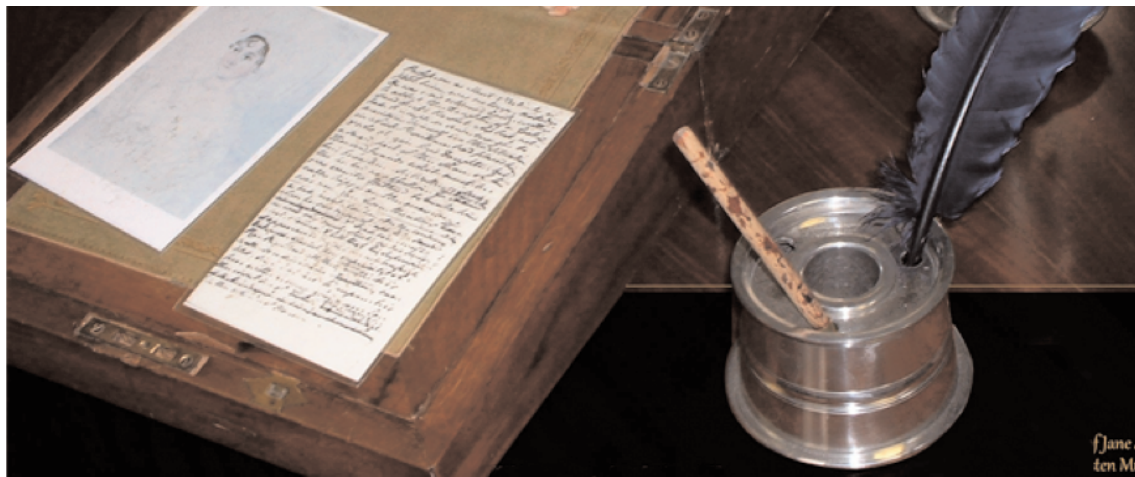


Jane Austen Society of North America

Indianapolis Region

VOL. 12, NO. 2

Summer 2017
Jacquie Carroll
Editor



*There is no
charm equal
to tenderness
of heart.*
—JANE AUSTEN

From the Desk of the Indiana Regional Director

Mary Miller

I AM NOT SURE if you have heard or not but 2017 is the anniversary year of Jane Austen's passing 200 years ago. That was meant to be sarcastic, which is something our Jane was very familiar with and wrote in her novels and letters. Here in Indiana, you would think Jane Austen lived and died here based upon all the activity that has occurred since the beginning of 2017. We had our first meeting of the year at the Lawrence Library in late January. Our speaker was one of our Southern Indiana members, Carrie Wright who presented her 2015 AGM presentation on Regency Jewelry. In February, several of our members attended the Covenant Christian's presentation of *Pride & Prejudice*, the musical. The presentation also included a Jane Austen experience interactive display with students in character representing each of her six novels.

Our annual "Irish" High Tea was hosted by member Maura Hutchinson in her home in Greenfield in early

March, Jo Mader gave the second half of her presentation of the English Naval paper at the Irish tea. Jane was everywhere in April! Our April meeting was in Zionsville at My Sugar Pie! Member Kelly Maucere owns this delightful shop. She hosted with tea and her famous pies! Heidi Green led a discussion on *Sandition*. Down in Corydon, Hayswood Playhouse presented the play of *Pride & Prejudice* which got rave reviews! I traveled over to Dayton in late April to attend the Dayton Region meeting, as our JASNA President Claire Bellanti was the guest speaker. Make sure to read her "5 Questions" interview in this newsletter.

My travels with Jane continued into May when I went to the Greater Chicago Region Spring Gala. The theme was about Mourning Customs.

Our Box Hill picnic was held in early June at historic Holliday Park in Indianapolis. We spent the time relaxing under the trees and chatting about the affairs of the world! The end of



Mary Miller and RC for Greater Chicago, Deb Miller who did a program as Jane Austen at the Greenwood Library.

There are a lot of pictures to see from the JASNA-IR Region on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/groups/jasnaindy

June several of our members attended the Jane Austen Regency Dinner at Tina's Traditional English Tea Room in Carmel. One could not throw a stone and not land on something about Jane Austen in the state of Indiana during the month of July. Over 30 library systems in the state held some type of Austen related event. Book discussions, tea parties and movie showings were just some of the activities going on in our very own state. Local bookstores also got into the spirit with events and displays on Jane. The IU Theatre program presented the play of *Persuasion* for the month of July. I attended opening night and many

other members saw the play throughout its run. Several members made the trip to Louisville for the 9th Annual Jane Austen Festival. The presentations and tea parties and shopping are hard to beat at the annual festival!! I also attended library events in Greenwood, Indianapolis and Fishers along with other members.

The most exciting thing of the month was the Governor of Indiana proclaiming July 18th, 2017 as Jane Austen Day in Indiana to recognize her legacy on the 200th anniversary of her passing. It certainly helps that Gov Holcomb loves Jane Austen! He told me that he loves the author when I chatted

with him back in January when I ran into him at a bar at lunch. I know right, me in a bar?!! There is a copy of the proclamation in this newsletter. Kudos to Jo Mader for writing up such a lovely tribute to Jane! The Proclamation will be displayed at the Indiana State Library during their Jane Austen exhibit until the end of September. More Austen events will continue into 2018 here in Indiana including Civil Theatre in Carmel presenting *Sense & Sensibility* in February. So you see that here in Indiana, Jane Austen is everywhere. I am beginning to think we might be able to consider her an honorary Hoosier! I know I do!



TOP: Jo Mader talking to fellow JASNA-IR member Kelly Maucere who is also owner of My Sugar Pie in Zionsville. BOTTOM: Mary Miller and Claire Bellanti.

TOP: April meeting at My Sugar Pie. MIDDLE: Members enjoying the Box Hill Picnic at Holliday Park at the June Meeting. BOTTOM: Another picture of the June picnic at Holliday Park.

Jane Austen Society UK Halifax Conference

by Heidi Green

IN JUNE, I had the good fortune to attend the week-long Jane Austen Society (JAS) UK Conference. It was *Transatlantic Perspectives on Jane Austen: 200 years of Persuasion*, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Joining me were fifty Janeites from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Conference, the third of its kind, was organized by Patrick Stokes, a leading member of the JAS of the UK, and direct descendant of Jane's brother Charles Austen. The week-long conference included daily lectures by Jane Austen experts. Balancing the morning lectures were afternoon or evening excursions to historic sites that would have been familiar to Jane's brothers, Charles and Frank, when they lived with their families in Halifax, assigned to the Royal Navy's North American Station.

All the speakers were excellent and it was a delight to get to know them personally throughout the week. Halifax local, Sarah Emsley, put together a wonderful tour of the sites that the Austen brothers and family

members frequented. John Mullen kept us laughing daily with his pointed wit and minute details from Jane's novels. Cheryl Kinney, an MD, had fascinating information to impart about early 19th century diseases and sanitation, while Peter Sabor outlined the Austen connections to the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States – particularly Charles Austen's role in capturing U.S. slave ships. But most interesting of all was Sheila Johnson's lecture on Fanny Austen, Charles Austen's wife. Sheila has a book coming out in October on Fanny's letters to her sister that describe her life in Halifax with Charles. Sheila convincingly shows how passages in *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasion* can be directly traced to Fanny's reported experiences as a naval wife. One such example that could have been taken straight from Fanny's letters is the following passage by *Persuasion's* Mrs. Croft:

...the only time that I ever fancied myself unwell, or had any ideas of danger, was the winter that I passed by myself at Deal, when the Admiral (Captain Croft then) was in the North Seas. I was in perpetual fright...

Fanny Austen recounts similar feelings in a letter to her sister while Charles was away from Halifax on a prolonged voyage. Jane undoubtedly used her brother's and sister-in-law's experiences in Halifax to add an

authentic voice into her novels about naval life.

For additional information and photos from our week in Nova Scotia with Jane's sailor brothers, see Sarah Emsley's excellent blog, <https://sarahemsley.com/austens-in-halifax/>



TOP: Our very own Heidi Green at the UK Halifax Conference in Canada.

BOTTOM: Admiral at Halifax Conference.

JASNA's Membership Year

The membership year begins September 1 and ends August 31, and all annual memberships renew in September. Members who join before June 1 are enrolled for the current year and receive the current year's edition of *Persuasions*. Members who join between June 1 and August 31 will be enrolled for the next full membership year that starts September 1. URL: www.jasna.org/join

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

AUGUST 13TH: Benton House, Meeting and Auction.

Sept 23rd: East Washington Library, Letter Writing-Regency Style.

OCT 6-8: Annual General Meeting of JASNA, Huntington Beach, CA.

Nov 11th: Barnes and Noble-Clearwater, 2018 Planning meeting.

Dec 3rd: Tina's Tea House Carmel, IN-Annual Birthday Christmas Tea.

REMINDER:

Don't forget that membership renewal is due in August!



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I announce that Governor Holcomb has proclaimed July 18th, 2017 as Jane Austen Day in Indiana to recognize the 200th anniversary of her passing and her legacy!! Kudos to Region Secretary Jo Mader for penning the proclamation with all the 'whereas' and 'therefore's'. I will be sharing this with our JASNA President Claire Bellanti and others!! Please plan to attend any Jane related events in your area!! If you want to share the proclamation at your event, please do so!! And don't forget to take pictures of any Austen events you attend or Austen displays you might see for a chance to win a 2 pound Jane Austen coin!

—Mary Miller, Regional Coordinator, JASNA IN

5 Questions from Claire Bellanti, President of the Jane Austen Society of North America



Q: When did you first read Austen?

A: I first read *Pride and Prejudice* in a College English Literature class. I liked it so much that I started re-reading every Christmas Holiday break. I did that for several years, and then finally discovered that there were more books to read by Jane Austen. Finally in 1987 I took a UCLA Extension Class – all Jane Austen, all the time! I read the six major novels and had a great professor, who gave us outstanding insights into Austen's writings. That faculty member had a flyer about the local JASNA Region and passed on the information to the class. I joined JASNA shortly after that and attended local meetings for several years. I started actively working for the Region in the early 1990's.

Q: What is your favorite Austen Book and why?

A: My favorite book is whichever one I am reading at the time. For many years, I would declare categorically that *Persuasion* was my favorite Austen novel. And there were times that *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* each were my favorites. With age has come some wisdom and flexibility, I am not nearly so definitive. I really do enjoy each and every novel so thoroughly that I cannot choose just one anymore.

Q: How long have you been a member of JASNA?

A: 30 Years – see my story above.

Q: What has been your favorite thing/event/experience as JASNA President??

A: Travelling to different Regions and meeting Janeites tops my list of enjoyable experiences. I feel such welcoming warmth and friendship from members in each Region that I am always eager for the next visit. It is also quite inspiring to see how Regions prepare for their meetings, and it makes me want to take these clever ideas back to my own regional meetings.

Q: What would you discuss with Jane Austen if you met her for tea?

A: If I could have tea with Jane Austen, I am afraid I would be tongue-tied with awe and choke on my tea. If I COULD get a word out, I would ask her about her brother George and her own time in boarding school as a child. George is one of the real mysteries surrounding the Austen family, and her time in boarding school would be interesting for period detail.

Jane is everywhere!

**Notable links provided
for you to enjoy:**

<https://www.press.jhu.edu/news/blog/heels-flats-ankle-straps-transitional-shoes-jane-austens-world>

<https://thegreenmockingbird.wordpress.com/2017/06/28/review-jane-of-austin-a-novel-of-sweet-tea-and-sensibility-by-hillary-manton-lodge/>

Historic Artcraft Movie: *Sense and Sensibility* coming Friday, November 3, 2017! For more details click the link below:

<http://www.historicartcrafttheatre.org/artcraft-theatre-events-june-2017---may-2018.html>
<http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2017-08-07/poldark-producers-to-adapt-pride-and-prejudice-for-itv>

<https://millennialhallmarker.wordpress.com/2017/05/18/hallmark-channel-the-art-of-us-author-teri-wilson-interview/>



Don't forget to check your e-mail for the latest edition of the JASNA-Indianapolis Region Newsletter,