

My Dear Cassandra.....

“What calm lives they had, those people! No worries about the French Revolution, or the Napoleonic War’s - *Winston Churchill, on Jane Austen’s novels. (Extract from “Jane Austen” by Natalie Tyler)*

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

JASNA Calgary usually meets
on the third Saturday of every second month at the Sunalta Community Centre,
1627 10th Ave SW but this time we’re throwing you a curve!

**The next meeting will be held on the
second Saturday of March..... March 14, 2009.**

The meeting date was changed to accommodate one of our speakers and hopefully the change will not cause any great confusion or inconvenience to members.

The Program on the 14th.

Enjoy Jane Austen by Foot even while sitting down! On March 14 Judith Umbach and Deirdre Harris will entertain members with stories of their trip through Winchester, Chawton and Bath last September. They will show their own DVD and talk about how much fun they had walking through the streets Jane made famous. Everyone will have a chance to contribute their own stories and tips for travel.

January meeting - Jane Austen Birthday Tea

A big thank you to Catherine Gardner and members of the tea committee for organizing a lovely Jane Austen Birthday Tea on Saturday January 17. The Good Companions Activity Centre was transformed with snowy white tablecloths, pretty china and scattered rose petals. Mistress of ceremonies (and our founder and first president) Elizabeth Marshall reviewed the ten year history of JASNA Calgary and asked us to raise our glasses to toast Jane’s 233rd birthday. Elizabeth also wrote and directed a wonderful play for the amusement of tea-goers, “Tell us, Miss Austen”. Thanks to the following readers, who did a super job bringing Jane and her characters to life: Susan Appleby, Pat and Tom Barton, Margaret Crichton, Rita Dempsey, Jane Lowry, Jane Papenhuyzen, Linda Payne, Bill Sherlock and Emma and Susan Spooner. Thanks also to Judith Umbach and Deirdre Harris for organizing and conducting a very successful raffle - virtually every guest went home with something nice! And finally, a very special thank you to Catherine Gardner and her friend Harriet

Knetsch for making and donating the delicious tea sandwiches and scrumptious sweets we all enjoyed so much.

As requested.....these are "Debbi's Scones",
sourced from the Calgary Herald 20 years ago, in 1988.

4 cups flour	
2/3 cup sugar	grated rind of 2 lemons
2 Tbsp baking powder	1 cup butter, chilled, cut into 8 pieces
1/2 cup currants	4 eggs, beaten
	1 cup whipping cream

1. Stir together dry ingredients in large mixing bowl. Add currants and lemon peel.
2. Add butter and cut into dry ingredients using pastry blender until butter is in fine bits.
3. Add cream to beaten eggs, then pour over dry ingredients and mix quickly and lightly.
4. Form the dough into a ball, flatten slightly, then divide into 4 portions.
5. Form each of the 4 portions into a ball, then flatten into disc 1/2 inch thick.
6. Mark the disc into 8 with a straight-sided knife such as a French knife
7. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper and place 2 discs well-spaced out on each sheet.
8. Bake at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes, until well-browned and risen.
9. Serve with whipped cream and jam.

Note: There is another version of this recipe which omits the eggs, which might be useful for anyone who is baking for a person allergic to eggs.

2009 JASNA tour: Houses of Jane Austen

Each summer, the Jane Austen Society of North America sponsors a guided tour in England with some aspect of Jane Austen's life as its theme. Elizabeth Marshall and Linda Payne were on last year's tour and had a wonderful time (see their enthusiastic description in the November 2008 edition of "My Dear Cassandra..." still available on our website at <http://www.jasnacalgary.ca/newsnov08.pdf>). This year's tour, which will take place July 13-23, takes the Houses of Jane Austen as its theme and will include visits to Steventon, Chawton, Winchester, Bath, Lyme Regis and many other locations significant to Jane and her family and friends. For descriptions of past tours please visit <http://www.jasna.org/tours/index.html>. For more information about this summer's tour, please contact organizer Dr. Mary Lou White at 941-480-0074 (tel), 941-586-7429 (fax) or bookadvent@aol.com.

Sympathy cards

Alicia Morgan has kindly volunteered to be the club's "social secretary". If you know of a club member who is experiencing something happy or sad that should be acknowledged (a marriage, a birth, a special birthday or anniversary, illness or bereavement) please let Alicia know and she will send a card on behalf of the club.

Something interesting about..... **Books**

Every gentlemen who had some pretence to culture kept a well-stocked library and every young lady who longed for love sought out "gothick" romances to while away her leisure hours. Books in London meant Hatchard's to the fashionable ton. The shop was located in No. 187 Piccadilly after 1801. More than a book store it was a meeting place for opulent London. The book shop had a club-like atmosphere with the daily papers laid out on the table by the fireplace. Benches stood outside the store for the servants of the customers. Queen Charlotte chose them as her bookseller, and the firm has held a Royal Warrant since then. Jane Austen's works, Byron's latest epic poem, or Sir Walter Scott's adventurous, romantic tales might be among the books chosen by Regency patrons. No doubt one publication in particular galvanized the upper ten thousand more than any other. Lady Caroline Lamb's thinly disguised tell-all — *Glenarvon* (1816). If there was ever any hope that she may resurrect her dead social life, this book put the last nail in her social coffin. *Glenarvon* was a wild fantasy with Gothic overtones. The hero-villain *Glenarvon* was obviously Byron. Pilloried in these pages were the high society circles of Lady Holland and Caroline's mother-in-law, Lady Melbourne. These three slender volumes bound in leather and trimmed in gilt were an immediate sell out! To cater to the appetites of young ladies and older dames that Coleridge called "a kind of beggarly daydreaming," was Mr. Lane's Minerva Press. A publisher of this titillating product, he founded a book shop beside his press and made his fortune.

Lane's novels generally came out in three volumes with mottled covers. Horror tales included *The Discarded Son*, *Midnight Bell*, and many others in the grand tradition of Mrs. Radcliffe's famous *Mysteries of Udolpho*. Other romantic titles included *The Mutual Attachment*, *Frederick and Caroline*, and *The Mysterious Freebooter*. And all this ravishing excitement could be bought for a few shillings.

The establishment was also one of the circulating libraries that had become so profitable and popular. Yearly subscribers were entitled for four pounds, four shillings to borrow up to eighteen books in Town, or twenty-four in the country. The lowest subscription rate was one pound eleven shillings and entitled the borrower to four books a year in Town or eight in the country. Other popular circulating libraries in London were Hookam's and Coburn's.

The Regency Companion by Sharon Lauder milk ans Teresa L. Hamlin. [page 136]

Jane Austen Calgary Contacts:

Regional Coordinator : Jennifer Hamblin ~ 282-4065

Program Coordinator : Margaret Crichton ~ 284-4649

Mark your calendar for our next Meeting: June 13, 2009, The Gala.

Website: www.jasnacalgary.ca

Meeting place: Sunalta Community Centre, 10th Ave and 16th St SW

Newsletter Info : Ann Craig email ancraig@shaw.ca