

# JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Vancouver Region

NEWSLETTER NO. 80

NOVEMBER 2002

## Snooker with Jane? - Eileen Sutherland.

Mordecai Richler's last book was *On Snooker*. In a review in the *Guardian Weekly* (Jan. 3-9, 2002), Donald Trelford describes the book: "He traces the history of snooker, recalls the game's giants and follows the British professional circuit for a season. If it seems odd for a serious novelist to be so emotionally engaged with a game – and he admits 'there are times when my obsession with time-wasting sports irritates the hell out of me' – he can cite others who have described contests on the green baize: Pushkin, Tolstoy, Jane Austen, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot and Conrad."

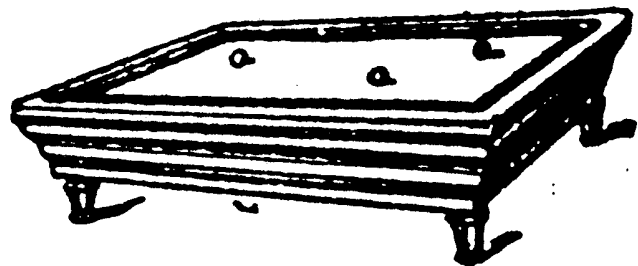
My first reaction was disbelief - how did Jane Austen get into that list? When did she ever write about snooker? But when the name is translated into "billiards" it all makes sense.

The game of billiards may have begun as early as the 1300s, and has been a popular indoor sport since the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In its earlier form, it was the sport of the English and French royalty. Public tables for more ordinary people were provided about the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century but the game was banned for a time in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century because it had acquired associations with gambling and a dissolute life. By Jane Austen's time, billiards was very popular among the gentry and aristocracy, with billiard rooms in almost every country house.

The early tables were made entirely of wood, later with an iron top. The now common fabric-covered slate top was introduced about 1826. Although ladies generally did not play, they could watch, and Jane Austen would have been familiar with the game from visits to her brother Edward Knight, and well-to-do neighbours. Her brothers would have played billiards, probably at Oxford, and certainly at the homes of their friends.

Mentioning billiards in her novels would have been describing a common entertainment among the people she wrote about. Of course, Jane Austen remained true to her decision not to write about men - their thoughts and their activities - when no women are with them. But we read of men going to and coming out of the billiard-room, talking about the billiard-room, complaining about the billiard-tables, and so on.

As we might expect, there is no mention of billiards in *Emma* or in *Persuasion*. Mr. Woodhouse wouldn't play, he much preferred sitting and talking to women around the fireside. Mr. Knightley was far too active and busy with his estate concerns, to waste his time on games; and



after his brother John left home, whom was he to play with? Now that the Coles have a piano, even if their daughters are still "little girls", their next step up the social ladder might be the purchase of a billiard-table, for their male guests, but they haven't done it yet.

In *Persuasion*, the characters are all away from their country houses, at Bath and Lyme. Since we read of Elizabeth "walking immediately after Lady Russell out of all the drawing-rooms and dining-rooms in the country," they must have entertained in their turn, but it was "a scanty neighbourhood", and I don't think of Sir Walter as being a sporty billiards player. The Musgroves were "in a state of alteration, perhaps of improvement", but evidently had not aspired to a billiard-room.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr. Bennet had no son to enjoy a game with him, and probably didn't bother to have a special billiard-room at Longbourn. Netherfield likely did not have one either, or Bingley and Darcy would have spent *some* time playing instead of idly chatting with the ladies. They may not have been very keen - at Rosings, indoor life was deprecated as consisting of "Lady Catherine, books and a billiard-table."

In *Sense and Sensibility*, Mr. Palmer complains about Sir John Middleton *not* having a billiard-table. Sir John preferred large groups of people with lots of noise and talk, and two men playing off in another room together, wouldn't appeal to him. In Mr. Palmer's own home, Elinor sums up his character: "he idled away the morning at billiards [with Colonel Brandon], which ought to have been devoted to business."

In *Northanger Abbey*, General Tilney, a military man with two grown sons, conscious of the need to entertain his neighbours adequately, had a billiard-room next to his own apartment, which he showed to a weary and uninterested Catherine.

In *Mansfield Park*, however the billiard-room comes into prominence. We are told that Tom, Henry Crawford and Yates, with Maria and Julia (probably watching), have been playing billiards; Tom comes in to Edmund and complains of the "horribly vile billiard-table . . . nothing shall ever tempt me to it again"; but he has found the billiard-room to be "the very room for a theatre," and can see no reason for not "using the billiard-room for the space of a week without playing billiards in it." Unfortunately for their plans, Sir Thomas arrives, was struck with "the removal of the book-case from before the billiard-room door," and heard astonishing sounds from the billiard-room (located, like General Tilney's, next to his own room). His disapproval, while adamant, is expressed with forbearance: "he inquired with mild gravity after the fate of the billiard-table," and "set the carpenter to work in pulling down what had so lately been put up in the billiard-room."

There is one occasion in the novels, however, where Jane Austen shows herself capable of joining the others on Richler's list, "describing contests on the green baize":

"I knew his face again today the moment he came into the billiard-room. One of the best players we have, by the bye; and we had a little touch together, though I was almost afraid of him at first: the odds were five to four against me; and, if I had not made one of the cleanest strokes that perhaps ever was made in this world - I took his ball exactly - but I could not make you understand it without a table;- however, I did beat him."

John Thorpe, of course, boasting as usual.

I don't feel that Jane Austen was very impressed by billiards players.

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"Where the reading of novels prevails as a habit, it occasions in time the entire destruction of the powers of the mind." S.T. Coleridge: Lectures on Shakespeare and Milton, 1808.

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### Book Reports: September Meeting - Rachele Oriente.

*Northanger Abbey*. Barbara Phillips didn't include *NA* in her talk about walking at the June meeting. To complement that talk, she presented three significant walks in that novel. In the first walk at Beechen Cliff, Henry Tilney emerges as a tutor of history, art and composition as well as an attractive man to Catherine Morland. In the second example in which General Tilney walks with Catherine, she attempts to understand him. He appears to be a gardener, a colonizer, and a consumer. In the third example, again with Catherine and Henry walking, Henry attempts to explain his father to Catherine.

*Great Books*, David Denby. Jacqueline Johnson noted that after a life of reading journals and magazines, New York movie critic David Denby decided to do some courses in literature at Columbia University, courses he had taken thirty years earlier. *Great Books* is a result of the two courses in Literature, Humanities, and Contemporary Civilization, as well as the author's experience as a mature student in an atmosphere of political correctness. One chapter is devoted to Jane Austen, but Jacqueline declined to tell us what the author says about Austen. Jacqueline found many of the chapters especially interesting though some were difficult. Includes an Index.

*How to be Canadian*, Will & Ian Ferguson; and *Why I Hate Canadians*, Will Ferguson. Murray Wanamaker began his comments by sharing a board game entitled *Pride and Prejudice*, published by Grove Press, an attractive game that, like the novel, mines the topics of marriage and society. In his discussion of two Canadian books, Murray noted that both books offer a plethora of entertaining items on male-female relations, sex, romanticism, mating rituals, reading - with hilarious comments on Harlequin Romances, maple sugar, and hockey. The authors ask: "Do we deserve a country as great as Canada?" A chapter on Canadian cuisine is summarized as "Canadian food will rot your teeth and make you fat." Murray enjoyed both books.

*Daughters of Britannia: The Lives and Times of Diplomatic Wives*, Katie Hickman. Sandy Lundy read an entertaining excerpt from the story of the life of a consul's wife in the Jane Austen era. This book is highly recommended by Sandy.

*The Sisters*, Mary S. Lovell. Laureen McMahon reviewed this biography of the famous and infamous Mitford family. The book draws upon the experiences and personalities of the parents, and six daughters, and one son. The Mitford family was not a prominent family but one that associated with its socially and artistically prominent and aristocratic contemporaries. Nancy Mitford, the most famous and the author of *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, and other books, was born in 1904. Deborah, the youngest child, was born in 1920. Laureen described a family that deprived its daughters of a corrupting public education, with a mother interested only in homeopathy, of multiple marriages, alliances with fascists, including personal visits with Hitler, attempted suicide, and the death of the son in World War I. The variety of experiences, the era, and the complexity of the characters provide the material for an engrossing account. Reviewers have drawn parallels between Nancy Mitford and Jane Austen.

*Regulated Hatred and Other Essays on Jane Austen*, D.W.Harding, and *Janeites - Austen Disciples and Devotees*, Deirdre Lynch, ed. Irene Howard spoke about two books which in a sense supplement one another in that both take up the idea of Janeites as a designated group of readers. *Regulated Hatred*, published in 1940, put Austen criticism on a new course, more discriminating in its approach to Jane Austen's irony. Lynch's selection of essays comes from more recent decades and leaves off with an essay by Claudia Johnson who says, "Harding's depiction of Austen as subversive was valuable to the next generation of academics, especially feminists." These two books provide a good way of reviewing Austen criticism past and present, and raise the question for us: Are we Janeites?

*In the Heart of the Sea: Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex*, N. Philbrick. Eric Foweather is always surprised at our skill in relating books, however tenuously, to Jane Austen. His book has a time relationship, that is, the same century. The *Essex* sailed from Nantucket, Massachusetts, a whaling centre in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to the Pacific, where it was destroyed by a whale. Three twenty-eight-foot whaling boats were launched before the *Essex* sank. The sinking of the *Essex* is said to be the origin of the novel *Moby Dick*. Eric described some of the incidents that befell the two boats that survived and eventually landed in South America. Eric read one brief excerpt and noted that the story is told so that the reader feels that he is one of the crew.

*Dom Casmurro (Lord Taciturn)*, de Assis, Machado. Pat McIntosh identified the author as Brazil's most eminent man of letters when the novel was first published in Paris in 1899. It is regarded as one of the greatest novels written in Portuguese, and the best-known novel in Brazil today. The novel explores the themes of marriage and adultery, love and its obstacles, deception and self-deception, and the failure of memory to make life's beginning fit neatly into its end.

*How the Heather Looks*, Joan Bodger. Jill Sims commented on a book which describes a family of literary scholars who went in search of the setting of *The Wind in the Willows*. Their travels revealed the true setting, which was not the Thames River.

"The company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company."

"You are mistaken . . . that is not good company, that is the best."

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### Westminster Bridge Then and Now.

Composed Upon Westminster Bridge  
September 3, 1802

Earth has not anything to show more fair:  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty:  
This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautifully steep  
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!  
The river glideth at his own sweet will:  
Dear God! The very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

(Written on the roof of a coach, on my way to France: William Wordsworth)

In early September, 2002, a group of poets gathered on London's Westminster Bridge to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the writing of Wordsworth's sonnet. Wreathed in exhaust fumes from screeching buses on what is now one of London's most clogged traffic routes, Paul Farley of the Wordsworth Trust was almost inaudible as he read the famous lines to the enthusiastic crowd. No doubt they appreciated the irony of the phrases "smokeless air," "a calm so deep" and "open unto the fields." This was Jane Austen's London, and this must have been how she, too, saw the magnificent city.

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## OCTOBER MEETING

Reports from the Toronto Conference:

**Eileen Sutherland** - Busy meeting: 1 keynote speaker, 4 plenary sessions, 37 break-outs (in six groups). Friday afternoon began with a short talk by Christopher Woodward, from the Holburne Museum at Bath. He mentioned that #4 Sydney Gardens - once the home of the Austens - had recently come on the market, and plans were underway to purchase the house, and restore and refurnish it to the way it had looked when they lived there. Application has been made for a Lotteries Grant, which would go towards the funding, but more will be needed. JASNA has been supporting the churches at Steventon and Chawton, but neither of these is presently in need of more funding. Taking part in the purchase and decoration of #4 Sydney Gardens would be a good project for JASNA., and is worth considering.

**Maggie Lane**, from England, was the keynote speaker. Her topic was the year 1802 - what was happening in England and Europe, and in Jane Austen's life at that time. It was a pivotal year: the Peace of Amiens brought an end to the long period of war with France. For Jane Austen herself, it was a year of upheaval: she was 27 years old - "on the shelf". This was the year of the mysterious lover (if he ever existed) who died, and the proposal from Harris Bigg-Wither, which she refused the next day. Jane Austen was not unhappy, but she was facing an uncongenial future.

My favourite of the plenary speakers was a local historian, **Dorothy Duncan**. Her theme was also 1802: she imagined Jane Austen on a sailing vessel arriving for a visit at the tiny settlement of York, where she would see a few small buildings of log or frame construction scattered along the shore. Duncan showed slides made from interesting old pictures (some of them had originally been drawn on birchbark), and read excerpts from the diaries of Elizabeth Simcoe, the Governor's wife, who came to York at this time. We were given a vivid sense of the active little settlement as Jane Austen might have seen it.

On Saturday, the historian **Kenneth Graham**, interested in the Gothic novel and 18<sup>th</sup> century orientalism, compared and contrasted two old abbeys in the novels: Donwell and Northanger. Knightley is chivalrous and faithful to his name; General Tilney is arrogant and his chivalry is perverted. Tilney humiliates Catherine, Knightley rescues Harriet. Northanger no longer looks like an abbey; Donwell can reconcile past and present. In both cases the landscape is admired, but only at Donwell is it patriotic - "English verdure, English culture, English comfort." Northanger Abbey seems to suspect Englishness, Emma embraces it.

**Steven Parissien**, an art historian, discussed George III and George IV as art patrons. George III collected contemporary paintings from all Europe, and founded the Royal Academy. He was a great patron of Handel, Bach and Mozart. His book collections later became one of the bases of the British Museum. George IV was lavish and ostentatious; he was considered a figure of fun, and an irresponsible spendthrift. But he had his virtues as well as his vices. His tastes ranged from the Neoclassical, to the Indian, Gothic and Chinese of Brighton Pavilion. He was probably the greatest royal collector - he had a good eye and took sage advice. He also had a good eye for talent, employing both Nash and Wyattville.

The last of the plenary speakers was **Elsa Solender**, who gave us a brief summary and criticism of each of the spate of films adapted from Jane Austen's novels. Her vigor and enthusiasm roused great acclaim. She ended: "Jane Austen's world is not constrained; she was a woman of her time and place, but today she is one of the most powerful writers in Hollywood."

**Ron Sutherland**. Breakout session: "And what if Mrs. Leigh-Perrot had been found guilty?" Pamela Whalan, Australia. Mrs. Leigh-Perrot's decision to defend herself in court was

very courageous - an adverse verdict could have meant a death sentence, or more likely, transportation to New South Wales. Under the Transportation Act of 1718, an average of 1,000 persons per year for over 60 years were transported to Maryland and Virginia. After 1776, the destination was changed to New South Wales. Some convicts were as young as 8 or 9. Most men were convicted of theft, most women for stealing linen. Political prisoners - Trade Unionists, Scots advocating political reform, those guilty of "un-Christian behaviour" - were also very common. Mrs. Leigh-Perrot would have arrived in summer, when it would be extremely hot: Australia's winter is warmer than England's summer. Mr. Leigh-Perrot, who planned to emigrate with his wife, was interested in botany, and would have known of the writings and drawings of Joseph Banks, a botanist with Capt. Cook.

Other break-out sessions attended: Miriam Hart: "Hardly an Innocent Diversion: Music in the Life and Writings of Jane Austen"; Walter Renaud: "Jane Austen's Picture of the Militia"; Margaret Banks: "The Monarchy and the Office of the Prime Minister in Jane Austen's Time"; Sheila Quigley: "Jane Austen, The Law and Women's Rights in 18<sup>th</sup> century England"; and Joan Ghariani: "Ireland in the Time of Jane Austen".

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### **Lords of Misrule: Types of the Bad Father in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*.**

Hilary Knight.

[The speaker received her MA from the University of Victoria. She is currently teaching there, first and second year composition and literature. She has specialized in Victorian literature, but is becoming increasingly interested in Jane Austen.]

Catherine Morland is the only Jane Austen heroine with a good father. Lieutenant Price is a dead loss - drunken and feckless. Sir Thomas Bertram is too indulgent to his indolent wife, and allows Mrs. Norris to interfere with his daughters, with disastrous results. Sir William Elliot's character is made up only of vanity; he values two of his daughters for the wrong reasons, and casts aside his worthy daughter Anne. In *Northanger Abbey* the normal environment leads Catherine to search for a gothic romantic life.

Fathers are supposed to be in control, especially of daughters. Hilary spoke of some of the other male characters in the novels, but concentrated on two fathers, Mr. Bennet and Mr. Woodhouse. Mr. Bennet has a delicious wit which we enjoy, but Mr. Woodhouse is most truly comic, original and human.

Hilary traced the roots of comedy to Roman and Greek traditions. Both had a symbolic figure, the Senex, an old man who stepped between and obstructed young lovers. It was a moral mandate of Classical satire to instruct with laughter. True comedy had a basis in tragedy, as we can see in Jane Austen. Because of Mr. Woodhouse's dependence on her, Emma could have been deprived of a husband, grow old and become like Miss Bates. In *P&P*, Lydia could have been disgraced and abandoned; Lizzie's fate, married to Mr. Collins, would be worse.

Mr. Bennet and Mr. Woodhouse live in an abnormal state of affairs, brought on by weak will and personal idiosyncrasies. The women in their lives were allowed to usurp male authority: Mrs. Bennet and her daughters, Lady Catherine, Mrs. Elton, the early Emma. Elizabeth and Emma must act as mothers to their irresponsible fathers. Both fathers are almost cases of arrested development: Mr. Woodhouse is practically infantile: he cossets himself, is preoccupied with his body, lives on gruel and soft boiled eggs; he enjoys ill health and its restrictions. He was incapable of imaginative leaps to understand his fellow creatures. But he was esteemed, genuinely beloved,

even Knightly and John Knightley liked and respected him - his neighbours probably did not expect adult behaviour from him. He had good manners, benevolence to those who were needy, and never forgot his duty to his neighbours.

Mr. Bennet's failure is one of moral imagination - he possesses good mental abilities, but does not use them in his relationship with his family. He was "a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice." Of the two bad fathers, Mr. Bennet had been the better influence on his daughter - she had learned what to avoid in a marriage partner.

Hilary's witty remarks and comic phrases lightened up the talk: "Mr. Bennet shuts himself up with his books, like a sulky little boy who won't come out to play;" "Mr. Woodhouse fears the breaking up of his family circle; Mr. Bennet would willingly see the last of a good part of his family;" "Neither man had luck in his marriage: Mrs. Woodhouse died, Mrs. Bennet didn't." Both belong to the landless gentry - they have nothing to do: balls, card parties, social visits fill an enervating life: "Good husbands are good husbandmen."

Hilary Knight showed clear-eyed insight into the men in the novels. She made us understand again the genius of Jane Austen.

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#### **JASNA ESSAY CONTEST.**

In the 2002 Jasna Essay Contest, more than 200 submissions were received from around the world. We are proud of the two Canadians who were winners:

High school - Alexandra N. Baird, of Toronto, won in this class for her essay on "Education in *Mansfield Park*".

Undergraduate - Janet E. Smalley, of Hamilton, Ontario, won this category for "Class in the Navy in *Persuasion*."

Congratulations to both these young women, and to all other winners.

#### **JASNA 2003 ESSAY CONTEST.**

The 2003 contest topic is "The importance of Home and Family in Jane Austen's Life and Works." There are three categories: High school (including interested advanced junior high school students); Full and part-time undergraduate students, and Full and part-time graduates.

Jargon-free writing, and fresh approaches to Austen's works are expected, in essays of 1200 to 2000 words. They should contain personal, original insight into Jane Austen's artistry, ideas and values, not primarily a research paper.

For further information, and an entry form, please write to Joan Klingel Ray, Department of English, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, P.O.Box 7150, 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO., 80933-7150, U.S.A.

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#### **Thank you, Barbara Peacock.**

One of Vancouver's original members, Barbara Peacock, has been living for a number of years in Comox. She still keeps in touch, however, and I enjoy hearing from her from time to time. Recently she sent a generous donation to the Vancouver group, and we sincerely thank her for her gift. We are thinking of you, Barbara, and wishing you well.

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## JASNA CANADA Business Meeting at the Toronto AGM - Keiko Parker.

The JASNA CANADA Business Meeting was held on October 12, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. with Elaine Bander from Montreal as chairperson. I will not take up valuable space in our Newsletter to mention all the announcements and issues discussed, but, among the more important items, I should mention that the Edmonton and Calgary Regions are getting together to hold a 2-day super-regional meeting in Calgary on June 5 and 6, 2003 (more details later). This should interest those members in Vancouver who are not going to England for the 2003 AGM.

JASNA President Joan Ray reported that JASNA, including the US, Canada, and other countries, lost between two and three hundred members due to death, aging, etc. This translates into about \$7,000 US, but we are still financially sound. Joan also explained that insurers don't want to take on non-profit organizations such as ours since 9/11, and, because of it, the cost of insurance has tripled. Joan also mentioned the trips she made to the London, Ont., Montreal, and Vancouver Regions.

I shall not attempt to interpret the Treasurer's Report, but the Membership Secretary, Nancy Stokes, reported that Canadian paid memberships stood at 414 as of July 31, 2002, slightly up from the 2001 figure. Most Canadian members live in B.C. and Ontario, but there are members in twelve Regions "from sea to sea to sea."

The status of the JASNA CANADA library was next discussed, and I believe the list of the contents of the library will be printed and distributed to each Region. Lending is free, and you only have to pay for the postage when you return the item.

As Regional Co-ordinator for Vancouver, I was next asked to speak about the possibility of holding the JASNA AGM in Vancouver in 2007. "A little bird" told me earlier in the morning that Vancouver was mentioned at the Board Meeting as a possibility. Since that moment my head has been full of concerns connected with running a huge event like the AGM, but I felt we should rise to the occasion, and it is about time the AGM came to Vancouver again as it did back in 1986, and we now have so many more new members. I sincerely hope that the Vancouver members will agree it is a good thing! Remember, you don't have to pay airfare or hotel bills, just the AGM fee. Of course we would have to work awfully hard, and start our preparations soon. I would like to remind each and every member of the Vancouver Region that this is your opportunity to shine in your special talents and fields of endeavour.

I did leave it as a "possibility" at the Business Meeting, but, with the members' blessing, I will be making an official proposal to the Board in the near future. I welcome any input from members, either at our monthly meeting, by telephone (604-299-4831), or by e-mail (keikoparker@aol.com).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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### Figures of Speech.

Jane Austen is not generally noted for her use of "figures of speech" in her works. In one case, however, she used three **oxymorons** on one page. Can you find where?

[Oxymoron: "The pointed conjunction of seemingly opposite expressions" e.g. Mrs. Price's "slow bustle".]

[Thanks to Lorraine Hanaway, former president of JASNA, for this challenge]

See answers page 9

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## An Innkeeper's Gastronomic Opulence.

"Bristol has now attained to so great wealth and prosperity as to provide inns of importance equal perhaps to any in the kingdom. A friend who sojourned there at the under-mentioned date hands me a printed document which he received from his landlord, Mr. John Weeks. It is so great a curiosity, as bespeaking the opulence of the ancient city and the spirit of its great innkeeper, that I cannot refrain from recording it.

### Bush Tavern

#### Bill of Fare for Christmas, 1800

1 bustard, red game, black game, 1 turtle (120 lb), 1 land tortoise  
 72 pots turtle [soup], vermicelli soup, British turtle, giblet soup, pease soup,  
 gravy soup, soup santé, soup bouillie, mutton broth, barley broth  
 3 turbot, 4 cods, 2 brill, 2 pipers, 12 dories, 2 haddocks, 14 rock-fish, 18 carp,  
 12 perch, 4 salmon, 12 plaice, 17 herrings, sprats, 122 eels, salt fish, 78 roach,  
 98 gudgeons, 1 dried salmon, crawfish, pickled salmon, sturgeon, pickled  
 oysters, oysters stewed and coloped, lobsters, 52 barrels Pyfleet & Colchester  
 oysters, Milford & Tenby oysters  
 1 haunch hevier venison [of a gelded deer], 5 haunches doe, 5 necks, 10 breasts,  
 10 shoulders  
 42 hares, 17 pheasants, 41 partridges, 87 wild ducks, 17 wild geese, 37 teal,  
 31 widgeon, 16 bald coots, 2 sea pheasants, 3 mews, 4 moorhens 2 water drabs,  
 7 curlews, 2 bitterns, 81 woodcocks, 149 snipes, 17 wild turkeys, 18 golden  
 plovers, 1 swan, 5 quists, 2 land rails, 13 galenas, 4 peahens, 1 peacock, 1 cockoo,  
 116 pigeons, 121 larks, 1 sea magpie, 127 stares, 208 small birds, 44 turkeys,  
 8 capons, 19 ducks, 10 geese, 2 owls, 61 chickens, 4 ducklings, potted partridges  
 11 rabbits, 3 pork griskins, 11 veal burrs [sweetbreads], 1 roasting pig, hogs'  
 puddings, ragout'd feet and ears, scotched collops [minced beef], veal cutlets,  
 haricot'd mutton, Maintenon chops, pork chops, mutton chops, rump steaks,  
 joint steaks, pinbone steaks, sausages, Hambro [Hamburg] sausages, tripe, cow  
 heels and knotlings [chitterlings], 5 house lambs  
 3 veal legs & loins, 2 breasts & shoulders, 2 heads  
 5 beef rumps, 3 sirloins, 5 rounds, 2 pieces of 5 ribs each, 7 pinbones, Dutch &  
 Hambro'd beef [hamburger]  
 8 mutton haunches, 8 legs, 8 necks, 11 loins, 6 saddles, 6 chines, 5 shoulders  
 4 pork legs, 4 loins, 4 chines, spare-ribs, half a porket  
 (Cold) 1 boar's head, 1 baron beef, 2 hams, 4 tongues, 6 chickens, hogs' feet &  
 ears, 7 collars brawn, 2 rounds beef, collared veal [rolled and tied], collared beef,  
 collared mutton, collared eels, collared pig's head, Dutch tongues, Bologna  
 sausages, Paraguay pies, French pies, mutton pies, pigeon pies, venison pasty,  
 sulks [a sort of pie?]  
 430 mince pies, 13 tarts, jellies, 4 pineapples.

Could our ancestors take a peep from their graves at this bill of fare, we may conceive what would be their astonishment at so great a variety and abundance of provision for travellers at a single inn." [ His descendants today would be even more amazed - E.S.]

- From: *The World of William Home*, John Wardroper, ed. (1997)

### Answers to Oxymorons:

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Northanger Abbey, p.67 (Ch. 9) -

"smiles of most exquisite misery", "the laughing eye of despondency", "the busy idleness of the morning". Needless to say, these phrases refer to Isabella Thorpe, and to Mrs. Allen.

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**Elections, 1795.**

"The Hustings was now raised immediately before the Kings Arms Tavern, in Palace Yard. At a window of the tavern appeared the Duke of Bedford, Fox, Lord Lauderdale, Lord Derby, Grey, Whitbread, Sturt &&. - We took our station immediately opposite the Hustings.- A little after 12 the Hustings being prepared, the Duke of Bedford & came upon it. Much hallooing & clapping on their appearance. The Duke was dressed in a Blue coat & Buff waistcoat with a round Hat. His Hair cropped and without powder. - Fox also cropped, & without powder, His Hair grisly grey.- Fox first came forward to speak, Sheridan on his right hand & Tierney on his left. The Duke of Bedford immediately behind him.- The Hustings was much crowded. Lord Hood was there, as was Lord Belgrave and many friends of [the] government.- After much acclamation Fox addressed the multitude stating the loss of the liberties of the people, if the [Sedition] Bill passed, and calling upon them to come forward and support a petition to the House of Commons against it.

While we were at Comyns [the picture restorer] a great noise in the street caused us to go to the Window, from whence we saw Fox in the middle of the Street with Sheridan on one hand, and Tierney on the other. [Tierney, who fought a bloodless duel with Pitt on Putney Heath.] The Duke of Bedford, & Grey, close behind; rolling along, I may say, among a crowd of low people, & blackguards, who filled the street, and huzza'd manfully.- The whole scene was such as when a drunken fellow is supported along, in the midst of an encouraging mob.

I came home to dinner pretty well tired with the exertion this day required: but well satisfied, from what I observed, of the appearance of the people, that their minds are not in a state to create an alarm for the publick peace, and that the Bill may be passed with safety."

- *The Farington Diary*, J. Grieg, ed. (1922)

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**Jane Austen in the Movies - Still More.**

Andrew Davies wrote a movie adaptation of *Northanger Abbey*, but the production company, Miramax, shelved his work. Now comes word that another English author, novelist Martin Amis, has been commissioned to write a screenplay for *Northanger Abbey* - as a romantic comedy for teenagers. In May the London *Telegraph* quoted Davies as saying, "I think Harvey [Weinstein, head of Miramax] wanted to drag it in the direction of a teen flick. The book does have the youngest of all Jane Austen's heroines, and with the Gothic horror element of the book I guess there was a temptation to think of teen movies like *Scream* and meld it all together. But I felt uncomfortable about moving too far away from the original book." Amis apparently has no such scruples.

**Gosford Park.** It took three English estates to fill the eponymous role in this popular movie, that of the country house in which the murder mystery/comedy of manners takes place. The façade is Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire, and the drawing rooms are in Wrotham Park, Middlesex. The bedrooms are in Syon House near London, which is open to the public, with gardens designed by Capability Brown.

From *The Wire*, Wisconsin.

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