

# JASNA

Jane Austen Society of North America. Calgary. Newsletter March 2004

## **Speaker at our March Meeting: Shannon Campbell**

JASNA Calgary is pleased to welcome Shannon Campbell to our March meeting for a return engagement. At our June 2003 Gala, Shannon dazzled us with her knowledge of and enthusiasm for botany and horticulture in her presentation "Two Visits to the Gardens of Sotherton Court." On this next occasion, Shannon will present "The Rose Garden of Mansfield Park." Don't miss it!

---Barbara Wilson

## **Other items on the program for our next meeting on March 20:**

-discussion of this year's joint Gala (co-hosted with Edmonton) to be held on June 5 in Red Deer at the North Hill Inn. The theme will be "Music, Balls and Dancing in the Time of Jane Austen". Elizabeth Marshall (one of the co-ordinators) will speak about the plans for the day. As well, we will begin to sell tickets for this event (\$35.00). The fee covers a morning coffee break, lunch, an afternoon coffee break, honorariums for our speakers, and the use of the space at the Inn.

-sign-up sheets to help match drivers with those who don't have a ride to Red Deer.

-sign-up sheet for the November Tea.

-Coffee: Margaret and Murray Leslie, June Grant

-Cookies: Sue Sulic

See you there.

--- Linda Payne

## **Entertainment Section**

### **Bollywood News**

After her successful debut film "Bend it like Beckham", British filmmaker Gurinder Chaddha, her cast and crew, is busy shooting for her latest English film "Bride and Prejudice" in Mumbai. Based on Jane Austen's novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, the film tells the story of a family with four daughters and their parents difficulty in finding a right match for them. The major obstacle is dowry.

Chaddha has decided to be loyal to the narrative of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* as far as possible. This time Chaddha has roped in established names from both Bollywood and Hollywood. Aishwarya Pai plays the female protagonist and Australian actor Martin Henderson can be seen in the male lead. Rai etches the role of Elizabeth while Henderson portrays Mr. Darcy in the film. The Guardian newspaper reported that Chaddha planned to turn the classic novel into a "white-hot Bollywood musical version". She has apparently signed up leading Bollywood composer Anu Malik and plans some spectacular musical sequences. The film, which has been extensively shot in London, Mumbai and Goa, will be released by the middle of 2004.

### From the Regional Co-ordinator:

To begin, a quick review of new business and decisions from the January 17 meeting:  
-decided to continue the same format for the November Jane Austen Tea, but a new site will be found. Deirdre Harris and Judith Umbach volunteered to be joint co-ordinators. Other volunteers will be needed for a variety of jobs.

-agreed that members will have the choice of receiving the Newsletter by e-mail or Canada Post. Alicia Morgan collected e-mail addresses.

-Margaret and Murray Leslie agreed to take charge of the coffee box (buying the supplies and bringing the box to meetings).

-Visitors: Jane Low, Mary Anne Spackman, June Wilson, and Sue Sulic (who also joined JASNA)

--- Linda Payne

### Jane Austen Sighting by Barbara Wilson

Samuel Johnson, one of Jane Austen's favorite writers, penned the words: "... when a man is tired of London he is tired of life." After spending ten days in London during the Christmas-New Years holiday, I concur. In a few words, I would like to share the following with you:

- **British Library St Pancras:** holds two Austen treasures: The autograph manuscripts of "The History of England," displayed open with colour portraits by her sister Cassandra; and a cancelled draft for Chapter 10 in *Persuasion*.
  - **National Portrait Gallery St Martin's Place:** has Cassandra's watercolor of Jane, no more than 6 inches (15 cms) square. Be very careful not to miss it in the 1700's room where it's dwarfed by all the gigantic oil paintings adorning the walls. Look for a raised glass case on the floor.
  - **Winchester Cathedral:** The city of Winchester, only 70 miles southwest of London, takes 50 minutes by train, a relaxing day trip for only £40 return from Waterloo or Victoria Station. There you can see Jane's burial place and also visit 8 College Street
  - Various walking tours available in London are limited to certain times and seasons so check these out as well. All the above-mentioned locations charge no admission but appreciate a donation to sustain their operations.
- Now start planning your trip to London with your favourite author in mind. Like Johnson, you never tire of London but always look forward to the next visit.

## Music Section

### Listen to the Music

In November of 1813, Jane Austen was staying at Godmersham (brother Edward's estate). A special trip was made into nearby Canterbury to hear a concert including Daniel Purcell's "Mad Bess", an aria from the George Handel oratorio "Jephtha", and excerpts from "The Creation" by Joseph Haydn.

What did Jane Austen think of the concert you ask? She made no comments about the music, but her letter to Cassandra on November 6<sup>th</sup> states:

"Lady B. was much what I expected, .... – I liked her, for being in a hurry to have the concert over & get away, ...."

- The letter continues with more comments on the people Jane met, and tells us she wasn't home until twelve.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the Calgary Philharmonic will be performing "The Creation" at Jack Singer Hall. Tickets are available at Ticket master. The Calgary performance should be done before twelve, and if you like Haydn's music, you shouldn't be in a hurry to be finished (unlike Lady B.).

## Recipe/Food/drink Section

### Mrs. Beeton's Negus

(from Museum of Childhood Newsletter, December 2003. Toronto)

(*Could Mrs. B. be the 19th century Martha S.?*)

**Mrs. Beeton** was the domestic doyenne of the mid-Victoria period. Her early death due to complications of childbirth. ended what would have been a meteoric rise to celebrity status. Her *Everyday Cookery and Housekeeping Book (1865)*, however, endured, and was the household bible of the 19th century. Even up until the 1950's, in adapted form it was the basis of most homemakers' knowledge of the domestic art.

**Negus** was a popular alcoholic drink in the 19th century – and was apparently suitable for children's parties. The ingredients included wine, (which need not be very old or expensive) sugar, lemon rind and boiling water. As to quantity, allow one pint of wine, with the other ingredients in proportion, for a party of 9 or 10 children.

Submitted by Fran Birzins.

(*Ed. note: this makes insider trading kind of mild, doesn't it*)

### Lemon Cake.

(or orange or lime)

2 lemons

2 eggs, size 2

100g / 4oz butter

175g / 6 oz caster sugar

175g / 6oz self-raising flour (baking power included)

approx. 60mls / 4 tblspns milk

- Grate the rind of, and extract the juice from, the lemons. Beat the eggs.

### From "Tea with the Bennets"

Margaret Vaughan, 1996

- Whisk the butter, caster sugar and lemon rind together until fluffy then gradually beat in the eggs.
- Mix in the flour with a wooden spoon and add the milk a little at a time until the mixture is soft enough to drop off the end of the spoon when shaken gently.
- Grease a 900g / 2lb loaf tin and turn the mixture into it.
- Bake in a moderate oven (350F / 180C / Gas Mark 4) for 45-50 minutes until well risen and golden, firm on top and shrinking from the sides of the tin.
- Remove from the oven and whilst the cake is still warm, pierce the top all over with a skewer and pour on the lemon juice. Leave the cake in the tin until cold, so that all the juice is absorbed by the sponge.
- Turn out and wrap the cake in foil to keep it moist and fresh until needed

**Enjoy!**

**The Average Annual Income for 1803**  
**(Extract from "The Friendly Jane Austen" by Natalie Tyler)**

The following table breaks down the population of England and Wales into numbers of families and their estimated average annual income for 1803.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Numbers of families</u>	<u>Est. Average yearly income</u>
The King	1	£200,000
Baronets	540	3,000
Gentlemen	20,000	700
Lunatic Keepers	40	500
Shopkeepers	74,500	150
Farmers	160,000	120
Soldiers	50,000	29
Paupers	260,179	16
Vagrants	220,000	10

(Ed. note: The lunatic Keepers certainly held their own.)