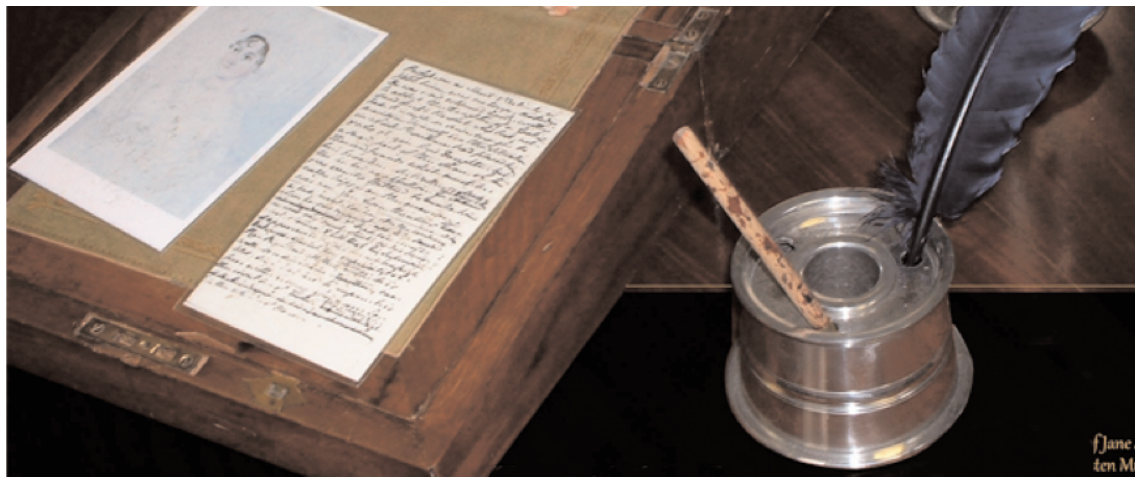


Jane Austen Society of North America

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Jacquie Carroll
Editor



The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel must be intolerably stupid.
—JANE AUSTEN

From the Desk of the Indiana Regional Director

Mary Miller

Can you believe its 2018? Where did 2017 go? I do know that Jane Austen is responsible for a huge amount of the money spent in 2017 by yours truly! Thankfully the 200th anniversary of her death only comes around once. There were so many events and so much merchandise available this year that I got carried away with my spending. I seriously doubt that any Region or state for that matter did as much to celebrate Jane's legacy as Indiana did! I have heard that nearly 90% of *all* public libraries in Indiana did something Jane related in 2017. The events began in early February 2017 and the celebrating went strong until her birthday on December 16th. I could not be more proud of our Indianapolis Region as well as Indiana.

Libraries were not the only venue for Jane in Indiana. The theme of the 2017 Indiana State fair was "The Wonderful World of Food." Jane Austen was featured as part of

the History of Food Exhibit at the Indiana State Fair which was sponsored by JP Morgan Chase Bank. I discovered it by chance on the opening day of the fair and was so excited that I squealed so much only dogs could hear me!

In the mid-August our regional meeting took place at the historic Benton House in Irvington. We discussed Regency mourning customs as apparently *every* region was required to discuss this topic in 2017! (See above my earlier comment about her thankfully only dying every 200 years!). Honestly if I never hear anything more hair jewelry for the deceased again, I will be a happy Janeite! During the meeting we held our annual Janeite auction where many fun items were bid on and we ended up raising \$300!

Our September meeting took place at one of the two surviving Carnegie libraries in Indianapolis.



The Jane Austen exhibition at the Indiana State Fair, 2017.

We explored and tried our hand at Regency writing complete with quills and ink! Even though it is messy and I clearly do not have the talent for it, we all had fun! It is somewhat miraculous to think that Jane wrote all of her novels using this cumbersome method!

October was AGM month! Heidi Green, Laura Elliott, Fran Willis and yours truly travelled to sunny Huntington Beach, California. I put my feet into the Pacific Ocean for the first time! We were all excited to remember Jane and all that her works have done since her passing!

I was happy to see my favorite Janeite and friend, Author and Professor of English, Department of English, Arizona State University Devoney Looser and her awesome husband George and their two teenage sons. Having raised two teenage boys myself, I shared some advice, "buy wine by the case-it is cheaper that way!"

I also had a lovely discussion with Walt Stillman, the director and screenwriter of *Love and Friendship*.

It was a welcome surprise when I learned that he spent some time at Indiana University. We talked about some of the current indie films as I had just seen *Victoria* and *Abdul* a few days before the AGM. The speakers were great and the shopping was excellent!

We visited The Huntington Library where I got the opportunity to flirt with President of the Library (who is British!) and see Jane's signature in a book that she had owned! It was a very good day! I returned home with recently released "Jane" money!

At the Christmas tea, I told the story on how I got 8 of the 2 pound coins. You Hoosier Janeites know just how ruthless I can be when I want something! On the 1st Friday in November, The Historic Artcraft Theatre in Franklin hosted a showing of *Sense and Sensibility* with a book discussion prior to the movie! Several of us attended! It was bitter sweet when the audience saw Alan Rickman's first appearance in the movie. It moved the crowd cheers and tears.

On Remembrance Day, a group of us gathered to plot out our 2018 calendar of events. 2018 is *Persuasion* year! This is my favorite of her novels. So get out your copy and reread it! Our Region year ended with our annual Jane Austen birthday tea at Tina's Traditional Tea Room in Carmel. Indianapolis Region members the tearoom filled with. It was a great pleasure to have my son Nicholas's girlfriend Cassandra Haynes as my guest. She stepped right in, managing our "fish" raffle, and assisting me with the money! Tina was amazed when Cassie figured out the final bill faster than the computer! Cassie excels at math! It may be difficult to top 2017 as a Region but we can certainly find out! Details on upcoming 2018 events are included in this newsletter so make note! And thank you again for the privilege to serve as your Regional Coordinator for Indiana—I am honored!

Photos from this busy year are below!



TOP LEFT: Attendees at the showing of *Sense and Sensibility* at The Historic Artcraft Theater in Franklin: Erin Weir, Kirsten Long, Mary Miller

TOP RIGHT: Indianapolis Region members at the 2017 AGM in Huntington Beach: Mary Miller, Laura Elliot, Fran Willis and Heidi Green.

BOTTOM: Auction items and writing with quills at the August IR-Region meeting.

5 Questions for Sondra Bowers



Sondra was the first treasurer of our Region. She is currently downsizing and moving from her lovely home in Carmel, which was the location of several meetings in the early years of our Region. She has given me several dozen books that I will be sharing with our members throughout the upcoming year!

Q: When did you first read Austen?

A: 1974, Colorado Springs, AGM, because Sue invited me (and others) to go with her.

Q: What is your favorite Austen book and why?

A: *Persuasion*. Capt. Wentworth has always been my favorite character.

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

A: 43 years (I think).

Q: As you have been to several AGM's, which one was your favorite and why?

A: I enjoyed almost all of them - perhaps Montreal since I got to see many new to me areas.

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

A: Her favorite female character (or her engagement).

More Scenes from 2017



TOP: Swag from the AGM.

BOTTOM: Jane Austen 2017 UK 2 pound Brilliant Uncirculated coin.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- 2/9: Ladies event for Civic Theatre, Carmel
- 2/11: Civic JASNA performance of *S & S*, Carmel
- 3/4—Tea at Maura Hutchinson's/*Persuasion* book discussion/20 people limit, Greenfield
- 4/20: *Bridget Jones' Diary* movie & book discussion in Franklin.
- 6/2—Box Hill Picnic. Place TBD.
- 7/13-15: Louisville Festival
- 8/18: Main Street Books. Lafayette.

- Persuasion* book discussion.
- 9/8: Tour of the Indiana State Library
- 9/27-30: AGM in Kansas City, MO
- 10/20: Crafts Day / Regency Home Ec at Fishers Library (tentative location).
- 11/10: Planning meeting, Northside IN
- 12/2: Christmas Tea at Tina's in Carmel

REMINDER:

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

The American Duchess Guide to 18th Century Dressmaking

How to Hand Sew Georgian Gowns and Wear Them with Style

A Book Review
by Lisa C. Whitaker

AS JANEITES many of us are perfectly content with studying and discussing all the literary aspects of Miss Austen's work. There always seems to be a treasure trove to delve into, with juicy nuggets of information about the text of her novels, of her letters, and of her life to discover – plenty to keep a scholarly heart and mind occupied for many years to come.

That said, there are many of us still who revel in exploring other aspects in Miss Austen's life as well: cooking, gardening, traveling, letter-writing, dancing, etc. But one of the aspects that many a Janeite loves to indulge in is the clothing,

shoes and accessories of the Georgian and Regency periods in which our beloved Jane lived. A new book by the founder of American Duchess, Lauren Stowell, and her costuming partner, Abby Cox, is just the reference guide an 18th century "cos-player" needs.

Actually, the garments created by these worthy seamstresses are more than mere costumes. Filled with period stitches and sewing techniques, the gowns are well-researched and as historically accurate as we 21st century sewers can make them. The book includes sewing instructions for four different styles of gowns: The English Gown (1740s); The Sacque Gown (1760s-1770s); The Italian Gown (1770s-1790s); and The Round Gown (1790s). Each section starts from the underpinnings and adds the various layers, all the way to caps, bonnets and other accessories, and includes patterns, fabric measurements and notions, etc.

Is it technical? Honestly, yes. As an intermediate sewer, I'm not ready to rush to the fabric store to fashion my next period creation for the upcoming JA Festival or an AGM quite yet. However, in pouring over

the gorgeous, instructive photographs and reading the engaging and encouraging text from these two expert seamstresses, I begin to believe a lovely Georgian gown is not completely out of my reach, if only I will take my time and follow their guidance. In the meantime, seeing how each "look" is assembled gives even a novice ideas of how to use ready-made items to pull together a costume that is perfectly appropriate for an Austen-style event.

I think the book will also appeal to the scholarly Janeite, as well, giving even the casual reader important references regarding the day-to-day trials an 18th century woman may have to endure as she wears stays, several layers of clothing, cap and bonnet each day.

Throughout all, the enthusiasm and attention to detail of Ms. Stowell and Ms. Cox makes this a worthy reference in any Janeite collection.

The American Duchess Guide to 18th Century Dressmaking:

How to Hand Sew Georgian Gowns and Wear Them with Style

Lauren Stowell & Abby Cox

Page Street Publishing Co.

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SENSE & SENSIBILITY at Civic Theatre In February, Civic Theatre is doing the play of Sense & Sensibility. We have a special JASNA showing on Sunday, February 11th for the 2pm matinee. There will be a discussion with the director/cast after the performance. And on Friday, February 9th, there is a special event prior to the 7pm performance that night called Sisters and Spirits. This is an additional cost but we will have a table to promote JASNA and I have some passes if you want to attend. Watch the Facebook group page and your email for details on tickets and such!

Jane is everywhere!
**Notable links provided
for you to enjoy:**

<http://austenvariations.com/jane-in-january-and-you-2-5/>

<https://sarahemsley.com/2018/01/19/miss-morland-do-but-look-at-my-horse-horses-john-thorpe-problem/>

<https://austenauthors.net/>

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

Scenes from Tina's Tea Room



TOP: Tina Jesson of Tina's Tradition Tearoom in Carmel pours the champagne for the annual toast to Jane Austen to celebrate her birth.

RIGHT: Tea luncheon at Tina's at our annual celebration of Jane Austen in December.

BOTTOM: December 2017 tea guests Cassie Haynes and Melissa Hook with the Civic Theatre.

