

Newsletter of the  
Jane Austen Society of North America  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada. March 20, 2010

## *My Dear Cassandra.....*

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“What calm lives they had, those people! No worries about the French Revolution, or the Napoleonic War’s - *Winston Churchill, on Jane Austen’s novels*  
(*Extract from ” Jane Austen” by Natalie Tyler*)

### **Welcome to our meeting . .**

Looking forward to seeing you all March 20, 2 pm at Sunalta for two talks - Catherine is going to give a talk on writing her Regency novels and Amy, from the U of A, is going to give her talk on The Bad Girls in Jane’s novels !

We also need to talk about the May 15 meeting ... neither Jennifer not I can actually be there unfortunately so we are looking for someone to step in and do some coordination. We have a plan! It’s the “Georgian Fayre” and is not a complicated thing - a little participation dance, some members giving a little talk on some of their areas of interest. Not a big deal like a gala - just something a little more social - no ticket sales - just a potpourri of what ever people feel like doing and, of course, tea and dessert. Please let me know if you would like to be involved and we can have a meeting if possible before hand or try to pull it together by email.... Committee stuff is fun - strong focus on having tea and scones either in someone’s home or at a nice tea shop...

Margaret Crichton

### **JASNA Calgary's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Jane Austen Birthday Tea**

*One cannot have too large a party. A large party secures its own amusement. (Emma)*  
Members and guests had a delightful afternoon celebrating Jane Austen’s 234th birthday at the annual Birthday Tea on January 16. The Georgian Spa theme was enhanced by a lovely fountain flowing with “spa water”, also used for the toast to Jane Austen. While we enjoyed delicious cheese scones and trifle, Emma Spooner told us about spas and spa culture during the Regency period. This was followed by an enlightening and very entertaining program on Regency music presented by Mount Royal Conservatory of Music professor Reid Spencer and his accompanist Bruce Petherick. Many thanks to Tea Coordinator, Leslie Gautschi, the Tea committee and all others who assisted in presenting

this wonderful event.

*It was a delightful visit; - perfect, in being much too short. (Emma)*

### **JASNA Summer Tour**

“Jane Austen: Seascapes and Landscapes” is the theme of this summer’s annual tour of Jane Austen sites in England sponsored by the Jane Austen Society of North America. The tour will run July 14-24, 2010 and includes visits to Portsmouth, Lyme Regis, Steventon, Winchester, Bath and many other sites significant in the lives of Jane Austen and family. For more information, please contact isa\_schaff@nobles.edu

### **News from the Edmonton Jane Austen Society**

On February 27, Jeanne Worton presented an interesting talk to the Edmonton Jane Austen Society on letter writing in Regency times. She covered the making of quill pens, the logistics and expense of writing letters and the development of the postal service. Members heard some of the letters from the novels and then split into groups to write some of the letters NOT found in the novels: to Charlotte from Mr Collins soon after their engagement; from Mrs Elton to her sister following her arrival in Highbury; from Lucy to Mrs Ferrars after her marriage to Robert; and from General Tilney to Frederick on his expectations of Frederick making a good marriage. Sheila Dechant, our Edmonton correspondent, assured us that, in true JASNA fashion, "A good time was had by all".

The next meeting of the Edmonton Jane Austen Society will be on March 27 when Isobel Grundy and Juliet McMaster will present a joint lecture entitled "New Faces and New Understandings".

### **Volunteers needed!**

It’s been more than two years and it’s time for a change! That’s right, Jennifer Hamblin and Margaret Crichton have been serving as Regional Coordinator and Program Coordinator of JASNA Calgary for two and a half years and they’re ready to step down and make way for new faces. So, we’re looking for one or two people to fill the position of Regional Coordinator as of May 2010. (This was the first time the job of Regional Coordinator was split in this way; in the past, the Regional Coordinator also served as head of the Program Committee. We can revert to this model or make the Program Coordinator a separate position again, it’s completely up to us.)

Both jobs are quite straight forward. The Regional Coordinator presides over general meetings and takes care of “housekeeping” duties such as answering inquiries, recording

brief minutes and assisting with newsletter items. The Program Coordinator works with the Program, Tea and Gala Committees to make sure everything is on track for fun and interesting bi-monthly membership meetings and successful annual events.

Please consider volunteering for one of these jobs (or both, if you'd like!). Speak to Jennifer or Margaret at the March meeting, or call them at 403-282-4065 (Jennifer) or 403-284-4649 (Margaret).

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*What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew*

Daniel Pool  
Book Review

Can't tell a vicar from a rector? Never knew what Hessian boots were? Confused about Bart., Esq., K.C.B., Duke, Earl, and Viscount?

Daniel Pool to the rescue! He has written an easily-followed reader's guide to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, copiously illustrated by quotes from well-read novels. The first part, about two-thirds of the whole, is arranged in loosely linked essays that explain things no longer in use. He sets us straight on currency, the actual and social calendars and measurements. He lists the intricate rules of precedence, how to address your betters, and basic etiquette. He briefly describes the rules of the various card games played in many novels. He helps us unravel the consequences of entail and bankruptcy which issues of great concern in the period. Throughout, we become aware of the great tide of change as communication, travel and society opened up during the century.

The second part of the book is a useful glossary, gleaned from the essay material, a quick reference when you are reading about vicars and want to recall their exact status. "A parish priest appointed to a living owned by someone else. As a consequence, the vicar shared the tithes with the owner..." To my dismay I learned from this book that Edward Ferrars did not have permanent employment at the end of *Sense and Sensibility* because he was only given the living while it was being held for someone else – all explained in this book. Finally, we are given an excellent bibliography for further research or simply assurance that Daniel Pool does know the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A link to more information is on the Reading page of [www.jasnacalgary.ca](http://www.jasnacalgary.ca).

Judith Umbach

MEMBERS' CORNER

If you have any news about our members that may be of interest to the club members  
please let Alicia Morgan know....403-241-0963

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**Jane Austen Calgary Contacts:**

Regional Coordinator : Jennifer Hamblin ~ 282-4065

Program Coordinator : Margaret Crichton ~ 284-4649

Dance Group: Sprigged Muslin – Randi Lind ~ 284-4059

Member' Corner : Alicia Morgan ~ 241-0963

Website: [www.jasnacalgary.ca](http://www.jasnacalgary.ca)

**Our next Meeting: May 15, 2010**

Meeting place: Sunalta Community Centre, 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and 16th St SW

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Change of address / email and any articles for this newsletter,  
please contact ..... Ann Craig [ancraig@shaw.ca](mailto:ancraig@shaw.ca)