

# JASNA

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

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**Please join us at our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting,** for an informative talk by Jenifer Meynell, *Jane Austen and the English Class System*. Jenifer notes that: “It is impossible to write a novel of English life in which the class system does not play a major role. But class as it exists in England is virtually unique and it is especially difficult for people who have spent their entire lives in North America to appreciate its nuances and to take them seriously.” Jenifer will help us to understand the importance and impact of the English class system on Jane Austen’s world.

“Such enthusiasm,” said **Randie Lind**, the organizer of last meetings *Who do you read after you read Jane Austen?* “I was really impressed with the time and energy everyone put into his project. Too bad we didn’t have enough time for discussion too”. This vote of appreciation was shared by those in the audience. If you want to read some of the books presented for our discussion on January 15<sup>th</sup>, here’s the reading list:

Helene Tonnisen (presenter) Thrush Green - “Miss Read” Assorted Works of E.F. Benson  
Wendy Williams (presenter) Other Peoples’ Children - Joanna Trollope

Linda Payne (presenter) Some Tame Gazelle – Barbara Pym

Fran Birzins (presenter) Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage –  
Alice Munro

Elizabeth Marshall (presenter) Unless - Carol Shields

Jane Lowry (presenter) Cranford – Elizabeth Gaskell

Tom Barton (presenter) Assorted Works of Angela Thirkell

Margaret Crichton (presenter) A Patchwork Planet – Ann Tyler. Style and Substance: A Comedy of Manners – Judith Martin. North and South - Elizabeth Gaskell  
Bridget Jones’s Diary - Helen Fielding. Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason – Helen Fielding. Vanity Fair – William Thackeray

If you missed picking up the hand-outs about other recommended books, they will be on the front table at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## JASNA Library Listings

An up-dated list of our Calgary JASNA holdings will be available at our March 19th meeting. It has grown by half since it was inaugurated nearly three years ago, thanks to contributions by members. Please note, we are missing a few donor names – if you donated these books, please let us know so we can at your name to the list. **Thanks to Jennifer Hamblin for volunteering to take over the library.**

**A date to remember..... June 11, 2005:**

it's our annual all-day gathering, which will take the form of a workshop this year, on the theme "Getting to Know Jane Austen, her life and her work". The day will include a lecture and slide presentation by Juliet McMaster, University of Alberta, on her work in illustrating the Juvenilia

Press editions of the early works of Jane Austen and other authors, the screening of a video biography on Jane Austen, a panel discussion on "Jane Austen and the Opposite Sex" and the chance to compose a few letters between characters from the Austen novels which Jane herself did not include in the books, but might have! The session will be held from 9:30am to 4:00pm at the Cardel Homes Theatre, 6012 12 Street SE (east on 58 ave. and follow the road down the hill.

Turn right onto 11 St. SE, take 1st left onto 59 ave. Cardel Homes is at the end of the ave.). Tickets, which include lunch, a morning snack and an afternoon coffee break, are \$25, and are available at the March 19 meeting or from our treasurer, Sue Sulic, 685-5073, #302 1801 11 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T3C 0N7.  
See you there! Elizabeth Marshall

**“Wow!” said Judith.**

Take a look at this site from the British Library. It allows you to look page-by-page at some ancient books and manuscripts. One of them is a Jane Austen manuscript.

This is marvelous technology, but I forewarn you that you will have to install a downloaded software. I did it and have not suffered any ill consequences. Just follow the instructions and say no to the advertising. Also, I am not too sure how well this site works on slower speed modems, but I think the British Library has it set up well.

Copy and paste the following link into your web browser and enjoy!

**<http://www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation5.html>**

Judith Umbach

### **Birthday Celebration**

No one has volunteered yet to be the convener for our annual Birthday Tea in November. If you (or a group of you) would like to plan the Tea, please let call Linda Payne (252-0855). If no one offers, then we will be discussing alternative plans at our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Change your life with Jane Austen**

Pride and Prejudice wins Radio 4 poll of women's fiction

**Hadley Freeman. Thursday December 9, 2004 (An excerpt from...) The Guardian**

It is a truth universally acknowledged that the book women feel has most transformed their lives is the one that has assured them for the past two centuries that, yes, they will marry the wealthy, handsome man next door and live happily ever after.

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen's salty-tongued commentary on the plight of women in the 19th century, perhaps best known today for providing Colin Firth with the opportunity to pose in a wet shirt in front of many grateful viewers, has won the Women's Watershed Fiction poll, it was announced yesterday on Radio 4's Woman's Hour. Despite being specifically about women's lives 200 years ago, the relevance of Austen's classic has not diminished, according to the 14,000 voters who took part in the poll, 93% of whom were women. It is, according to the poll, the novel that "has spoken to you on a personal level; it may have changed the way you look at yourself, or simply made you happy to be a woman" The runners-up #2. To Kill a Mockingbird #3. Jane Eyre # 4. The Women's Room #5. The Handmaid's Tale

## **JASNA Edmonton Region**

### Upcoming Meetings;

March 26: "The Bath of Jane Austen and Persuasion: A City of Women Writers"  
By Isobel Grundy

April 23: "Insignificant Dwarfs and Scotch Giants: Height , Perception and Power  
In Jane Austen" by Mary Chan

May 28: "At Ease With Jane"- the GALA

June 25: Georgian Food Fayre

The March, April, and June meetings are held at The Edmonton Room, the Stanley A. Milner Library (the downtown library) in Edmonton.

The GALA in May will be held on the U of A campus.

GALA: "At Ease With Jane" May 28 U of A campus

Program (not finalized): presentation by an Edmonton academic (possibly Juliet McMaster), a session on Derbyshire, a group activity, an enhanced play-reading, and a multi-faceted session

To Register: send a cheque for \$30 payable to Calgary JASNA to Sue Sulic, #302,  
1801- 11 Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB, T3C 0N7

For further information: e-mail [bnarey@yahoo.com](mailto:bnarey@yahoo.com) (after March 22). As well, we will send you either an e-mail or regular mail when we receive the final program

### **Just a few reminders for the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

1. 2005 annual dues - \$15 (if not paid in January)
2. Register for May 28<sup>th</sup> Edmonton GALA - \$30
3. Register for June 11th Calgary Workshop - \$25
4. Return library books and mail

*There are some writers who write too much. There are others who write enough. There are yet others who wrote nothing like enough to satisfy their admirers, and Jane Austen is certainly one of these. There would be more genuine rejoicing at the discovery of a complete new novel by Jane Austen than any other literary discovery, short of a new major play by Shakespeare, that one can imagine.* -Margaret Drabble.

See you at our meeting on March 19 at 2pm Room A W.R.Castell Central Library

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