

My Dear Cassandra

"Jane Austen loved walking, and throughout most of her life she managed to walk about six miles a day. She wrote "The beauties of nature must for me be one of the joys of heaven." In her novels characters who walk are usually superior to those that ride.

The Friendly Jane Austen, by Natalie Tyler (page 122)

Don't forget

March Meeting Location

Just a reminder that the March 15 meeting will be held at the Sunalta Community Centre, 1627 10th Ave S.W., 2-4 pm. The building is wheelchair accessible and there is plenty of parking (some beside the building and more on 10th Ave). Several bus routes come within walking distance. If anyone has transportation concerns, please contact an executive member to arrange car-pooling.

There will be an opportunity during the coffee break to tour and assess the facility so we can make a decision at the end of the meeting about the location of future meetings.

Agenda items for March 15 meeting

- 2:00 pm - Welcome to visitors and new members
- Introduce speakers/program : Marg and Sue

Our program this time is a discussion on film adaptations of Pride and Prejudice, specifically the 1995 version with Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle, and the 2007 version with Keira Knightley. We will look particularly at the scene with Elizabeth, Darcy and the Bingleys at Netherfield Hall when Jane is upstairs with a chill. You might want to re-read this scene in the book in preparation!

Margaret and Susan will attempt to justify their choice of a favourite interpretation. If they can get beyond comparing the Mr.Darcys.

- 3:05 pm - Coffee break
- Opportunity to join or renew membership – see ---
- Have a look at things on table: parent JASNA membership forms, newsletter; Edmonton club newsletter; hard copies of JA survey
- Have a look around to evaluate comm. centre - discussion and vote after break
- Business meeting will start at 3:30 pm

- 3:30 pm – Business meeting
- Thank --- for coffee break goodies
- Reminder re Edmonton club gala – details: date, time, location, cost, registration procedure – no bus, do own carpooling – suggestions for accommodation, limit on numbers, etc.
- Notice about our May meeting – date, location, topic, speaker?
- Judith re website – vote for money to support
- Discussion and vote re changing meeting place to Sunalta Community Centre – pro: savings, parking, wheelchair accessible, access to kitchen, possibility of using bigger room for galas; con: bus routes? anyone need a ride?

Spring Gala in Edmonton

As you may recall, we decided not to have a spring gala this year so we will have a regular meeting in May and look forward to our next gala in the spring of 2009.

However, the Edmonton club is having a gala on May 24 and they have issued a very gracious invitation for our members to join them! The theme this year is “Austen’s Men” and they’re planning a delightful day. The event is being held on the University of Alberta campus in the Old Arts Building, with registration starting at 9 am and sessions running 10 am to 5 pm. The registration fee of \$40 will cover pre- and post-session snacks as well as a catered lunch. Numbers are restricted (the room can only hold about 51), but our Edmonton liaison, Sheila Dechant thinks they will be able to accommodate about 15 Calgary members. Early registration is advised, and registration forms and other details will be available at the March meeting.

Sheila mentioned that one of the sessions they are planning is on “Cads and Heroes”. They are looking for volunteers to give short speeches about their favourite characters (maximum 8 minutes). The format is flexible (participants can give a short talk, read a passage illustrating the essence of their character, give a short video presentation, etc) but they do need to know in advance who will be participating and what format they will be using. So give it some thought and contact Sheila directly if you’d like to take part. She can be reached at dslsheila@shaw.ca or 780-433-0008.

Assuming that a number of Calgary members will attend the gala, we’ve been looking into a few options for transportation to Edmonton. If 15+ people are interested in attending, we could hire a very comfortable highway bus and all go together. The one we’re looking at would cost approximately \$90.00 per person round trip (depending on numbers). This compares very favourably with going by Greyhound bus. The Greyhound fare is approximately \$100.00 round trip (or \$55.00, if booked at least two weeks in advance), but requires you to stay over Friday night in Edmonton if you want to attend the morning sessions on Saturday. Hiring our own bus would enable us to go and return all in one day because we could set the pick-up time early enough to allow us to be in Edmonton by 9:30 am for registration. But going this route would require a firm commitment from a sufficient number of people and payment in advance because we will

have to make a 50 % deposit right away to hold the booking and then pay the balance by April 24. Committing to the bus so far in advance and travelling all in one day may not appeal to everyone, so a third option, the most economical, is to carpool. Each group of 3-5 could choose whether or not to drive up to Edmonton on Friday or very early Saturday morning, and whether or not to drive back to Calgary Saturday evening or sometime on Sunday. Please give these options some thought and be prepared to give feed-back at the March meeting.

If you are planning to attend the Edmonton Gala on May 24 you may wish to see the first editions of Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility which are in the University of Alberta Library Special Collections. Just go to the Special Collections area and ask for the boxes.

If you are not planning to attend the March meeting but would like more information about the Edmonton gala, please contact Jennifer Hamblin at hamblinfamily@hotmail.com or 282-4065.

THE FASHIONABLE LADY

(The Regency Companion, by Sharon Lauder milk. Page 19)

A fashionable young miss of the Regency came to Town for the Season to meet her destiny. The frantic, expensive shopping and whirl of dressmaking were all aimed at making her tempting fare. The unfledged female was being groomed to contract an eligible alliance.

Her options as a woman were severely limited, and she needed to secure an offer from a desirable party. Young women of fashion had few other opportunities to make their way in the world. If they had money of their own, they could afford to spend years on the marriage mart, but if the fashionable chit was of a family in reduced circumstances or had no family and was without friends, a match with a gentleman of means was essential. Every authority considered women to be inferior to men in intelligence. The popular conception at the time was that marriage was woman's natural condition. And the Season was centered around opportunities for courtship and dalliance.

Georgian England was a man's world, though women were very much the center of the London social whirl. Whether they were refusing hopeful applicant's vouchers to Almack's, accepting a carte blanche from a pink of the ton, or spreading the latest on-dit over a high-stakes hazard game, a host of women of many types amused themselves heartily.

THE FASHIONABLE GENTLEMAN

(The Regency Companion, by Sharon Lauder milk. Page 49)

From the top of his head covered in short carefully tousled locks to the bottom of his glossy black boots (rumoured to be polished with a champagne-based concoction), the prototype Regency buck could make milady's heart throb with yearning. He should have broad enough shoulders to show his beautifully cut formfitting dress coat to the best advantage. If properly made, this cut-away jacket made by Meyer in Conduit Street (a

favorite of Prinny's), Weston, or Schweitzer and Davidson, took the aid of a valet or two in donning. For a man who desired a conservative military cut, Stultz who numbered Wellington among his clients would be the tailor of choice.

His waist should be slim as befits an athlete. A muscular thigh and calf would not go amiss with a young lady of discerning taste either. Skintight yellow pantaloons defined every bulge and lack thereof. Young men with spidershanks were known to pad out slender limbs with sawdust.

But beyond physical perfection and fashion sense our Regency beau should possess wit, audacity, and utter coolness. Nothing should rattle him. He should be awake on every suit, a Corinthian of courageous spirit ready to do his best. Coolness was all. It was the age where gentlemen wagered vast sums without the flicker of an eyelid. Estates were won and lost on the turn of a card.

Gaming was only one of the great vices that plagued the men of the age. Drunkenness was the other. Our Regency buck could well be a three-bottle man, but his imperturbable manner did not make him dangerous until he broached his fifth bottle.

May 17 Meeting

Stay tuned for details on this meeting. The Program Committee had originally planned that we would all be going to Edmonton, but as this proved impractical we will be meeting soon to plan the details for a Calgary May meeting.

Membership renewals

If you weren't able to renew your club membership at the tea in January, please take the opportunity to do so at the March meeting. Just \$15 for the year; payable by cash or cheque to JASNA Calgary.

Our Library

Don't forget to browse through the many books we have in our library. We have just over 80 books, a few videos and an audio CD. If you would like to do your browsing in the comfort of your home, just email me at ancraig@shaw.ca and I'll email you an annotated copy of our collection along with an alphabetical listings.

Also, should you develop an uncontrollable desire to donate a book, video, DVD or audio CD to our collection you will be thanked profusely and named as a library benefactor.