Salter) who directed us to the reception area, where delicious Pimm's Cup was being served during the cocktail hour. After mingling with fellow nominees, their families and friends, Centre Staff, and other Janeites who had come just for the fun of it, we headed to our tables for a wonderful three-course dinner with wine. We were fortunate to have been seated with Donna Lodge, Jackie Herring, and Vanessa Hyde, all of the Jane Austen Centre, who, with their spouses, were delightful company. We laughed so much throughout the evening that we drew remarks from the Master of Ceremonies to the effect that Table 1 was clearly having a good time.

Said Master of Ceremonies was Chris Grimes, a British actor who was very entertaining throughout the proceedings, both witty and silly in the inimitable English way. After dessert it was time for Chris to present the awards. (See the sidebar for the complete list of nominees and winners.) Other nominees present included Susannah Fullerton, President of JASA;

Alexandra Potter and Kathryn Nelson, both of whom had been nominated in the Fiction category; and, of course, staff of The Jane Austen Centre, whose website was up for an award. It was a special pleasure to meet Sue Hughes, editor of *Jane Austen's Regency World* and past director of the annual Jane Austen Festival in Bath.

I was the only nominee in my category present at the dinner. (JASNA member Maggie Sullivan, a friend, a super writer on Austen, and a tireless champion of my books on her website Austenblog, was a nominee in my category also.) When Chris announced the winner I was thrilled to hear my name called and (as the picture shows) overjoyed to accept the award. Our trophies were lovely engraved blue bowls, hand-blown at Bath Aqua Glass in Walcot Street, within view of the steeple of St. Swithin's, where the Reverend George Austen and Cassandra Leigh, Jane's parents, were married, and where Mr. Austen is buried.

I left Bath — and England — the following day. It had been a magical week, enriched at every turn in one way or another by the fascinating life, the sublime works, and the glorious spirit of Jane Austen.

(Patrice Hannon is a JASNA-NY member and has been a speaker at our meetings.)



Patrice Hannon accepts *Jane Austen's Regency World* Award from Master of Ceremonies Chris Grimes. Patrice is also the author of *Dear Jane Austen: A Heroine's Guide to Life and Love*.



Autumn in New York

“It is not every one,” said Elinor,” who has your passion for dead leaves.” *Sense and Sensibility*

Juliet McMaster, arguably JASNA’s all-time favorite speaker, possesses the rare combination of erudition and wit, brilliant scholarship and delightful charm. Whether lecturing, exchanging views with other Austen scholars or simply chatting, Juliet engages, enlightens and enchants her audience. Among her additional accomplishments is her amazing skill with the drawing pen — illustrating numerous books with the “greasy tresses, base miscreants, and horrid wretches” that abound in Austen’s juvenilia. Juliet will visit us here in New York the weekend of **September 12-13**, and we have planned a series of special events featuring our Canadian visitor.

Festivities begin on **Friday** evening, with a book signing at Borders Bookstore, where Juliet will talk about Jane Austen’s juvenile writings and sign copies of those delightful literary romps. She brings a special sensibility to these works, having founded Juvenilia Press, the principal publisher of Austen’s early experiments in writing. Juliet was among the first to recognize how these early writings — in which the fantastical is presented with Austen’s wit and impeccable powers of observation — often foreshadow Austen’s beloved mature novels.

DATE: September 12 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. **LOCATION:** Borders Bookstore, Park Avenue at 57th Street
COST: Free and open to the public. First come, first served.

On **Saturday**, there are two special events. First is an intimate luncheon dedicated to witty, literate conversation. This is your opportunity to get to know one of the world’s leading Austen experts, and to ask her anything and everything about Jane Austen’s works or life. The meal itself will be elegant and the company amiable. We are pleased to be able to offer JASNA-NY’s remarkable first literary luncheon with ample opportunity for everyone to *really* talk Jane with such a renowned and gracious expert.

DATE: September 13 **TIME:** 12:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church 3rd floor
7 West 55th Street (just off Fifth Avenue)
COST: \$100 per person, which includes the luncheon, discussion, and the Regional Meeting (see below)

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE BY SEPTEMBER FIRST.

Our Regional Meeting follows the luncheon. We are particularly pleased that Professor McMaster has chosen to talk about one of Austen’s novels. In her presentation, “Speaking Fictions: The Genres of Talk in *Sense and Sensibility*,” she will analyze the dialogue that is such an important component in the brilliance of Austen’s fiction. The meeting will begin with audience discussion groups, and include Juliet’s reading of the winning submission to our new writing competition and presentation of the award to the winner (see page 5 for details of the competition). Tea service will conclude the event.

DATE: September 13 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m. **LOCATION:** Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church 2nd floor
COST: \$30 per person for JASNA members; \$35 for guests. Luncheon participants pay no additional fee.
(NOTE: Registration forms for both the luncheon and regional meeting were included in the invitation sent to your home. They can also be downloaded from our web site: www.jasnany.org).

Reminder



Entries for the JASNA Writing Competition are due by noon, September 11

Your entry should “supply” — in the style of Jane Austen — a missing conversation of 400 words or less that Jane Austen might have “left out” of *Sense and Sensibility*. It might be dialogue that *could have* occurred, or an exchange that *should have* occurred, or a conversation that was entirely *unlikely to have* occurred. At least one speaker must come from the “cast” of *S&S*. The second can be drawn from that novel or any other she wrote. Time, place, and setting are up to the author.

Manuscripts must be received by noon on Thursday, September 11 so that Professor McMaster can review them and select a winner, which she will read aloud at the September 13th Regional Meeting. Professor McMaster will award an appropriate prize to the winner.

Send e-mail entries to: jasnany@yahoo.com Subject: Contest Entry

Send printed or typed (no handwriting) entries to:

Professor Juliet McMaster c/o Solender, 200 East 57 Street #15B, NYC 10022

You need not attend the meeting in order to enter the competition.





Celebrating Regency Fashion

233rd BIRTHDAY MEETING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

General Society Library, 20 West 44th Street between Fifth & Sixth Avenues

Sprigged muslin. Spencers. Starched neck cloths. Pelisses. The Empire waist. Beau Brummell.

Jane Austen lived through a fashion revolution. She saw the ponderous hoops and heavy brocades of the 18th century give way to filmy gauzes, high waists, low necklines, and clingy Grecian draping.

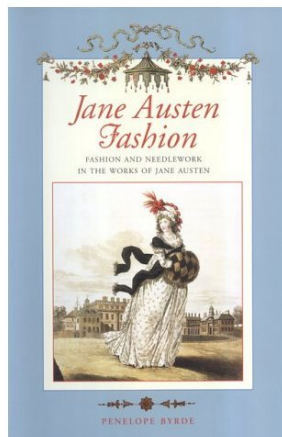
While mentions of fashion in her fiction are few, we know from her letters — and her agile deployment of those few sparse details to memorable satiric effect — that Austen was far from indifferent to fashions.

Preoccupation with clothing, for instance, helps dramatize the vanity of Mrs. Elton, the superficiality of Mrs. Allen and Lydia Bennet, and the duplicity of Isabella Thorpe. For praiseworthy women like Jane Fairfax, Austen reserves her ultimate stylistic accolade: “elegant.”

Exciting plans are in the works to explore and celebrate Regency fashions at JASNA-NY’s December meeting. An illustrated lecture by a fashion expert and a promenade by live models wearing authentic Regency-style outfits are two big items on the agenda so far.

Save the date — Sunday, December 14 — to find out how an elegant lady would attire herself for a morning call, a country stroll, or a gala ball, and how her favorite gentleman might suit himself up for the occasion.

If you wish to “read up” on Regency style, you might begin with Penelope Byrde’s *Jane Austen Fashion: Fashion and Needlework in the Works of Jane Austen*.



AUSTEN & BYRON: TOGETHER AT LAST

Jane Austen (1775-1817) and George Noel Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824) have been characterized as the “polar opposites” and the “bookends” of the Regency. Professor Peter Graham (Virginia Tech) summed up the situation neatly when he wrote for JASNA-NY’s daylong symposium on the two writers on May 3:

One preferred to bury herself in the South of England countryside, and the other was a cosmopolite. One practiced a hard-up spinster’s elegant economies, and the other spent with lordly disdain for a balance sheet. One was a

virginal depicter of female virtues, one a flagrantly promiscuous debaucher of them. One kept direct portrayal of contemporary politics out of her art, while the other influenced political issues by his words and deeds alike. One remained single but ended each of her six novels with more than one marriage, whereas the other married and quipped that hell was but an allegory for the marital state. Yet despite their differences, both Austen and Byron had an eye for the truth, an ear for the English language, and a healthy appetite for irony. Both were keen observers of people, places and phenomena. Both could say what they saw in memorable, quotable words.



Co-coordinators Elsa Solender and Marsha Manns

The best known Austen/Byron intersections are these:

They shared a publisher, John Murray – but only after 1816, when Austen left her first publisher, Thomas Egerton. Austen’s letter to her sister on March 5, 1814 declared: “I have read [Byron’s] *The Corsair*, mended my petticoat, and have nothing else to do.”

Anne Elliot in *Persuasion* refers to Byron’s poems *The Giaour* and *The Bride of Abydos* before advising the grieving Captain Benwick to taste such impassioned verse “but sparingly.”

Item #154 of the 1813 sale catalogue for Byron’s library showed that he possessed first editions of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, but there are no references to JA in his work or letters. The titles do not recur in his 1816 catalogue. Perhaps he gave the books to Annabella Millbanke, the future Lady Byron, who wrote in a May 1813 letter that she had read *P&P* and found it a “very superior work.”

Austen and Byron never actually met; but they might have: Madame de Staël invited both to literary soirees – Austen declined, Byron went, and was bored. Both received the Prince Regent’s favor.

During the conference, four speakers pondered the significance of the two writers (see articles below) and two renowned New York actors, Kathleen Chalfant and Erik Jensen, offered performance readings of selected works and letters.



Kathleen Chalfant, Erik Jensen, Nili Olay, Jerry Vetowich

A Tale of Two Abbeys Lecture by Peter Graham

An odd juxtaposition, Jane Austen and Lord Byron. Yes, they were contemporaries; yes, they may have crossed paths on one or two occasions (although Austen didn't want to meet him. She famously wrote to Cassandra in one letter that she had just read *The Corsair* and mended her petticoat and had nothing else to do; and, in



another letter, when John Murray — Byron's famous publisher — was interested in publishing her once she'd become famous, said of him, "He's a scoundrel, of course, but a civilized one"). She may have felt just the same way about Byron himself. Really, at first glance, any commonalities between these two seem non-existent.

Peter Graham, a professor of English at Virginia Tech, gave a most interesting lecture titled "A Tale of Two Abbeys: Austen, Byron, and the Ambiguities of the Gothic." Since two of his specializations are Austen and Byron, he had some original, astute, and witty insights into their views of the Gothic — that overwhelming genre of their generation (and beyond). He made clear that ambiguity was a key element in Gothic literature (Anne Radcliffe to the contrary notwithstanding!). This is true both in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and in "Norman Abbey" in Lord Byron's *Don Juan* (the abbey's name, of course, a variation on the name of Byron's own ancestral home, Newstead Abbey.

Peter Graham

According to Graham, we have a "civilized comedy of manners" in Austen, and "erotic arousal" in Byron's satirical poem, as well as contemporary comic satire. Both in their own ways have all "the comic alternatives to ghostly ones" laid out for the reader's delectation. Graham pointed out that both Catherine Morland and Don Juan are the "seduced" (by their Gothic imaginings) rather than the "seducers." Both have "rational corrections" of their morbid fancies: Catherine by Henry Tilney, Don Juan — in part — by a mouse! The mutual point seems to be that Gothic trappings are inherently false, and that both Austen and Byron are essentially most rational in their mocking. Austen's view is more suited to prose, and Byron's to his epic verse form; Catherine's naiveté and Don Juan's unexpected tendency to credulity — or at least to doubt of the rational — are touchstones of both authors' honesty and serious intent, while entertaining.

Professor Graham provided his enthusiastic audience with an enthusiastic take on these aspects of both Austen and Byron. His lecture made one want to reread both works and to appreciate the subtlety involved in these two "Gothic" masterpieces.

Zoë Coralnik Kaplan

Austen and Byron in Regency England - Intersections and Near Encounters

Lord Byron was well-traveled, cosmopolitan, and a member of the upper class; an upper class where marital infidelities, illegitimate children, and huge gambling debts were not uncommon. Jane Austen, on the other hand, never traveled very far, and preferred to live in the countryside and share in the amusements of the local gentry. Jonathan Gross, Professor of English at DePaul University, entertained and enlightened symposium attendees with a lecture titled “Austen and Byron in Regency England,” in which he identified more commonalities than even the two writers may have recognized.

While Jane Austen and Lord Byron never met, their lives did intersect — at least somewhat — at The Albany, a grand residence designed by Sir William Chambers for Viscount Melbourne, the husband of Lord Byron’s good friend, Lady Melbourne. When Lady Melbourne, best known as one of the mistresses of the Prince Regent, moved to Whitehall, The Albany was converted into apartments.



Jonathan Gross

Byron moved into The Albany in March 1814. Other famous residents of The Albany included the boxer, Gentleman Jackson, the fencing master, Henry Angelo, and most notably, the author Matthew Gregory “Monk” Lewis. More to the point, Jane Austen’s favorite brother, Henry, had the office of his bank in the courtyard of The Albany, but during an earlier period while Byron was still a student at Eton.

Besides their connection through The Albany, Lewis, Byron and Austen all wrote works connected to the “Gothic.” Lewis earned his nickname “Monk” from his extremely popular gothic novel *The Monk*. Byron wrote the multi-canto gothic poem *Don Juan* and Jane Austen satirized gothic novels in *Northanger Abbey*.

An important difference in the writing style of Lewis, compared with the satire of both Byron and Austen, was his great sentimentality. That may be one reason why Byron and Austen are still widely read and Lewis is not.

We know from her letters that Jane Austen read Byron’s 1814 poem *The Corsair*. Anne Elliot in *Persuasion* refers to Byron’s poems *The Giaour* and *The Bride of Abydos* before advising the grieving Captain Benwick to taste such impassioned verse “but sparingly.” Austen also explored the theme of imprisonment, which resonates in much of Byron’s works, notably *The Prisoner of Chillon*. Byron had sympathy for the oppressed. He rebelled against his social class, supporting causes such as Irish emancipation, and he died while fighting for Greek independence. Jane Austen’s sympathy for the have-nots of her era and for the limitations of women’s opportunities, as well as her appreciation of injustices committed by the powerful, were more subtly portrayed or implied, but they are evident to careful readers.

After hearing his talk, I think Prof. Gross would agree with me that if Jane Austen and Lord Byron had ever met, they might have had a lot more to talk about, and a lot more in common, than either one of them could have ever guessed.

Joyce Melito

A and B As Bookends

Austen and Byron were “bookends that bracket an era,” according to Rachel Brownstein, Professor of English at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center. A specialist in 18th- and 19th-century English literature, women’s studies and biography, she is the author of *Becoming a Heroine: Reading about Women in Novels*, and *Tragic Muse: Rachel of the Comédie-Française*.



Rachel Brownstein

Professor Brownstein opened her talk, “Fans & Fiction,” by citing Auden’s much-quoted 1937 poem, *Letter to Lord Byron*, in which he pondered whether he would choose to write to Byron or to Austen. Auden regarded Austen as a proto-Marxist. Brownstein quoted his famous line about being “shocked” by her, the English spinster of the middle class, writing about “the amorous effects of ‘brass.’” He had an easier relation to Byron and wondered if they would have been drawn perversely toward one another.

She discussed the transformation of Austen’s image in modern movies and how her heroines are now seen as skewering rather than accepting the patriarchy. Citing Lionel Trilling on role-playing, Brownstein called Byron “the first in a line of Byron impressionists.” To Austen and Byron, she said, life is a choice of language; thou shalt believe in Milton and Pope, said Byron. Austen, for her part, determined the form of sentences for the English novel for generations. Austen may have been buoyed by success at the end of her life, Brownstein said, but her real buoyancy was in her practice as the perfect mistress of the art of fiction. Tellingly, Brownstein observed how wrong it seems to remember Austen and Byron, but to leave the words out.

Elsa Solender

WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME !



MY JANE AUSTEN – ONLYMINE!



Marcia Folsom

The Austen reader often discovers hidden meanings by reading between her lines and becomes, in effect, the secret friend of Jane Austen, a phenomenon widely acknowledged among members of JASNA, who embrace her not only as a friend, but as a neighbor and even a family member. Austen may be unique in inspiring a possessiveness among her readers, which is sometimes even coupled with jealous rejection of the validity of other readers' "secret friendships."

Marcia Folsom, Chair of Humanities and Writing at Wheelock College, offered these insights in a lively, provocative lecture entitled *Secret Friends of the Author: Austen In Class and Out*. She traced some sharp divisions among Austen readers. Oddly enough, early Janeites were often men who heaped rhapsodic praise on the author and considered her work too sophisticated to be properly understood by female readers. E.M. Forster was positively hyperbolic as an Austen lover. Henry James, initially an Austen admirer, came to deplore the excesses and commercialization of her reputation. We can only wonder what he would have made of Austeniana in the movies and TV of our day. Folsom revealed how closely the novelist read the Romantic poets, including Coleridge,

Wordsworth, and, of course, Byron, a factor that may have darkened

her later novels. She quoted Anne Elliot's discussion with Captain Benwick on the dangers of his partiality for poetry while grieving.

Folsom also spoke of a disturbing dichotomy today between some academic Austen enthusiasts, who deplore the devotion of amateur readers who uncritically embrace anything even remotely Austenian (such as costumes, sequels, and prettified images) — and the distaste of some non-academics for the pretentious "technical" jargon with which some professors burden their writing on Austen. She hoped that conferences such as the one she addressed would help remedy that situation.

Shirley Safran

THE AUSTEN/BYRON TEAM

Many hands, minds and talents contributed to the success of JASNA-NY's Austen/Byron Symposium on May 3.

Among those JASNA-NY members who worked on the "advance team" with our "opposite numbers" from the Byron Society of America were:

Joan Ellen Delman (Quiz Creator)
Linda Dennery (Badges)
Gene Gill (Registration, Program & Publications)
Rachel Klein (Producer)
Joyce Melito (Hospitality)
Nili Olay (Treasurer)
Kerri Spennicchia (Pug's Boutique & Raffle)
Jerry Vetowich (Technology & Troubleshooting)

Among those who volunteered for the "event team" were:

Cattleya Concepcion
Beverly Drucker
Carolyn Epstein
Davina Gazo
Irene Jankowski
Jennifer Keenan
Doris Master
Marilyn Posnick
Fran Sullivan Schulz
Marisa Spennicchia

Others — You know who you are! — simply lent a hand whenever help was needed.

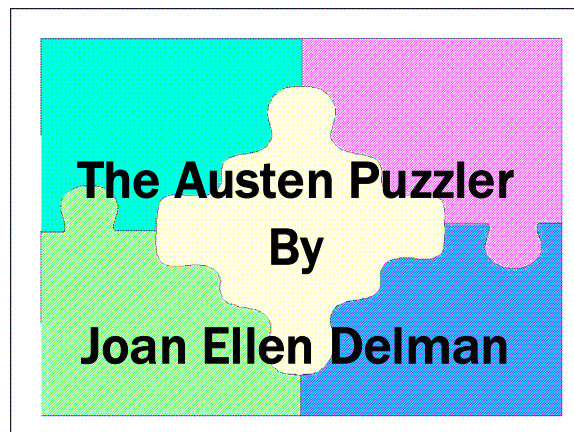
To all, JASNA-NY (and I) express sincere thanks for making the event a pleasure as well as a success.

— *Elsa Solender*

THE AUSTEN/BYRON TEAM



Marsha Manns, Elsa Solender, Rachel Klein, Robin Hammerman

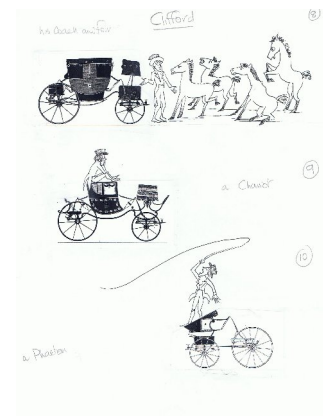
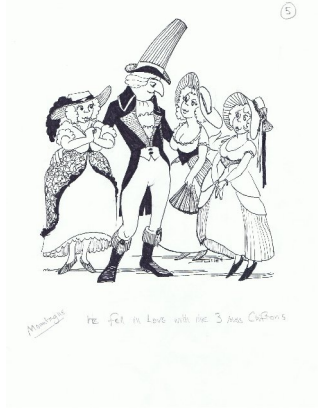
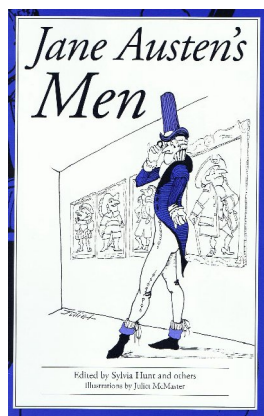


JASNA-NY member Joan Ellen Delman is a puzzler nonpareil. She devised the Austen/Byron Quotation Quiz, which has confounded many Janeites. We are delighted that she has agreed to provide each issue of our newsletter with a puzzle to test our knowledge of Austen's novels. Delman is the author of sequels to *Pride and Prejudice*. Read excerpts from her books on her website: www.janeaustensequels.com. Not surprisingly, she begins her puzzles with *Pride & Prejudice*.

QUESTIONS (answers on Page 14)

1. Does Mr. Hurst prefer a plain dish or a ragout?
2. What was Mr. Wickham's relationship to Mr. Darcy's father?
3. How many children do the Gardiners have?
4. What three kinds of fruit are served at Pemberley when Elizabeth and Mrs. Gardiner call on Miss Darcy?
5. What is Mrs. Forster's first name?
6. What is the first room the housekeeper shows Elizabeth and the Gardiners when they come to see Pemberley?
7. On what subjects does Lady Catherine instruct Mrs. Collins during Elizabeth's first visit to Rosings?
8. What is Elizabeth doing while Bingley is proposing to Jane?
9. What compliment does Lady Catherine pay to Elizabeth on her musical ability?
10. How soon after Mr. Bennet's return to Longbourn does he receive an express from Mr. Gardiner giving news of the elopers?

Silent Auction
Your Chance to Own
Three Original Drawings by Juliet McMaster
Saturday, September 13, 2008



In addition to being the one of the world's leading authorities on Jane Austen, as well as the founder and editor of Juvenilia Press, Juliet McMaster is an artist.

On Saturday, September 13th, JASNA-NY will auction three original pen-and-ink drawings by Juliet McMaster from the Juvenilia Press edition of *Jane Austen's Men*, along with a copy of the book.

All illustrations are on 8.5" x 11" sheets of non-matted paper and will be available for inspection at the September 13th Regional Meeting at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 West 55th Street, New York, NY.

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO PARTICIPATE OR WIN.

Instructions:

- The opening bid for all three drawings and the book will be \$50.00
- Bids will be accepted on site at the Saturday, September 13th Regional Meeting, by e-mail (kspennic@ix.netcom.com), or by phone (1-212-396-2056).
- Those submitting bids by e-mail or phone MUST identify their highest bid.
- For those bidding on site, the lot (drawings and book) will be accompanied by a bid sheet. To bid in the Silent Auction, write your amount on the bid sheet.
- The amount of your bid must be equal to or exceed the amount of the starting bid – only bids that are equal to or exceed the minimum raise amount will be accepted.
- In the event of a competitive bidding situation, there may be a live bid-off for the Silent Auction lot.
- The highest bid will win the lot, but the winning bid must be equal to or exceed the starting bid.

Brooklyn Book Festival — Sunday, September 14, 2008



Come and join us on Sunday, September 14th, from 10 am to 6 pm, at the Brooklyn Book Festival. The Festival is a wonderful chance for JASNA-NY to reach out to prospective members and acquaint them with our favorite author. According to the Festival's website, twenty thousand people attended the event last year.

Directions to the Festival:

By car from Manhattan: Coming over the Brooklyn Bridge, stay straight on Adams Street. Turn right on Joralemon Street.

By car from New Jersey and Staten Island: Verrazano Bridge to 278 West. Take Exit 27/Atlantic Avenue and turn onto Atlantic Avenue. Turn left on Boerum Place. Turn left on Joralemon Street.

By Public Transportation: 2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall; R to Court Street; A, C, F to Jay St/Borough Hall

For more information, log on to www.brooklynbookfestival.org

ANSWERS to the Puzzler

1. A ragout
2. Godson
3. Four – two girls and two boys
4. Grapes, nectarines, and peaches
5. Harriet
6. The dining-parlour
7. Her cows and poultry
8. Writing a letter
9. She has a very good notion of fingering
10. Two days

Update from JASNA's Juvenilia

Back from various summer vacations, we will launch our fall season by dining with Juliet McMaster following her book signing event at Borders Books (Park Avenue at 57 Street) on Friday, September 12th. What a treat to have dinner with the engaging author of *The Beautifull Cassandra*. (I can still recall the first time I met Juliet and the laughter that filled the room as she related her story of an active mouse, a shirt pocket, and an interview – perhaps she can be persuaded to share it during our dinner.)

What's next? We are considering a day trip to Historic Richmond Town on Staten Island. Would you like to join us? If you are a JASNA-NY member 45 years of age or younger please send an e-mail to jasnany@yahoo.com and let us know. We'll be glad to add you to our roster of members. JASNA's Juvenilia is a social group for members who wish to attend Austen-related (or historical) events that their non-Austen-enthusiast friends might not enjoy. Don't be shy about offering suggestions for gathering opportunities!

Cattleya Concepcion, who created and launched JASNA-NY's successful Facebook page and was a founding member of JASNA's Juvenilia, has relocated to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue her J.D. at George Mason University. We will miss her, but Karl Hansbarger has graciously stepped in and taken over management of the Facebook site for JASNA-NY.

Kerri Spennicchia

What's New at Pug's Boutique?



JANE AUSTEN-THEMED EARRINGS

We have a **limited supply** of earrings, all designed for pierced ears. Our inventory includes:

- White post earrings featuring Jane Austen's image
- White dangle earrings featuring Jane Austen's image and ornamented with a fuchsia bead (1 pair in stock)
- Pink dangle earrings featuring the phrase "Miss Austen is my Hero" and ornamented with a light pink bead (1 pair in stock)

Price: \$10.00 per pair

**These earrings will be debuted at our
September 13th Regional Meeting**

Be sure to visit Pug's Boutique to purchase yours while supplies last!

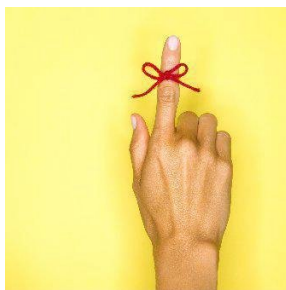
The J. David Grey Memorial Library

Barbara Hellerling maintains and operates JASNA-NY's J. David Grey Memorial Library, an extensive collection of Jane Austen-related books, audiotapes, videotapes, monographs...and more. The library also contains books by, and about, authors contemporary with Jane Austen. Barbara has most recently acquired the following books for the library:

Tomalin, Claire. *Jane Austen: A Life*

Troost, Linda V., Ed. "Jane Austen Goes to the Movies." *Topic: A Journal of the Liberal Arts*, No. 48, Washington and Jefferson College, November 1997 (Monograph)

For a complete list of the library's holdings, or to borrow items, contact Barbara at 631-727-8666 or hellerling@aol.com.



WHEN YOU BUY BOOKS

**Please remember how much
Borders Bookstores
have contributed to our region
this past year.**

Date	Events
September 12 th , 13 th	Juliet McMaster
Sunday September 14 th	Brooklyn Book Festival
Monday September 15 th	<i>The Duchess</i> - screening
October 2-5	AGM in Chicago
Wednesday Oct 15 th	Joint program with the Royal Oak Society
Thursday Oct 16 th	Book Group: Report on AGM & Book Recommendations
Thursday Oct 30 th , Thursday Nov 6 th	Evenings of Regency design and reading, at Bard
Thursday, Nov 20 th	Book Group: The Watsons – How would you finish it?
Sunday, Dec 14 th	Annual Birthday Meeting
January 2009 (date TBA)	Book Group: Evil Men in Jane Austen's Novels

Don't forget to visit our region's website www.jasnaNY.org –
and JASNA's national website – www.jasna.org
and join jasnaNY's group on Facebook www.facebook.com.

The Regional Coordinators and the Editors sincerely thank all the people who contributed to the writing, production, and distribution of this newsletter.

Name our Newsletter:

Your newsletter editors will be working hard to bring a new look to our newsletter for the winter issue. It will be a fitting time to find a new name for it as well. If you would like to suggest a new name, please send it to jasnaNY@yahoo.com.

JASNA - GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

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