



The Jane Austen Times



The Jane Austen Society of North America
Puget Sound Region

*Imagination is everything—
Miss Jane Austen.*

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Manchester Evening News
15/ 1/2009

A WOMAN was so smitten with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* that she borrowed costumes from the BBC production for her wedding.

Denise and Stuart Vaughan, from *Marple*, also posed for wedding photos at Lyme Park- the Disley setting for the TV adaptation of the book, starring Colin Firth as Mr Darcy and Jennifer Ehle as Elizabeth Bennett.

Music teacher, Denise, 45, said: "This was my second marriage and I had already done the white meringue dress. I am a bit of a thespian and a huge fan of period dramas.

"I know the book back to front and found out about this shop in London which rents out the costumes. The costume I wore was from the first ball scene, when Elizabeth Bennett first meets Mr Darcy. Stuart was okay with it all as he is a thespian as well.

"He sent me a text on the morning of the wedding to say 'Got outfit on - must love you!'

"It was like having my very own Mr Darcy."

Denise added: "We were on the way to our reception when we stopped on the side of the road and got a picture by a field of sheep with Lyme Park in the background.

"The image had featured on our original wedding invitations so we had to get a picture. The whole day was perfect."

Denise met Stuart, 50, four years ago when the pair played husband and wife in a production at *Marple's Carver Theatre*.

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<Manchester Evening News - Bride gets her Darcy.pdf>

NEXT MEETING:

April 19, 2009, 2PM
Redmond Library
15990 NE 85th
425-885-1861
See you there!!

Directions to Redmond Library:

From Highway 520, heading east:

Take the W. Lake Sammamish Parkway NE Exit. At the bottom of the Exit, turn left to go north on W. Lake Sammamish Parkway. (W. Lake Sammamish Parkway becomes 154th Avenue NE.) Proceed one mile to NE 85th and turn right at the light onto NE 85th. Go over the bridge, through one light and turn left into the Library parking lot.

Directions from Highway 405 (North or South):

Take exit 18 (Kirkland/Redmond) and go east on NE 85th (Redmond Way). This becomes NE 80th as it curves down into Redmond. Turn left at 160th NE, then left again at NE 85th. Library is 1st driveway on right.

April Meeting

Reminder: the meeting will be held on April 19 in order to not conflict with Easter.

At the meeting Chapter Member Mary Laney will speak on "I was tempted by a pretty coloured muslin: Jane and the Art of Being Fashionable". Using Jane Austen's letters and other writings, the speaker will show how ladies of the era followed and achieved the latest in fashion and style.

A Note on the June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on June 14th at the Greenwood Library (this is a change in the location). Directions to the library will be included in the next newsletter. Our speaker that day will be John Lange of John Michael Lange Fine Books.

Jane Sightings

From NPR Radio, WYSO, Yellow Springs, OH,
Rob Gifford reporting from London.

This line led off a report on NPR Radio about the snowfall in Britain this week:

"It is a truth universally acknowledged that.....an inch of snow will bring Britain grinding to a halt....."

--from the JASNA clipping service

from 2/9 & 16/2009 issue

Adam Gopnik's "Postscript" in "Talk of the Town"

"As well as any writer ever has, (John Updike) fulfilled Virginia Woolf's dictum that the writer's job is to get himself or herself expressed without impediments - to do so as Shakespeare and Jane Austen did, without hate or pause or protest or obvious special pleading or the thousand other ills that the embattled writer is heir to."

--submitted by Maureen Kremers

On February 15, New York Times opinion columnist Maureen Dowd opines:

"Still, the president should brush up on his Jane Austen. When Emma Woodhouse belittles Miss Bates, an older and poorer friend, at a picnic, Mr. Knightly pulls her aside to remonstrate. "How could you be so insolent in your wit?" he chides, reminding her that it is unfeeling to humble someone less fortunate in front of others who will be guided by the way she behaves.

That's how it works...not surprisingly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/opinion/15dowd.html>

--submitted by Connie Winkler

Book reviews

I recently read 2 biographies of interest, one old and one new. The older one, Presenting Miss Jane Austen, by May Lamberton Becker (New York, Dodd, Mead, c1952) was based solidly on the source material available at the time and obviously written with great affection for "our Jane". I was reminded of some aspects of Austen's family life I had forgotten. It was very readable as the text had a "young adult" feel to it. A recommended read.

The new biography was James Stanier Clarke, by Chris Viveash (Priv. print., 2006). Robert Southey referred to James Stanier Clarke as "a most extraordinary blockhead"; I'm sure Jane Austen would have agreed after her encounter with him. He was the Librarian to the Prince Regent and instrumental in securing the dedication of "Emma" to the future king. I was surprised to learn that Clarke had also had served as a naval chaplain and was co-editor of the Naval Chronicle. His

involvement with the "ton" brought out the worst in his character, unfortunately, creating a man often affected, capricious and absurd in his relations with others. I recommend this biography for those interested in Regency history. The details of Jane Austen's visit to Carleton House seem to owe a bit to the author's imagination, however.

--Elaine Weeks

Jane Austen's Bennet girls go zombie slaying

The 2005 film *Pride and Prejudice* takes a more traditional approach than the soon-to-be-published *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*

John Harlow

IT is a truth commercially acknowledged that Jane Austen's high-spirited heroines can be recast as Hollywood brats or Bollywood sirens, wittily navigating the eternal perils of class, romance and unworthy men.

Few challenges, however, are as unusual as the latest foe facing Elizabeth Bennet of *Pride and Prejudice* – a plague of the undead sent to reduce the picturesque villages of Longbourn and Meryton to smouldering ruins.

Hollywood studios are bidding to turn a radical reworking of Austen's most popular book, now called *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, a parody to be published in April, into a blockbuster movie.

Desperate for new ideas, studio chiefs hope "P&P&Z" will mark the bloody birth of a feral offspring of classic British literature: "monster-lit".

The idea of mixing different genres has spread from pop music, where old tunes are merged to make fresh hits, to the internet with fan homages such as *Lizzie the Vampire Slayer*, where Bennet is transported into the world of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

The forthcoming novel is the first mainstream "mash-up" of Austen and horror, two of the most popular film genres of the past decade. It has been made possible only because Austen is out of copyright.

This weekend Seth Grahame-Smith, the author of *P&P&Z* who is based in Los Angeles, revealed how he and an editor at Quirk Books, an independent publisher, developed a diagram tracing connections between seminal period novels to cult movie genres, including robots, vampires and aliens.

"It quickly became obvious that Jane [Austen] had laid down the blueprint for a zombie novel," said Grahame-Smith, a television comedy writer. "Why else in the original should a regiment arrive on Lizzie Bennet's doorstep when they should have been off fighting Napoleon? It was to protect the family from an invasion of brain-eaters, obviously."

From then on it was easy to imagine Bennet and her four sisters as zombie slayers, trained since childhood in the deadly arts of Chinese kung fu, and Fitzwilliam Darcy as a promoter of the socially superior ninja skills of Japan. Together they stand bonnet to epaulette against a plague of cannibalistic interlopers from the accursed city of London.

Grahame-Smith hopes that his talent agency, William Morris, will sign a film deal with a studio in the next few weeks.

"About 85% is the original Jane Austen text," he said. "I hated her when I was forced to read Austen in school, but when I started rereading I realised she was a brutal, but very funny, satirist. I can only aspire to be as mean-spirited as she could be."

Other talent agencies are pitching their own slate of monster-lit titles. They include a version of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, where Catherine, the deceased heroine, returns as a Japanese-style ghost not only to haunt but also to terrorise Heathcliff.

In a reworking of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, Mr Rochester has something more terrible than an insane spouse in his attic, and a version of George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* is powered by human sacrifice.

Claire Tomalin, author of *Jane Austen: A Life*, her bestselling biography, suspects the novelist would have appreciated the latest zombie twist.

"Many of her early stories written for her brothers were very violent," said Tomalin.

"She did have a strong sense of humour and also knew what publishers liked. As with Shakespeare or Mozart, you can mishmash what you like but the original remains. I am looking forward to reading this one."

Jane's suitor

THE identity of a mystery suitor who wooed Jane Austen during a holiday romance is to be revealed in a new book.

The suitor's existence is known from family letters but neither his name nor the town where he met her has ever been established.

The name of the Rev Samuel Blackall, a Cambridge academic, appears in Austen's letters. Now biographer Andrew Norman, a former GP, claims to have traced Blackall to a tryst with Austen in Totnes, Devon, in 1802.

From The Sunday Times
www.timesonline.co.uk
February 8, 2009

Jane Austen and . . . killer aliens?

Posted by [Moira Macdonald](#)

The well-mannered staff here at Popcorn & Prejudice (that would be, um, me) are raising a ladylike eyebrow at this news: "[Pride and Predator](#)," an upcoming movie that combines Jane Austen marriage drama and some thoroughly nasty aliens from outer space, resulting undoubtedly in some very bloody corsets. Elton John's production company is behind this, and filming will start in London later this year. And I simply must say, in an Austenesque tone of righteous yet impeccably polite indignation, that it all sounds . . . kind of hilarious, actually, if it's done right. I heard on NPR last week about an upcoming book called "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," so this seems to be a new trend. Perhaps I should rethink the name of my blog. Popcorn & Putrefaction, anyone?

From the Seattle Times blog

February 17, 2009 9:19 AM
--submitted by Charlene Kern

Upcoming Release: Prada & Prejudice

"If the shoe fits, wear it—and if you're in the mood for a frickin' awesome romance, this is *definitely* the shoe for you." – **Lauren Myracle, New York Times Bestselling Author of TTYL**

Pride and Prejudice meets *The Wizard of Oz* meets *The Princess Diaries* in this enchanting story of a young girl's journey back in time... With delicious romance around every corner, and tantalizing mysteries waiting to be uncovered, *Prada & Prejudice* will satisfy the sweet tooth of dreamy, young readers everywhere." - **Kristin Walker, author of A MATCH MADE IN HIGH SCHOOL, Coming from Razorbill in May 2009.**

"Based very loosely on *Pride and Prejudice*, this humorous teen time-travel romance is the perfect escape." - **Cyn Balog, author of FAIRY LUST, coming from Random House in June 2009.**

Coming June 11, 2009, to a bookstore near you!

- ISBN-10: 1595142606
- ISBN-13: 978-1595142603

--submitted by LeOta Berry

Jane Austen's Quilt

There are now two ways to recreate the patchwork cover that Jane Austen made with her sister and mother:

1. Follow the instructions published by JASNA members Karen Frederickson and Patricia Latkin in *Persuasions 13*:

http://jasna.org/persuasions/printed/number13/fredericks_on_latkin.htm

Karen, a civil engineer, studied pictures of the patchwork and created her own pattern, which she kindly shared with members.

2. Buy the pattern and instructions online from a quilter who undertook the project in the age of computers:

<http://lindafranz.com/product.php?productId=19>

From JASNA

A school of hard knocks called fiction

I have learned some dubious lessons from classic novels

Amy Jenkins

The Independent

Friday, 16 January 2009

Following the findings from scientists that novels teach us to be better people, here are 10 classic novels and the dubious lessons I have learned from them:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

I learned to desire the sulky brooding boy at school, the one who holds himself apart and looks down on you. I learned to dream that I might one day reform and win this Darcy type – even that this was in the natural order of things. This has caused me much grief. I'm afraid that the arrogant and unavailable man is not usually reformed. The arrogant and unavailable man doesn't ring you in the morning.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
See above. Ditto.

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

I learned that you have to be very very careful about exes. And there's nothing worse than a dead ex. Actually, there is – a living wet blanket. I aspired to be the dead and devilish Rebecca with her lovers and her perfect stationery rather than the wet weekend that was the new Mrs De Winter.

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert

From Madame Bovary I learnt to fear a stultifying marriage. I was cheering her on when she was going round Rouen having sex in the back of that carriage. I do admit, though, that she shouldn't have spent all her husband's money on soft furnishings.

Mary Poppins by P L Travers

The lesson here is that you should never be ashamed to call in a nanny. Couples can polarise, the father often takes up a rigid authoritarian position (see also another great story: The Sound of Music) and needs to be softened by the arrival of fun, laughter and music.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

From this I learned that I never, never wanted to be a Miss Havisham. Visions of the ancient jilted bride still in her rotting wedding dress still haunt me. If someone breaks your heart, then immediately have a haircut, go to the gym, lose weight. Move on, move on.

Winnie The Pooh by A A Milne

And likewise – better not be an Eeyore. Show me the honey.

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

From this I learned that even the most angelic-seeming man can be a monster of unreasonableness. Won't put out the rubbish, won't ask for directions when you're lost, won't contemplate sleeping with you if you're not a virgin. I also resolved never to slip important messages under doors. (See also Romeo and Juliet: make sure beloved is dead before you off yourself.) The real definition of tragedy is utterly pointless unhappiness.

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

One of my favourite novels ever, and from it I learnt to long for brittle glamour. Never mind that Gatsby is found shot and floating face down in his swimming pool. Fitzgerald set out to indict a world where the young Gatsby didn't marry the young Daisy because he couldn't afford her – but his glorious prose captures ephemeral glamour so magically that I yearned for nothing more than to be among those unhappy people whose voices were "full of money".

Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding

From this I learned that if I wanted money, there was a lot of it to be made in fiction for young women, otherwise known as Chick Lit.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/amy-jenkins-a-school-of-hard-knock...> 1/16/2009

*2nd Annual Jane Austen
Festival to take place July
18 & 19, 2009 at Historic
Locust Grove, Louisville,
KY*

The 2nd Annual Jane Austen Festival will take place July 18 & 19 at Historic Locust Grove, a circa 1790 National Historic Landmark in Louisville, KY.

This event is hosted by the Greater Louisville Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America. The festival will include Afternoon Tea; a Regency Emporium with lovely fabric, shawls, patterns, bonnets, jewelry and everything needed to create a Regency outfit; as well as antiquarian books; a Regency Style Show and you can have your shadow cut! Plans for a Grand Ball and Regency Promenade are being made for July 18th.

Guest speaker will be Margaret Sullivan, author of THE JANE AUSTEN HANDBOOK and editrix of Austenblog. Her talk is entitled "Five Things a Janeite Heroine (or Hero) Needs to Know."

Historic Locust Grove (www.locustgrove.org) is located six miles from downtown Louisville and sits on 55 parklike acres. There are many stone and log buildings on the property that will temporarily house the shoemaker (live demonstration), the Mantua-Maker & Daughter (seamstresses with Regency dresses for sale) and other delights.

Admission to the festival is \$6 which includes a tour of the circa 1790 Georgian House. Afternoon Tea (four courses) is \$25 (includes admission). Reservation required for tea.

For more information, contact Bonny Wise, Regional Coordinator at 812-923-7808, visit www.jasnalouisville.com or email wises4@insightbb.com. For anyone traveling to the area, advice gladly given about hotels, B&B's, etc.

2009 International Visitor Program

http://www.jasna.org/news_events/ivp.html

To foster the study and appreciation of Jane Austen, JASNA sponsors the International Visitor Program (IVP), with support generously provided by the Metropolitan New York Region of JASNA. The goals of the IVP are (1) to permit a JASNA member to work on a creative or scholarly project that requires study or travel in England and (2) to strengthen JASNA's ties with Austen-related institutions in Jane Austen's village, Chawton, Hampshire.

Candidates for the IVP **MUST** be members of JASNA. (Membership information is available through this [link](#).) Candidates need not be students or have academic careers. Members of any age may apply with the understanding that living conditions will be simple and may not be agreeable to anyone who cannot tolerate summer weather without air conditioning or walk at least a mile on uneven ground without assistance.

Requirements:

- The applicant **MUST** be a JASNA member at the time the application is submitted;
- The applicant's creative or scholarly project must be related to Jane Austen;
- The applicant must be able to spend four weeks in England near Chawton, Hampshire, in July or August; the stay must include July 18, 2009;
- While in England, the International Visitor will work at the Jane Austen House Museum (minimum of 7 hours per week) and the Chawton House Library (minimum of 7 hours per week) performing duties as assigned;
- The International Visitor will attend the Jane Austen Society's Annual General Meeting on July 18, 2009, on the grounds of the Chawton House Library and assist the Honorary Secretary of JAS with the meeting as requested.

JASNA's Sponsorship provides:

Funding totaling US\$3,000 to be used for:

- Round-trip air transportation to England from the continental USA or Canada,
- Housing (arranged by JASNA),
- Miscellaneous expenses.

For an Application Form for JASNA's IVP, please send your name, address, e-mail address (if any), and telephone number to Kerri Spennicchia at kspennic@ix.netcom.com.

All completed applications must be received by March 31, 2009. The IVP Committee will announce its decision on or before April 30, 2009.