

# JASNA

Jane Austen Society of North America. Calgary. September, 2005.

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“A woman is like a tea-bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.” - Eleanor Roosevelt  
(I think Jane Austen would have liked that!. L.P.)

## A "ROMANTIC" MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17:

Have you ever noticed that, for novels whose plots always contain numerous weddings, there are very few marriage proposals actually written out in the Austen novels? When it comes time to pop the big question, Jane's characters simply disappear on long walks, to "say exactly what they should". What that is exactly, we are not told. Why is that? Why would Jane not have taken a great deal of time and pleasure in writing out the proposals in detail? At our September 17 meeting, we will examine what Jane does and doesn't write on marriage proposals, and try to imagine what some of the ones she didn't write might have looked like. For those of you who might like to refresh your memories before the meeting, we will be 'ghost writing' some or all of the following proposals: Rev. Elton's to Augusta Hawkins, Colonel Brandon's to Marianne Dashwood, Edmund Bertram's to Fanny Price, Edward Ferrars' to Elinor Dashwood and Robert Martin's second proposal to Harriet Smith.

Also, if you have examples of marriage proposals written in other novels of the period, please bring them along: we may want them read out. Randie Lind is researching the novels of Fanny Burney, but does anyone have examples of proposals in the works of Sir Walter Scott or Richardson, or in the Gothic novels of Anne Radcliffe, Mary Shelley or Mary Wollstonecraft? It would add to our discussion to examine how other authors of the period handled proposals.

So don't miss the "romantic" afternoon planned for September 17!

## A Regency Entertainment

Remember to pick up your tickets for the annual **Jane Austen Birthday Tea** at the September meeting, and mark **Saturday, Nov. 5, 2:00 – 4:00**, on your calendar. The program, organized by Pat Barton, is called 'An Afternoon with the Bennets', and will feature readings from *Pride and Prejudice* interspersed with music and dancing from the period by the musical ensemble Broken Consort, and our own group of light-footed dancers.

(This group needs a name, any suggestions?)

As well, tickets will be sold for period-related raffle items (three for five dollars), and the wonderful Regency tea will be served. Period costume is optional, but encouraged! This year your tea committee is asking that you wear a quotation from one of the Austen characters pinned to your clothing; tablemates will then try to guess who you are.

Tickets for the tea are still only five dollars, and you are encouraged to purchase tickets for family and friends. In addition, the ubiquitous sign-up sheets requesting volunteers to contribute food and raffle items will be in evidence at the September meeting.

### **Raffle requests**

Summer memories are fading with the tan, and before we know it Christmas will be upon us. Somewhere between the wheat sheaves and the mince pies we will celebrate our beloved Jane's birthday with our annual fun-filled afternoon tea. (Nov. 5) Please contact me to arrange for collection, or you to deliver, any donations for our raffle. If you would like to donate money to go towards table decorations or a floral tribute for the raffle, I will be happy to arrange that also. - Susan Spooner. 243-8942

### **FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR**

Welcome back! I hope you've had a chance over the summer to catch up on your Jane Austen reading ( I've been reading the letters for the first time), and that you're ready for another year of exploring the joys of Austen's writing. Over the next year, there will be a variety of speakers, discussions, and special events. So please join us on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the W. R. Castell public Library (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) for our next meeting. See you there. - Linda Payne

### **"Books Into Film"**

Congratulations to our own television star! Elizabeth Marshall appeared as a commentator on the "Books Into Film" episode about Jane Austen. For those of you unable to see the broadcast on September 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a tape of the show now available in our JASNA library that can be borrowed. Well done Elizabeth! - Linda Payne

### **JUNE GALA**

On June 11, members and guests from the Calgary and Edmonton chapters of JASNA, gathered at the Cardel Homes Theatre for our 2005 GALA- "Getting to Know Jane Austen".

Registration and refreshments began the morning, followed by the first presentation of the day – a BBC video "Presumption: the Life of Jane Austen" available from three locations of the Calgary Public Library (W. R. Castell, Nose Hill, and Fish Creek). It is found in each library's Video Area shelved as Video 823 AUS P. It can also be placed on hold and sent to the nearest branch.

Next, we were delighted by Dr. Juliet McMaster's illustrated lecture on "Illustrating Jane's Juvenilia"

Lunch from the Lazy Loaf & Kettle followed, with lots of time for visiting, discussing the morning's presentations, or even going for a walk.

The afternoon began with a panel discussion of "Jane and the Opposite Sex", which was ably led by moderator Tom Barton. Margaret Crichton, Murray Leslie, and Isobel Temple were the panelists. A lively question and discussion period followed.

Our last activity of the day was a chance to write the "Letters Not Written". These could have been letters about situations found in the novels. Jane Austen didn't write about them, so we did. Lots of fun to write and delightful to hear. As well, they are being shared with other JASNA members. They can be found on the JASNA website in the section about the AGM in Milwaukee called "Read JASNA Imaginary Letters". In addition, the Puget Sound, Washington chapter has asked for permission to use some of them in their newsletter.

Our thanks to all the presenters, to Shannon Campbell for the flowers, to Juliet McMaster for the book of juvenilia which will be one of the raffle prizes at the November Tea, and to all of the many volunteers. As always, out thanks to Elizabeth Marshall, the GALA's co-ordinator, who organized yet another wonderful day - Linda Payne

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Once a year (this year on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.), the Program Committee meets to plan the upcoming years's meetings and events. It only requires two hours per year of your time. If you would be interested in joining this committee, or have an idea for a program, please call Linda Payne (252-0855).

#### **Believe it or Not!**

Have you always longed for a Jane Austen action figure? Your wish may now come true! Simply go to [www.entertainmentearth.com](http://www.entertainmentearth.com) to order your five inch plastic action figure complete with miniature copy of Pride and Prejudice and writing desk with removable quill pen. This Austen doll can be yours for only \$11.99 USD. Every home should have one!

#### **Salley Vickers and Jane Austen**

Salley Vickers lives and works in London and Bath. She is trained as a Jungian psychologist, and lectures widely on the connections between literature, psychology, and religion. Miss Garnet's Angel is the first of her three novels.

Miss Garnet's Angel tells the story of a retired history teacher who has been practicing economies of the spirit for a lifetime. After the death of her longtime companion Harriet, Miss Garnet decides to spend six months in Venice.

The adventures of the soul that Miss Garnet encounters in Venice are resonant of the changes that happen to Austen's heroines. In particular, the awakening of Miss Garnet's artistic and spiritual sensibilities is almost an inversion of the lessons Marianne Dashwood must learn in Sense and Sensibility. Marianne must subdue her romantic sensibilities and become more rational. Miss Garnet blossoms from a narrow, self-imposed rationality to realize the consolations to be found in human connection and spiritual nourishment. Also, like Austen, Salley Vickers celebrates the values inherent in apparently unimportant people and things.

Ready for an experience?

.....how about **the Cantos Music Collection**

Cantos Music Foundation presents community programming through music, and the unique Cantos Music Collection of hundreds of keyboard and electronic instruments.

“I’ve done the tour,” said Fran Birzins, “and thoroughly enjoyed the musical presentation of instruments and the wonders and fascination of ‘sound’ through history. This is no ordinary tour!”

The Cantos Foundation is located on 11th Ave and 1st St. S.W. Private tours can be arranged on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm (minimum 6-10) and takes about 1 to 1½ hours. The charge is \$5 per person, \$4 Seniors and students. A sit-down gathering can be arranged for the event. There is free on-street parking outside the building on Sunday afternoons and adjacent lots available.

If this presentation is of interest, a sign-up sheet will be available at our September 17th meeting. The date will be determined as to Cantos and Jane Austen convenience.

**Ready for a simple test?** Just match the first column with its correct publication date and quote. This quote can be the first line of the book – or first line in a chapter – or last line of the book. The answers will be given at the September 17 meeting.

1. Sense and Sensibility	1. 1813	1. ....whether the tendency of this work be altogether to recommend parental tyranny, or reward filial disobedience.
2. Persuasion	2. 1814	2. About thirty years ago,.....
3. Mansfield Park	3. 1818	3. ....the predictions of the small band of true friends who witnessed the ceremony, were fully answered in the perfect happiness of the union.
4. Emma	4. 1816	4. .. ....they could live without disagreement between themselves, or producing coolness between their husbands.
5. Pride and Prejudice	5. 1818	5. ....more distinguished in its domestic virtues than in its national importance.
6. Northanger Abbey	6 1 811	6. It is.....

**Dates and things to remember**

Program Committee – Saturday, September 17, 12:00noon

Jane Austen Tea – Saturday, November 5, 2:00 – 4:00pm tickets \$5 ea., plus, sign-up sheets requesting volunteers to contribute food and raffle items

A name for our fabulous group of light-footed dancers