



The Jane Austen Times



The Jane Austen Society of North America
Puget Sound Region

*Imagination is everything—
Miss Jane Austen.*

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“Emma” at Book-It Theater

As part of its 20th Anniversary Season, Book-It Repertory Theatre will be presenting “Emma” from October 20 through November 22, 2009. Chapter member Lisa Hager has generously offered to arrange a group outing. A block of tickets has been reserved for the 2:00 pm showing on Saturday, November 21. Group prices are \$22.50 for seniors (60 and over) and \$27 for other adults... any students who want to join us (!) will be \$10 or less...

Those members who wish to attend in Regency attire are welcome to do so.

If you wish to join this outing, please contact Lisa by Wednesday, October 21 and let her know ASAP how many tickets you'd like (if more than 30 are requested, we can add onto our numbers as space is available...)

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa directly.

Lisa Hager
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Last year the JASPS gave Book-It Theatre a \$500 donation to use towards costumes in their production of "Persuasion." This year, the Executive Board made the decision to once again promote a Jane Austen stage adaption, and gave \$500 to the Book-It Theatre towards their current production of "Emma." This year, the Board did not stipulate how the money was to be used, but left it up to the Theatre group's discretion.



NEXT MEETING:
October 18, 2 PM
Fred and Judith Fiedler
2430 76th Avenue SE Apt 533
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-232-8360

See you there!!

Please note this meeting will be held on the third Sunday due to the AGM. Also, there has been a change in location.

Aljoya Mercer Island
Judith and Fred Fiedler
2430 76th Avenue SE Apt 533
Mercer Island, WA 98040

206-232-8360

From I-90 going east, take exit 6 (West Mercer Way). Follow the signs and turn right onto West Mercer Way. Immediately turn left onto SE 24th Street and go approximately ½ mile east on 24th. Aljoya will be on the right side.

From I-90 going west, take exit 7 (Island Crest Way). Go straight onto Mercer Way. Turn left onto 76th Avenue SE. Turn right onto SE 24th Street.

The building is at the northwest corner of Mercer Island's Town Center. Metro bus routes 203 and 204 stop right at the corner of 76th and 24th on Mercer Island - or it's less than a 1/2 mile walk from the Mercer Island Park and Ride.

Guest parking is across the street.

The meeting will be held in the Conference Room.

October Meeting

'Come learn about the history of the tea ritual, from its start to the present, and my, how things have changed!! We will learn how to make a perfect "cuppa", what role tea had in Jane's life and books, and how many types of tea there truly are. Find out if you take your scone topsy-turvy, and solve the endless question of "pinky in or out"? The presentation on tea will be followed of course, with tea, so come prepared to take in the sights and taste of tea!!'

Book Reviews

The Darcy Family

From Chapter member Shirley Small:

When I was vacationing in Beaverton, Oregon I was lucky enough to find that a new Powells Book store has arrived. Found a book by Elizabeth Aston about the Darcy Family, which I really enjoyed.

www.elizabeth-aston.com tells about this author, her Mr. Darcy family books, etc. - all most interesting especially the question and answer section about her writing.

Mr. Darcy, Vampyre

From Amanda Grange:

Mr Darcy, Vampyre is out in the US on August 11! I've always wanted to write a sequel to Pride and Prejudice but I wanted to do something a little different to the usual storyline and so I came up with the idea of making Mr Darcy a vampyre! Part homage to the Gothics Jane Austen herself loved to read, part paranormal, part sequel, it's a mixture of horror, fantasy and romance.

Here are some early reviews from advanced reading copies:

"Mr. Darcy's reservations, temperament and apparent aloofness are explained in a most unusual way by Jane Austen guru Amanda Grange (see the diaries saga) as he hides what torments him from his beloved. Readers tour the content with the pair, but see Europe through Darcy's eyes that also enables the audience to learn more about him, past and present. Weird but entertaining." 5* - Harriet Klausner, Amazon's #1 reviewer

"Amanda Grange's story "Mr. Darcy, Vampyre" is truly and step back in time and you would almost think this is a natural progression from "Pride and Prejudice". Fascinating tale!" 4* - Grumpy Dan's blog

[SENSE AND SENSIBILITY AND SEA MONSTERS \(Book Review\)](#)

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 01:04 PM David McDonnell [Books](#)

[SENSE AND SENSIBILITY AND SEA MONSTERS](#) by Jane Austen and Ben H. Winters (Quirk Classics, tpb, 344 pp, \$12.95, out September 15)

This Jane Austen lady just MAY have a promising future as a genre writer. Her earlier volume, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES (co-written by Seth Grahame-Smith), was a Quirk bestseller and quite a fun read with its gaggle of young British women searching for husbands while battling rampaging zombies and (occasionally) ninjas in Regency England. Actually, I thought that book could have used MORE zombies. One scene expostulating about local farmers harvesting extra zombies for profit and the inevitable bounty hunters tracking down zombies to earn big bucks might have served as the entire premise of someone else's book.

However, this volume is a whole other kettle of fish (literally) as it subtracts zombies and ninjas from the Austenian formula, substituting rampaging marine life and (arghhh!) pirates. The result is even more of a delight, although the polite (and not so) conversations of young British women searching for hubbies can get a tad tedious if not laced with sufficient witty humor and nasty sea life. Tone down the talk, Jane! NOBODY wants to hear so much about husband hunters—well, except for English majors.

Although her previous venture was straight-out, belles-to-the-wells horror, SENSE is steeped in science fiction and fantasy. It's your basic SF plot: Husband/father dies compelling male heir (at urging of shrewish spouse) to send semi-impoverished Mama and sisters off to a cheaper clime, there to live within their means and pursue marriage proposals from the local eligible gentry. Oh—I've left out the sea serpents, death-lobsters, swordfish with bad attitude, the dread pirate Dreadbeard, killer tuna, deadly jellyfish and the heroic Colonel Brandon (part man, part fish, his otherwise handsome face framed by the affliction of ever-wriggling squid-like tentacles, as portrayed on the cover). Partway through the book, the young ladies (and the action) move to Sub-Marine Station Beta (an amusing nod to ICE STATION ZEBRA), a giant dome under which a colony of humans live breathlessly in the ocean depths. It's the kind of environ Irwin Allen might have constructed if he had the money (see CITY UNDER THE SEA, THE RETURN OF CAPTAIN NEMO, SEAQUEST), a nicely-imagined, Jules Vernian setting.

Freed from conventional fictions by her earlier success, Austen and co-writer Winters just keep getting more outrageous in a narrative that includes some unforgettable seagoing characters, an orangutan sidekick, one-woman submersibles and constant

sarcasm. You'll laugh, you'll sigh, you'll wish the young ladies would get married already. It's fishy fun!

Of course, this is the SECOND in Quirk's series of "literary mash-ups" envisioned by Quirk Editorial Director Jason Rekulak in which public domain classics (like the original PRIDE and SENSE by Austen, who died in 1817) are bionically enhanced by new, quirky, genre material added by younger (i.e. living) writers. Although this SENSE is, as I've said, more fun than the zombified PRIDE, I can foresee that diminishing returns will soon set in. Those two volumes are, after all, variations on the same joke.

Other publishers are already pouncing on this bestselling idea, with both further Austen works and more zombies. They've just issued MR. DARCY, VAMPYRE (a bloodsucker-laden PRIDE sequel), THE WAR OF THE WORLDS PLUS BLOOD, GUTS & ZOMBIES and ADVENTURES OF HUCK FINN & ZOMBIE JIM: MARK TWAIN'S CLASSIC WITH CRAZY ZOMBIE GOODNESS. Quirk, the originator of this trend, expects to do more, too. Austen only wrote five books, so even if they're all so employed (please NOT!), more out-of-copyright works by other authors will have to be re-drafted. Perhaps it's only a matter of time before we get Charles Dickens' OLIVER TWIST WITH WEREWOLVES, Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE & THE ALIENS and Herman Melville's immortal MOBY DICK, COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW. So, Oliver Twist-like, we ask for more, Quirk and competition, but please, sirs, NOT much more.

<http://fangoria.com/reviews/6-books/3695-sense-and-sensibility-and-sea-monsters-book-review.html>

--From JASNA

MANSFIELD PARK AND MUMMIES

From our RC, Julie Arnold. Just what you've been waiting for....

P & P & Zombies, S & S & Sea Monsters, coming soon will be Mansfield Park & Mummies!

Acquisition - MANSFIELD PARK AND MUMMIES by Jane Austen and Vera Nazarian

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Norilana Books has acquired **MANSFIELD PARK AND MUMMIES: Monster Mayhem, Matrimony, Ancient Curses, True Love, and Other Dire Delights**, a hilarious and witty

mashup parody of **Jane Austen's** classic novel in which Fanny Price must hold steadfast not only against the seductive charms of Henry Crawford but also an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh, while Edmund attempts Exorcisms, Miss Crawford vamps out, Aunt Norris channels her inner werewolf, the Mummy-mesmerized Lady Bertram collects Egyptian artifacts, and Mansfield Park is a battleground for the forces of Ancient Evil and Regency True Love.

Publisher and author **Vera Nazarian** will herself pen this novel for the [Curiosities](#) imprint.

The title is scheduled for a trade paperback release in **October, 2009**.

Here is an opening snippet - enjoy!

MANSFIELD PARK AND MUMMIES by Jane Austen and Vera Nazarian

Chapter I

About three thousand years ago, an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh, with infinite riches of his kingdom surrounding him, had the dubious luck to die, be embalmed, mummified and then sealed up in his great tomb among the sands of Lower Egypt, and to be thereby raised to the rank of eternity and, quite possibly, deity.

About thirty years ago Miss Maria Ward, of Huntingdon, with only seven thousand pounds and nary a kingdom or sand granule in sight, had the good luck to captivate Sir Thomas Bertram, of Mansfield Park, in the county of Northampton, and to be thereby raised to the rank of a baronet's lady, with all the comforts and consequences of an handsome house and large income.

With the former, all Egypt mourned. With the latter, all Huntingdon exclaimed on the greatness of the match, and her uncle, the lawyer, himself, allowed her to be at least three thousand pounds short of any equitable claim to it. The deceased Pharaoh had two royal siblings who immediately benefited from his elevation

While the venerable Pharaoh mummy continued to desiccate in secret splendor for thousands of years, far into the future, our Maria's one sister, Miss Ward, at the end of half a dozen years, found herself obliged to be attached to the Rev. Mr. Norris, a friend of her brother-in-law, with scarcely any private fortune, and the other, Miss Frances, fared yet worse. Miss Ward's match, indeed, when it came to the point, was not contemptible: Sir Thomas being happily able to give his friend an income in the living of Mansfield; and Mr. and Mrs. Norris began their career of conjugal felicity with very little less than a thousand a year. But Miss Frances married, in the common phrase, to disoblige her family, and by fixing on a lieutenant of marines, without education, fortune, or connexions, did it very thoroughly. Short of marrying the mummy of a deceased ancient Egyptian pharaoh, she could hardly have made a more untoward choice. But, speaking of mummies, dear Reader, we are getting somewhat ahead of ourselves --

Sir Thomas Bertram had every intention -- from a general wish of doing right, and a desire of respectability -- to gladly assist Lady Bertram's sister in her relative destitution. But her husband's profession was such as no interest could reach; and before he had time to devise any other method of assisting them, an absolute breach between the sisters had taken place. It was a breach of tremendous proportions, a crevasse, a grand canyon, or possibly, a pyramid of sorts -- a truly monstrous and rather angular coldness, or maybe a heat, but most likely a thing lukewarm and therefore utterly indifferent,

If Jane Austen had a laptop

By Joan Wickersham |
The Boston Globe
August 17, 2009

IT IS A TRUTH universally acknowledged that a bored and curious writer will occasionally plug her own name into the Amazon.com search engine. If Jane Austen were around, and decided to try this on a solitary afternoon, she might find the results excessively diverting.

She would be gratified to see that her books are robustly in print. Not only her six mature novels, but her juvenile work and the novel fragment she was working on at her death, are all available in multiple editions.

And what's this? "Customers with your search history have also bought"? She clicks the pointer. Perhaps she will be led to her few predecessors in the art of the novel: Fielding, Sterne, Mrs. Radcliffe (whose Gothic thrillers she parodied in her own "Northanger Abbey").

But no: here is something called "Mr. Darcy Takes a Wife." Oh, my. Does he ever. He takes his wife over and over and over, according to the customer reviews Jane reads as she scrolls down the page. Apparently this purported "Pride and Prejudice" sequel lets everything rip, especially bodices.

The reviews argue heatedly about how "Mr. Darcy Takes a Wife" stacks up against other "Pride and Prejudice" sequels. Oh, so there are others? Jane clicks "Search" again, and comes up with 276 items. Sequels, spin-offs, parodies.

Also DVDs. She downloads some. She watches Colin Firth's Mr. Darcy trying to cool his passion for Elizabeth by diving into a pond and emerging in a wet, clingy, see-through shirt. She watches Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen as Elizabeth and Darcy, kissing in their pajamas. She sees her characters wearing more modern attitudes, and fewer pieces of clothing.

She looks up from the computer and utters the Regency equivalent of "What the - ?"

Jane is not above a little sequelizing of her own. She feels the magnetic pull of her own characters and is reluctant to let them go. Soon after "Pride and Prejudice" was published she went to a London portrait exhibition hoping but failing, as she fancifully wrote to her sister, to find a portrait of Elizabeth Bennet. "I can only imagine that Mr Darcy prizes any picture of her too much to like it should be exposed to the public eye. And I can imagine too he would have that sort of feeling - that mixture of love, pride and delicacy."

Delicacy. This is something she values. She skewers characters who lack it: Mrs. Elton in "Emma," Sir Walter Elliot in "Persuasion," Mrs. Bennet, Lydia, and Lady Catherine in "Pride and Prejudice." And she tacitly praises - by awarding happy endings to - those who possess it. She is famous for discreetly averting her eyes just as her characters launch into marriage proposals, summarizing the exchange and only returning to outright dialogue once they're safely engaged and have moved on to the delicious business of comparing notes about who fell in love when.

There's no doubt that Jane's characters feel strongly. Nobody writes about love with the same acute compassion - the pain and shame of wanting someone whom you probably can't have, the wounded vanity when you're slighted, the blithering joy of learning that your feelings are returned.

But Jane's power as a writer is inseparable from her own tantalizing delicacy. She knows exactly what to leave to the imagination.

And we, with our culture of explicit candor, have a lot of trouble leaving it there. She makes us want more - and if she won't give it to us, then we'll just manufacture it for ourselves. We'll add our own smoldering dialogue and give Mr. Darcy great pecs. And, in the process, we're smashing the very thing that fascinates us most about Jane Austen: her reticence. In ostensibly doing homage, we are in fact doing violence to what makes her great.

Oh, well, thinks Jane, clicking her bemused way through Amazon's voluminous, panting "Mr. Darcy Community." Twenty-first-century America is a curious place.

Now, what's this? "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies"? She adds it to her shopping cart. She enjoys wicked parodies; perhaps this one will prove amusing.

And if nothing else, the sight of her reading it will provide sport for her neighbors.

Guest columnist Joan Wickersham is the author of "The Suicide Index," a 2008 National Book Award finalist. ■

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/17/if_jane_austen_had_a_laptop?mode=PF

Upcoming Book Releases

A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 33 Great Writers on Why We Read Jane Austen
Edited by Susannah Carson, foreword by Harold Bloom. Random, \$25 (288p) ISBN 978-1-4000-6805-0

Yale doctoral candidate Carson cobbles together previously published pieces of literary criticism by writers

like Eudora Welty and Lionel Trilling with essays, several newly composed, by contemporary writers like Anna Quindlen and Fay Weldon. *Pride and Prejudice* fan Somerset Maugham finds Emma a snob and Mansfield Park's Fanny and Edmund intolerable prigs. Virginia Woolf contemplates what books Austen might have written had she lived beyond 42, speculating that her satire would have been more severe, and Amy Heckerling describes how she transformed Emma into the teen romance film *Clueless* set in 1990s Beverly Hills. C.S. Lewis finds that Austen's hard core of morality is what makes good comedy possible, and in one of the most personal essays, Brian Southam tells how he searched out a volume of juvenilia at a Kentish farmhouse belonging to Austen's great-great-niece. Heckerling aside, dissections of very particular plot and character points in most essays make this volume more appropriate to students than lay readers. And while separately the pieces make many astute points about Austen's oeuvre, overall the volume feels disjointed. (Nov.)

From *Publisher's Weekly*, August 24, 2009 p. 51.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781400068050>

Jane Austen Sings the Blues

Edited by Nora Foster Stovel

Bruce Stovel championed Jane Austen studies and blues music with equal measures of expertise and passion. The outpouring of affection at the celebration of Bruce's life and at a subsequent musical tribute inspired the plan for a book that would celebrate Bruce as teacher, Austen scholar, and blues aficionado. *Jane Austen Sings the Blues* gathers essays by established Austen scholars (Margaret Drabble, Isobel Grundy, Juliet McMaster, and Peter Sabor) and some of Stovel's exemplary students, together with blues lyrics, poetry, and memoir. The companion CD features some of Bruce's favorite blues performers (Ann Rabson, Maurice John Vaughn, Graham Guest, and many others).

[University of Alberta Press](http://www.press.ualberta.ca/)

Paperback Edition:

Paperback book comes with a companion audio CD; Graham Guest and Grant Stovel, CD Producers

Notes

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