

**Sessions at the 2011 JASNA AGM on *Sense & Sensibility* at Fort Worth, Texas**  
**Elsbeth Flood**

1. **Plenary: Dr. Joan Klingel Ray – “*Sense & Sensibility* as Jane Austen’s Problem novel”**
  - readers have a problem with Edward not being sufficiently heroic and with Col. Brandon being too old and too dull for Marianne
  - Colonel Brandon is actually presented at Marianne and Willoughby’s estimation
  - Emma Thompson made Edward palatable by playing him as Hugh Grant’s “Hugh Grant” persona
2. **Mary Watson – Edward Ferrars: The Nexus of *Sense & Sensibility* (or In Defense of Edward Ferrars)**
  - Edward wasn’t so bad after all – he stood by Lucy, believing she loved him; he had too little self-confidence to think that Elinor loved him
3. **Louise West – JA A to Z (or JA for Dummies)**
  - very engaging talk by the curator of the Jane Austen House museum at Chawton
4. **Lauren E. Gilbert – Jane Austen’s Cavalier: Is Col. Brandon Her Most Romantic Hero?**
  - he falls in love with Marianne for her music
  - he is extremely honourable – goes to India, has adventures, reads poetry
  - he fights a duel!
  - the perfect romantic hero
5. **Plenary 2 – all-Canadian panel of Elaine Bander, Peter Sabor and Juliet McMaster – “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of S&S”**
  - Elaine (wearing a hot-pink “cowgirl” hat) discussed the “good” and the “bad” as ethical judgments versus the “ugly” as aesthetic judgments in S&S
  - Peter examined the “good, bad, and ugly” letters in the novel
  - Juliet discussed the novel’s duels: the actual duel fought by Willoughby and Colonel Brandon, and the duels of words fought by Elinor and Lucy. (Juliet demonstrated with her trusty smallsword, which she needed a special letter from the AGM organizers to get through U.S. customs!)

Acknowledgement to blog post by JASNA Syracuse Region Regional Coordinator A. Marie Sprayberry, and to Joan Reynolds for collecting and circulating all the material she could find on the interwebs:

<http://janeaustrysr.blogspot.com/2011/10/2011-agm-report.html>

5. **Emma Spooner – S&S and JA’s antecedents**
  - very brave to talk about Fanny Burney with Elaine Bander in the room
  - carried on admirably even though her mike gave out in the middle

**6. Carrie Bebris – Duelling**

- author of *Mr. & Mrs. Darcy* mystery series
- gave away a copy of one of her books to everyone who attended

**7. Plenary: Andrew Davies – Mr. Darcy’s Wet Shirt & Other Embarrassments: Some Pleasures and Pitfalls in Austen Adaptations**

- **Joan Reynolds spoke on this one**
- getting people out of their clothes: wet shirt
- Mr. Darcy’s letter – removing layers of clothing
- “hair & shoulders”
- baby scene in *Emma*

**8. Nora Stovel – Emma Thompson’s S&S**

- complemented AD’s run through his films, including his 2008 S&S (with seduction, duel, etc)
- video clips almost impossible to see