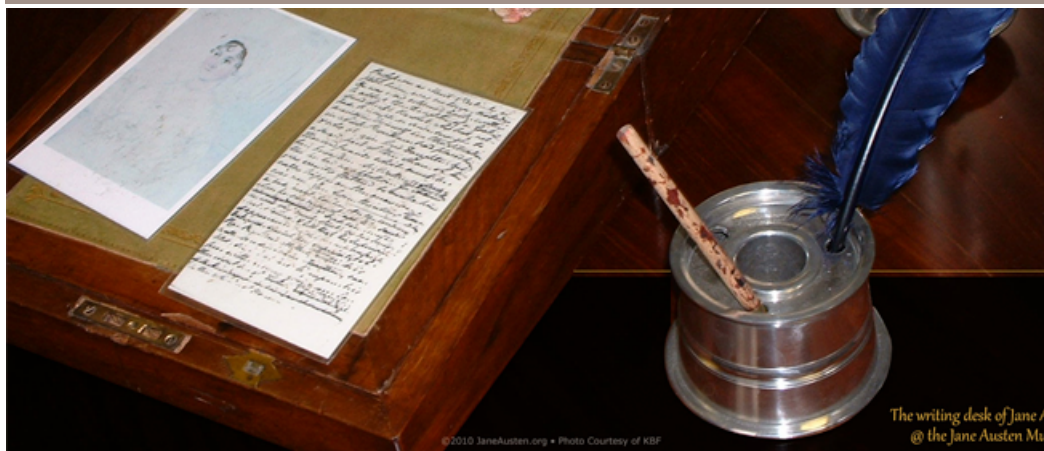


Jane Austen Society of North America Indianapolis Region

Winter 2015 Vol. 10, No. 4

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Jacquie Carroll, *Editor*



My idea of good company is the company of clever, well-informed people who have a great deal of conversation."

— JANE AUSTEN

From the Desk of the Indiana Regional Director Mary Miller

I HAD NO IDEA just how much fun one could have at the JASNA AGM but I do now!! From Thursday October 7th to Sunday October 11th, our group from Indiana had so much fun that it has taken two weeks to recover!! Nearly 20 members of the Indiana Region attended the 2015 AGM in Louisville—the largest group ever! We had members attend the various fashion shows, the general sessions and all of the breakout sessions! Several of our members have shared their comments—look for them in this newsletter. And all of us who were there on Saturday went to the Grand Banquet and Ball! As your Regional Coordinator I also attended the various business meetings of JASNA and Sue Landaw represented us in the annual JASNA Board Meeting as a Member at Large. The most notable item is that JASNA will be moving toward an online membership registration in the next year. More on that in the upcoming months as it rolls out.

We also had our table at the Emporium and several members manned our table as we sold our Austen related items. We still have wristlets available for members to purchase as well as a limited number of 2016 EMMA Calendars. I will share my favorite AGM moments!

As you all know, I love to meet new people! And attending the AGM was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many new people as well as catch up with my growing network of fellow Janeites! I also got to meet some of my favorite Austen related authors! But the most moving program for me was the Sunday morning Church Session. We all know how much Jane's faith meant to her and the service on Sunday was a testament to that.



Above: *Jane's profile wristlet* \$20.00. *Book page wristlet* \$25.00.
Below: *Calendar* \$11.00.

AGM Comments From Our Members

Sondra Bowers

I liked Dr. Sheryl Craig's "Jane Austen and the Master Spy" – the real life Willoughby. I also liked Shannon Campbell's session on the importance of Sheep in England, and Katherine Toran's session on Economics in Jane Austen's time.

Suzanne Skooglund

Thomasina's Notebook was my favorite lecture. It was fascinating to hear the enthusiastic speaker tell of her research, beginning with an inscription on the inside cover to a Jane Austen connection and beyond.

Heidi Green

"Jane Austen and the Master Spy,"
presented by Sheryl Craig

Who knew that the duplicitous George Wickham in P&P was a lampoon of real-life Spy Master, William Wickham?

Wickham singlehandedly created the Secret Service in Britain and ran "a large and complex spy ring" during the Napoleonic wars. Wickham's most successful spy was the infamous Scarlet Pimpernel. In her breakout session, Sheryl Craig presents a convincing argument that Austen's George Wickham is indeed an "inside

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joke” on Regency politics. Who says Jane wasn’t political? One example, why did Lydia want her Wickham to wear his blue coat to the wedding? Read as social satire, Craig connects the blue coat to the real Wickham’s powerful Whig supporters. The official color for the Whigs was blue and buff. Another example, when first conversing with Elizabeth, Wickham does a masterful job of soliciting information about Darcy while planting misinformation.

But controversy about Wm. Wickham was rife at the time Jane wrote. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of government money disappeared under Wickham’s watch as spy master, while he became personally very rich. A successful spy indeed! Between the interesting history of the spy master himself, and the convincing arguments Craig makes connecting George with William. It was a delightful presentation, and one of my favorites of the AGM.”

Sue Landaw

Having attend every AGM since 1999 in Colorado Springs, I am happy to say that the Louisville AGM ranks right up there at the top of all I have experienced. I expected it would be well-organized with Bonnie and Alana in charge and that dynamic region with their festival experience as backup, and I was not disappointed. Even with the most careful planning though, the speakers and breakout sessions have to be strong. Most (not all) I heard were very good. It was also so much fun to watch so many of our members experience their first AGM. I loved that!”

Jacque Carroll

This was my first AGM and I found it to be fantastic. I was absolutely transfixed with everything that I learned from all of the breakout sessions, plenary speakers, and special interest sessions that I attended! My favorite Plenary Speaker was Amanda

Vickery. Her dynamic talk on “No Happy Ending? At Home with Miss Bates in Georgian England” was an absolute sensation! I found the Special Interest Sessions “Dressing Mr. Darcy” and “Undressing the Historical Lady” to be absolutely charming! Both sessions answered a lot of questions I have always had about what’s “underneath those the clothes in Jane Austen’s world. I attended a string quartet symphony and got my books signed by Authors, Syrie James and Amanda Vickery. I just felt that the whole weekend was full of magical things, people and fun! There was literally something there for everyone. I am looking forward to next year!



Scenes from the JASNA AGM



Above: Mary Miller and Mary Earle are having fun! **Right:** Erin Webster and Mary Earle are ready for the ball!



Christmas Tea Information

Mark your calendar-Saturday,
December 12th, 2015
1pm to 3pm
The Indianapolis Propylaeum,
1410 N Delaware St,
Indianapolis IN 46202.

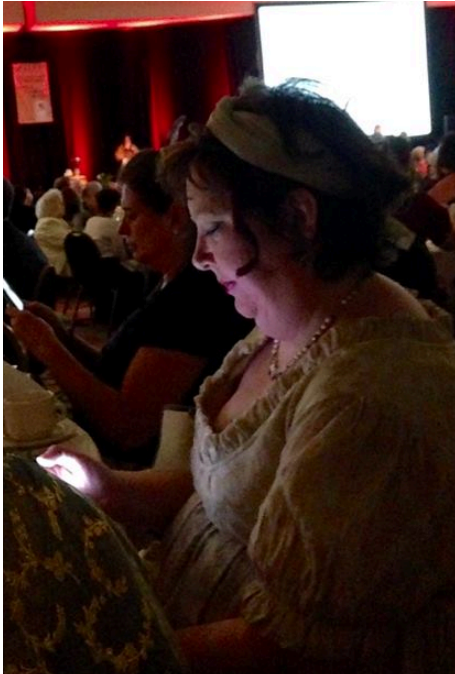
**Look for your invitation!
It's coming soon!**

For more information on joining JASNA,
please contact Mary Miller, Indiana
Region Coordinator, indymary@aol.com
or 317-727-5058

Newsletter Quiz

What 2015 Action Movie starred both Mr Darcy and Mr Knightley?? A winner will be drawn from all the correct answers, but they must be received by 11/20!! Send your answers to: indymary@aol.com! Our last newsletter quiz winner is Kirsten Long!!

Please send any future newsletter items or ideas to **Jacque Carroll** at:
carrol13@purdue.edu



Clockwise from top left: 1) Lisa Whitaker in her lovely Regency gown. 2) Heidi Green with Author, Syrie James. 3) Jacquie Carroll, Suzanne Skooglund, Sondra Bowers and Sue Landaw. 4) The JASNA-IR had a great showing at the 2015 AGM! 5) Our table in the Emporium. 6) Jacquie Carroll, Fran Willis and Fran's sister-in-law, Jane.

