

## JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

### VANCOUVER REGION NEWSLETTER No. 48 November 1994

#### THE SOUTH COAST OF TURKEY - Eileen Sutherland.

A 19th century simile for security was "safe as an Admiralty Chart." The man who made this aphorism credible was Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), "the greatest of British hydrographers." Part of our summer holiday last July was following in Beaufort's footsteps - or rather, sailing in his wake - along the southern coast of Turkey.

Beaufort was the younger son of an Irish cleric - a typical 18th century parson, well-educated, pious and conscientious in many ways, but leaving a curate in charge of his three parishes so he could concentrate on his other interests: architecture, astronomy, landscaping, topography and geography.

Francis Beaufort was determined from an early age to go to sea. He was educated first by his father, and then studied mathematics at a Marine and Military Academy in Dublin, and astronomy at the Trinity College Observatory. A career at sea depended to a large extent on influence, and Beaufort had none. In 1790, war with Spain was expected in a dispute over a small settlement at Nootka. Under these circumstances, Beaufort was able to obtain a position as midshipman in the British Navy. To his great disgust, Spain capitulated before war could be declared. But at last Beaufort's hopes were realized and Britain and France were at war.

For the next few years, Beaufort's experiences were similar to those of most navy officers - frustrating chases after French ships that got away, boring patrol duty off Channel ports, and a few exciting clashes with French squadrons. In 1796, just before his 22nd birthday, Beaufort was promoted to lieutenant.

One of the duty voyages of Beaufort's ship in 1797, was to carry Lord and Lady Elgin to Constantinople as ambassador to Turkey. The party, including Beaufort, went ashore at several places on the way, including the sites of Troy and Alexandria Troas. Beaufort was enchanted with his first sight of vast ruins of temples, palaces and theatres, which inspired an interest which was to last all his life. He did not know Latin or Greek, but he avidly collected and read all the Classical authors in translation which he could come by.

During a raid, Beaufort was badly wounded and returned to England. He was promoted to commander but for some years was unemployed at sea. (Among other activities at this time he helped his brother-in-law Richard Lovell Edgeworth to establish a line of telegraphs from Dublin to Galway). In 1805 Beaufort was again given a command, and served in various areas. It was at this time that he formulated the Beaufort Wind Scale, designating the force of the wind, from calm (0) to storm (13), correlated to the amount of sail carried by a full-rigged ship appropriate to the wind conditions. In 1811-12, as Post Captain of the Frederiksteen, Beaufort was assigned to survey the southern coast of Turkey.



Having obtained the necessary *Firman* (or passport) from the *Porte* [the seat of the Turkish Government], His Majesty's ship *Frederiksteen* sailed from Smyrna in July 1811, and shortly after reached the coast of Karamania. This is the beginning of Beaufort's account of two years' cruising, exploring and surveying along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Our arrival was by airplane, train and automobile, and we boarded our chartered "gulet", the typical little yacht of the coast, in July 1994.

Our voyage began at Antalya, which Beaufort described at length: *From this bay a chain of mountains extends along the shore to the northward. Their outline is extremely broken and picturesque, peak rising over peak in succession, as they recede from the shore...Adalia [the local name at the time] is beautifully situated round a small harbour; the streets appear to rise behind each other like the seats of a theatre; and on the level summit of the hill, the city is enclosed by a ditch, a double wall, and a series of square towers. He found, as we did, beautiful gardens, trees loaded with fruit, all vegetation exuberant.*

Our arrival in town was unheralded; Beaufort's was more ostentatious: the *Frederiksteen* anchored outside the harbour, and a boat arrived with the compliments of the governor. Beaufort sent a civil reply to the Bey, with the customary offer of saluting the fortress, in the assurance of an equal number of guns being returned. The Bey agreed but requested that not more than eleven guns be fired - Beaufort speculated that that was probably all he had.

Beaufort shows himself always conscious that he is a representative of Britain. Presents were exchanged: bullocks, goats, fowls and vegetables for a small cask of gunpowder, some dozens of ale and porter, and a few trifling articles of English manufacture; the cask and the baskets were ornamented with green, the sacred colour of the Turks; and were carried on poles, by ten of the most athletic and handsome men of our crew: small circumstances in themselves, but calculated to enhance the value of our little present, and to excite respect for a nation, of which we were the first individuals seen on these coasts.

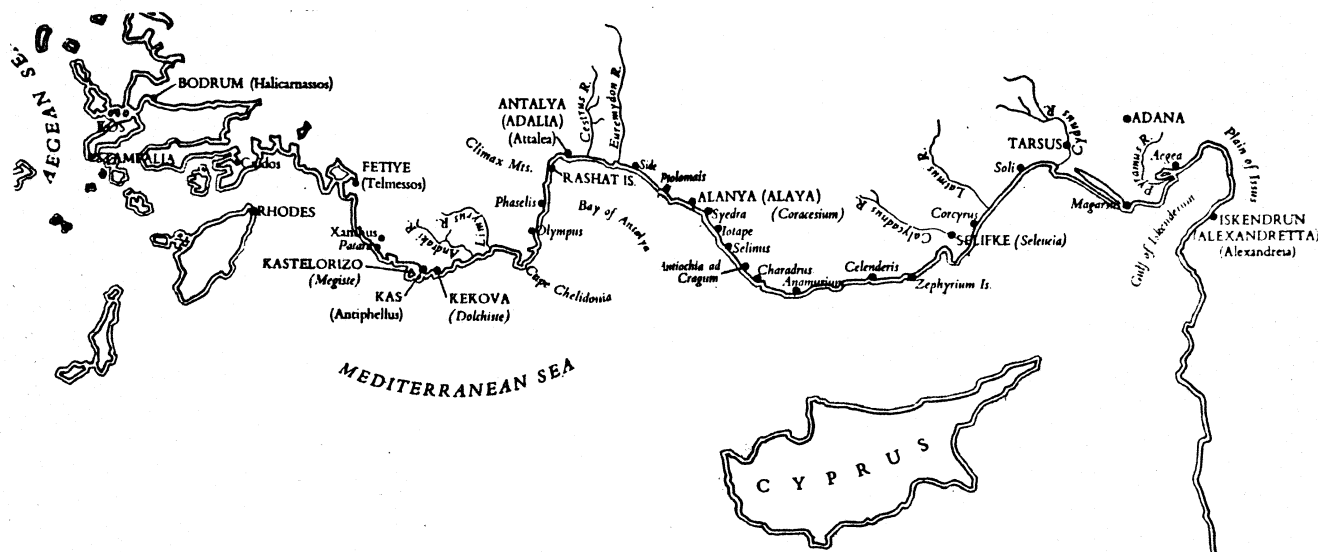
Part of Beaufort's duty, besides accurately surveying the coastline, was to search for good anchorages, sources of food supplies, and adequate water resources. In suitable places, men went ashore, felled and cut up timber for firewood, and stacked it to dry, ready to be loaded whenever the ship returned there.

He notes the town of Makry is situated on an excellent harbour at the bottom of a deep and safe gulf...timber, tar, cattle, and salt are exported to the island of Rhodes. Small vessels are therefore always found in this gulf; and frequent demand renders provisions cheap, and easy to be procured.

At Patera, he found the harbour, mentioned in Classical writings, a swamp, choked up with sand and bushes, and all communication with the sea is cut off by a straight beach, through which there is no opening. However, the area was worth visiting as meat, fruit, corn and vegetables all come from the [Mainland], which, though barren and devoid of culture in its external appearance, contains inland, it is said, many spacious and productive valleys. It requires some time, therefore, for a ship to procure a supply of provisions, and especially of live stock.

Beaufort found Kekava reduced to a small village, but he could recognize its potential: *Future events may possibly restore it to its former population and importance. Its numerous creeks and easy access will always render it a favourite resort of the small and timid coasters of the Levant; while its great extent, its bold shores, and the facility of defence, may hereafter point it out as an eligible place for the rendez-vous of a fleet. Both here and at Kastelorizo, the many detached islands and secure bays, would afford convenient situations for airing stores, for unloading prizes or transports, for stretching rigging, and for the various operations of a refit; and both these ports may be considered the more valuable as from hence to Syria there is but one land-locked harbour. But he notes the great disadvantage: This place has the serious defect of wanting a constant supply of fresh water; for the scorching heat of summer dries up all the rivulets. Good water was found in several of the reservoirs attached to the ruined houses, but a fleet could not trust to such precarious means.*

A few miles eastward, however, Beaufort came to the mouth of the Andraki, a small brackish river that washes the ruins of the antient and celebrated city of Myra [the birthplace of St. Nicholas]. In a very short time, the ship had completed her wooding and watering. The facility with which both these necessary operations can be effected, renders this bay a very convenient anchorage. Ships lie at no great distance from two rivers of excellent water; small trees, fit for firewood, grow on their banks; and the bar at the entrance of the eastern river is deep enough to allow the passage of loaded boats.



Beaufort describes the beautiful coastline vividly: *The scenery is very grand; white cliffs, that rise perpendicularly out of the sea to the height of 600 and 700 feet are contrasted with the dark pines which cap their summits; above them towers the majestic peak of Adrachan; and, in the distance, still loftier ranges of mountains, whose rugged tops are streaked with snow that never melts, exhibit every variation of outline and effect.*

In one anchorage Beaufort mentions the steep cliffs which screened the people [his crew], while eating their dinners, from the scorching rays of the sun - no trifling luxury, after the fatiguing operations of six hours with the thermometer at 90° in the shade. My little thermometer day after day registered between 90° and 100°, and every little bit of shade was very welcome.

Beaufort was fascinated with all the ruins he saw. He examined them thoroughly, sketched interesting features, and copied inscriptions. We visited many of the same ancient sites. Near Kas, at a fortified and manned castle, he comments on the cannons: *destructive only to those who might fire them.* We found it only ruined walls. At Genovese, a harbour used by Genoese traders in the Middle Ages, Beaufort saw deer among the ruins; we saw nothing more exotic than goats.

Olympus, the home of the Greek gods, is the name of several ancient religious sites in Asia Minor. One we visited along the south coast of Turkey was Olympos, the home of the Chimæra, the fire-breathing monster with the head of a lion and the tail of a dragon. We climbed up the bare rocky hillside and found jets of flame bursting from a dozen or so clefts and crevices of the rock. Beaufort mentions *a brilliant and perpetual flame, visible from far out to sea.* The explanation is probably a gas coming to the surface hot and under pressure, which flames when it contacts oxygen. Earthquakes through the centuries have closed some vents and opened others. Even with the modern explanation, it was an awe-inspiring sight, and in the past could have been terrifying.

Beaufort summed up his impressions of the people: *In the Turkish character there is a striking contrast of good and bad qualities; though insatiably avaricious, a Turk is always hospitable, and frequently generous; though to get, and that by any means, seems to be the first law of his nature, to give is not the last; the affluent Musselman freely*

*distributes his aspers [small coins]; the needy traveller is sure of receiving refreshment...on the public roads, numerous khans (inns or caravanserais), where gratuitous lodging is given, and fountains or cisterns, for the benefit of thirsty passengers and their cattle, have been constructed by individual munificence. We could only agree - everyone seemed friendly and helpful; in any business establishment, glasses of tea are served: we experienced this delightful custom not only in shops where we might be expected to buy something, but also while looking over an archæological site, visiting a museum, and resting under a tree in front of the police station.*

The end of this voyage for Beaufort was also the end of his sea-going career. For the next few years he recorded the results of his surveys (and wrote the book, Karamania, the story of his voyage). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the Royal Astronomical Society, was knighted, and was on terms of friendship with most of the renowned scientists of the day. In 1829 he accepted the post of Hydrographer of the Navy, directing surveys and preparing charts and sailing directions, and remained there until just before his death, in 1857.

One of the recognitions of his long and dedicated service connects Beaufort with Canada: the body of water that forms part of our northern coastline was named the Beaufort Sea in his honour in his lifetime. But I shall always connect his name with a lovely holiday on the southern coast of Turkey.

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#### NEW IN THE LIBRARY - Dianne Kerr.

Tyler, Anne: Saint Maybe. Donated by D.Kerr.

Jane Austen: Sir Charles Grandison. Transcribed and Edited by Brian Southam. The script is printed in readable form, followed by a "transcription" with emendations (some presumably made by other hands), but as nearly as possible like the original; and a few photographs of facsimile pages. Donated by D.Kerr.

Collins, Irene: Jane Austen and the Clergy. An excellent review of this, written by Mary Anderson, appeared in the August 1994 Newsletter. Some of the American regions have also acquired and favourably reviewed this book.

Said, Edward: Culture and Imperialism (Chapter 2 only: "Jane Austen and Empire", dealing with Mansfield Park).

Letter From Chicago, (Illinois/Indiana Newsletter) of April, 1994 - includes a framed insert entitled Congratulations Juliet, reading in part: Juliet McMaster has been awarded the prestigious Molson Prize. These awards are made by the Canada Council "to encourage Canadians of outstanding achievements in the field of ...etc."

TAPE of the interview between Joan Austen-Leigh and Peter Gzowski, played at the October meeting - donated by Dianne Kerr.

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#### NAMES AND TITLES AGAIN - D.Kerr.

A couple of further examples: In Austen's Sir Charles Grandison, Miss Charlotte Grandison, the sister of Sir Charles, not only refers to her brother as "Sir Charles" in front of their peers, but actually addresses him, her OWN brother, as "Sir Charles".

And in MP, Mrs. Norris protests to her OWN sister Lady Bertram: "[Fanny] Live with me, dear Lady Bertram! What do you mean,"

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"To quote Jane Austen out of context, it is a truth universally acknowledged that the medical profession will oppose any major health provision, whatever its objective". History Today, June 1994.

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BOOK REVIEWS - Murray Wanamaker.

Emma Tennant: Pemberley: A Sequel to Pride and Prejudice, (1993. 184 p.)

Julia Barrett (Julia Braun Kessler and Gabrielle Donnelly): Presumption (1993, 238 p.)

George Orwell wrote about "the extreme difficulty of seeing any literary merit in a book that seriously damages your deepest beliefs" [Inside the Whale]. If one believes that novelists finish books where they wish the stories to end, and that continuing the plot beyond that point makes for interesting speculation but not material for publication, especially when the original is the work of a first-class author, then one will have little use for either book being considered here.

Thus begins Pemberley: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a married man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a son and heir."

Except for a brief shooting foray at Darcy's estate in Yorkshire, glimpses of Mrs. Bennet's new home, and the domestic arrangements of the Bingleys and the Collinses, almost all the action takes place at Pemberley, Derbyshire. The Bingleys live in the neighboring county of Yorkshire. Mrs. Bennet, recently widowed, has left Longbourn (now the home of the Collinses) and lives with her two remaining girls in a smaller house, Meryton Lodge, bought for her by Darcy. Lady Catherine is still at Rosings with her unmarried daughter.

The plotting is thin and at times illogical. The chief event is a Christmas gathering at Pemberley, with stresses and strains, and the pressure on Lizzy of an ill-sorted group of guests - various Bennets, the Bingleys (and Mr. Bingley's sisters), the Wickhams, the Gardiners, Lady Catherine and daughter, the Collinses, various other friends and relatives, most of them more supportive of Mr. Darcy than of his wife.

Emma Tennant refers to this house party as a "bees' nest." Although she has an able housekeeper to supervise bed and board, Mrs. Darcy feels that she will be blamed for anything that goes amiss. The "Colonel" Kitchiner and the "French-woman" subplots are rather artificial and seemed tacked on to provide melodramatic diversions; the engagement of Mary Bennet is unexpected and abrupt. This is not a happy book. Although the ending is optimistic, it has overtones of deus ex machina. Basic themes include births: realized and expected; marriages: completed and proposed; deaths: none current, but shadows of departed family members, especially Mr. Bennet. There are also accidents and illnesses.



"Mrs Bennet and her two youngest girls". Illustration to *Pride and Prejudice* by Hugh Thompson for the George Allen edition of 1894

Characterization is stronger, but some characters are overdrawn. Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst are unnecessarily vindictive. Mrs. Bennet is more fatuous and gauche than ever; Lady Catherine more haughty and rude. They have become almost caricatures. The Wickhams continue to annoy and exploit others. Now with four children, they are sponging on relatives. Elizabeth/Lizzy/Eliza is presented as more unsure of herself; much given to introspection and self-analysis. She has problems adjusting to being mistress of Pemberley and to the facets of Darcy's personality. Nor do his relatives, including Georgiana, and friends make her task any easier. She has to please them and to help the members of her own family adjust to high society. In this connection her mother is beyond help. The importance of children is underscored by the introduction of a Master Thomas Roper (a misleading appellation since he is twenty years old), a distant cousin of Darcy, who will inherit Pemberley by entail if Elizabeth does not bear a male heir.

A sequel based on Pride and Prejudice should avoid plagiarism by advising the reader what words have been taken from Jane Austen. For example, P&P, Ch. 61:

*Georgiana had the highest opinion in the world of Elizabeth; though at first she often listened with astonishment bordering on alarm at her lively, sportive manner of talking to her brother. He who had always inspired in herself a respect which almost overcame her affection, she now saw the object of open pleasantry. Her mind received knowledge which had never before fallen in her way. By Elizabeth's instructions she began to comprehend that a woman may take liberties with her husband, which a brother will not always allow in a sister more than ten years younger than himself.*

Pemberley, p.31:

*His sister, Georgiana...had feared at first that Elizabeth's sportive nature might offend her brother. Certainly, she had learnt in the months since Elizabeth and Darcy had been together at Pemberley that there are liberties permitted to a wife that a sister more than ten years junior is not accorded... Darcy an object of open pleasantry! [Emphasis mine for both excerpts]*

According to the dust jacket, "The dangers of trying to follow a great British classic or of simple pastiche are here neatly sidestepped, and a novel of genuine originality is the result." This is a questionable blurb - Pemberley shows the dangers of trying to continue the characters and style of a classic, resulting in a patchwork of cumbersome semi-originality.

Thus begins Presumption: "If, as the prevailing wisdom has had it these many years, a young man in possession of a good fortune is always in want of a wife, then surely the reverse must prove true as well: any well-favored lady of means must incline, indeed yearn, to improve her situation by seeking a husband."

From advertising copy:

*Writing a sequel to Pride and Prejudice might indeed be considered a bit presumptuous. Even the authors of this tongue-in-cheekily named novel worried about its reception, especially among fans of you-know-who. "It's all very well to do Scarlett," one says (Julia Barrett is the pen name of a two-writer team), "but if you touch Jane Austen, you're in trouble."*

*Never fear, Presumption's wry sophistication prompted even the protective Jane Austen Society to exclaim, "such fun!"... Presumption is so captivating, says Booklist, that "one hopes for yet another sequel."*

Presumption is a richer and more interesting novel. There are added fictional characters and references to real people. The plot is more elaborate, the characterization more subtle, the setting more effective.

The master of Pemberley and his new wife are happily adjusting to their changed lives. As seen by Darcy, Elizabeth/Lizzy is exercising "intelligence," "wit," "playfulness," "dignity," and "serenity." That is not to say that she has no problems. Lady Catherine, losing control over Georgiana, compares her unfavorably with Anne, whom she characterizes as "demure, biddable, subdued." Another main line of action is the accusation of a crime against Aunt Philips by those of ill-will who wish to shame all the Bennets. Once again, Darcy comes to the rescue. Skillfully interwoven are several subplots dominated by the search for husband/wife among the unmarried, and the results of love affairs: three weddings, three births.



In this novel Mr. Bennet is still alive, though not much more lively than portrayed by Austen. Mrs. Bennet and Lady Catherine remain unchanged. More prominence is given to other characters from Pride and Prejudice (e.g., Georgiana Darcy, Anne de Bourgh). The social growth of Georgiana is emphasized, especially regarding male companions, as she draws closer to Elizabeth as a role model. Caroline Bingley ("heartless elegance") and Louisa Hurst ("cold composure") are vicious toward all the Bennets, especially the defenceless Kitty and Mary. Elizabeth and the happily married Jane are mutually supportive against all odds. The dastardly Wickham causes more trouble; nor is he the only unscrupulous adventurer. "Scoundrel" and "villain" are terms for other characters as well. The Collinses now live at Longbourn and have produced a young heir. Collins is as obsequious as ever, but he now has an independent curate who is not afraid to oppose Lady Catherine. Other important newcomers are Capt. Thomas Heywood, R.N. (second cousin of the de Bourghs) and James Leigh-Cooper (upcoming architect, employed by Darcy to improve the Pemberley estate). Sir Geoffrey Portland is a man of great influence. Neighbour and friend of Lady Catherine, he is at first affected by her dislike of Elizabeth. A childless widower, former close friend of Darcy's father, he is godfather and father-figure to Fitzwilliam and Georgiana. When the novel opens he has just returned from Antigua, and it is to his sugar plantation there that Wickham is finally exiled. (For further information on Antigua, see comments by E. Sutherland, Newsletter No. 36, November 1991, p.1-3).

In the large cast of characters are many real people: Capability Brown, who has improved Sir Geoffrey's property (see Ron Sutherland: "A Sample from Washington," Newsletter No. 32, November 1990, p.6), architect John Nash, Sir Joshua Reynolds, actor Edmund Kean, Alexander Pope, Thomas Gray, Cowper, Scott, Burns, Wordsworth, Byron. Some take part in the action; others are alluded to or quoted.

The settings of Presumption are impressive. Natural vistas, and exteriors and interiors of buildings are skillfully portrayed, helped by comments of architect Leigh-Cooper.

Of these two narratives, then, if one allows such sequels, Presumption, with its modest and ambiguous title, is the more clever and entertaining. A comment on the cover of this novel states that "Presumption proves by its very title to be a worthy pretender in continuing the story of Pride and Prejudice and the promise of the title is confirmed by the elegance of the language, the intricacy of the plot and the shrewdness of the wit."

I agree. But let the last word be that of C.S. Lewis, writing in 1916: "It is always very difficult of course to explain to another person the good points of a book he doesn't like." (He also points out that people may like, or dislike, the same book for different reasons.) Such remarks could apply to Pride and Prejudice itself as well as to any sequels or imitations.

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#### ECHOES OF EDWARD SAID AND THE OCTOBER MEETING

"The canon of Western Culture still needs to be read - but read within a newly available historical and cultural context, against both the oppositional and repressed voices of its own time (now being rediscovered in ever-increasing numbers) and the revisionist voices of present-day scholarship." (p.125)

Reaches of Empire: Suvendrini Perera (1991)

Raymond Williams has commented on the problem of representing colonial wealth in literature: "[Austen's] eye for a house, for timber, for the details of improvement, is quick, accurate, monetary. Yet money of other kinds, from the trading houses, from the colonial plantations, has no visual equivalent; it has to be converted to these signs of order to be recognised at all." (p.115)

The Country and the City: Raymond Williams (1973)

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ANOTHER CONTROVERSY - Dianne Kerr.

In the latest issue of our Journal Persuasions, Gene Koppel's article is about how he thinks Anne Tyler is like Austen. So I read Saint Maybe (his comparison novel).

But I couldn't recognize the similarity to Austen - and I couldn't even agree at all with Gene's explanation of the action in Saint Maybe.

Gene states that Danny is passionately in love with Lucy and pays for that passion by suiciding when he learns that she has been unfaithful. And everything follows from that. I do agree with Gene that that suicide is a focal point.

But it seemed to me that Danny's problem was that he was a failure as a "Bedloe"; he couldn't measure up to Bedloe standards the way that his siblings Ian and Claudia could, and THAT was the reality he couldn't face which drove him to suicide. Quite an important difference, because Danny's unrequited passion can't be Ian's fault.

All the Bedloes are strong and successful, prolific and popular; they have a history as teachers - "...Educators, Bea liked to call them." (Tyler).

Danny is a failure on all counts. Instead of finishing high school and going to college, he takes a job as a counter-clerk in a Post Office. (Gene states that Danny was the manager of the Office, but Tyler doesn't say that, and the evidence is to the contrary.) Claudia qualifies for college, but chooses instead to marry and start producing offspring at a fast pace. Ian is headed for college; and Ian is sought after by girls. Danny has girl-friends, but he "...was always getting dumped or sadly disillusioned...(and his mother was beginning to fret that he would turn out to be)...a seedy old bachelor." (Tyler).

Then Danny misinterprets Lucy's sending the bowling ball by first-class post. And when he finds that she will marry him, he promptly marries her - the second week after he has first laid eyes on her!

Now (as I interpreted the novel), Danny thinks that he has finally qualified as a member of the Bedloe family. He may not have managed in the brains department, but he has succeeded in the reproduction department; he has a ready-made family, with offspring of his own to boot.

Then Ian drops his bomb. And Danny has to accept the suspicion that has been nagging him all his life: he doesn't have the high I.Q. that all the other Bedloes have. He even failed at being a family man; he never for a moment suspected that he didn't father Daphne, while even his kid brother Ian knew it - not to mention parents, friends, and neighbours. Danny stands a stupid fool and a failure before everyone in his world.

So it seems to me that Danny's suicide was not caused simply by his passion, and Lucy's supposed infidelity, but was rather a function of his total despair. He couldn't achieve; and Bedloes achieve.

This is crucial to the meaning of the novel. Either Ian is really guilty, because he is so selfishly insensitive to what was going on in his own family; or else Danny was some sort of manic-depressive, and Ian simply hastened the occurrence of an event BOUND to occur eventually, in any case. If the latter is true, Ian certainly doesn't deserve the drastic penalty meted out to him. And it seemed to me that Ian's guilt or innocence matters to the meaning of the whole story.

As a reader I know that I experienced quite different emotions thinking of Ian as a sinner choosing to atone for his sin, than I would have experienced had I thought of him as nothing other than a contrived goat, a sort of sacrificial lamb, necessary to keep the plot going.

Is this difference of opinion between Gene and me generation gap problem? Is it a function of the fact that men and women think differently about things like sex and passion? (One half the world cannot understand the pleasures etc...). Do men agree with Gene? Do women agree with me? Is Tyler really like Austen?

How about some input? I have placed a copy of Tyler's Saint Maybe in our library.



LADY RUSSELL RIDES AGAIN - Esther Birney.

"He [Sir Walter Elliot] thought it [Anne's engagement to Captain Frederick Wentworth] a very degrading alliance and Lady Russell...received it as a most unfortunate one...It must be, if by any fair interference of friendship...from one who had almost a mother's lover and mother's rights, it would be prevented." (p.55)

"Lady Russell felt obliged to oppose her dear Anne's known wishes...and with regard to Anne's dislike of Bath, she considered it a prejudice and mistake...it was, in fact, a change which must do both health and spirits good...her spirits were not high. A larger society would improve them." (p.45)

"Lady Russell lamented her refusal; for Charles Musgrove was the eldest son of a man whose landed property and general importance, were second in the country only to Sir Walter's...she would have rejoiced to see her...so respectably removed from the partialities and injustices of her father's home...But in this case Anne had left nothing for advice to do; though Lady Russell as satisfied as ever with her own discretion never wished the past undone." (p.57)

Henrietta speaking: "I have always heard of Lady Russell as a woman of the greatest influence with everybody. I always look upon her as able to persuade a person to anything. I am afraid of her...quite afraid of her because she is so very clever." (p.124)

"Admiral Croft's manners were not quite of the tone to suit Lady Russell but they delighted Anne. His goodness of heart and simplicity of character were irresistible." (p.142)

"Her [Lady Russell's] satisfaction with Mr. Elliot outweighed all the plague of Mrs. Clay." (p.159)

"How to have this anxious business [getting to know the Dalrymples] set to rights and be admitted as cousins again...neither Lady Russell nor Mr. Elliot thought unimportant... Family connections were always worth preserving." (p.161)

"Lady Russell was now perfectly decided in her opinion of Mr. Elliot. She was much convinced of his meaning to gain Anne...as of his deserving her...she would venture on little more than hints...of the desirableness of the alliance...Anne heard her...she only smiled, blushed and gently shook her head." (p.171)

"I am not a matchmaker, as you well know," said Lady Russell..."I only mean if Mr. Elliot should some time hence pay his addresses to you and if you accept him, I think there would be every possibility of your being happy together..." "I think highly of him," said Anne, "but we should not suit." (p.171)

Lady Russell let that pass but continued to speak of Anne's taking her mother's place in the ancestral home - "it would give me more delight than is often felt at my time of life." (p.171)

"She [Lady Russell] could not imagine a man more exactly what he ought to be than Mr. Elliot, nor did she ever enjoy a sweeter feeling than the hope of seeing him receive the hand of her beloved Anne in Kellynch church in the course of the following autumn." (p.173)

"Anne could just acknowledge...a possibility of having been induced to marry him [Mr. Elliot] as made her shudder at the idea of the misery which must have followed. It was just possible that she might have been persuaded by Lady Russell." (p.216)

"She [Anne] must talk to Lady Russell, tell her, consult with her [about Mrs. Smith's revelations concerning Mr. Elliot]...and having done her best wait the event with as much composure as possible; and after all, her greatest want of composure would be in that quarter of the mind which could not be opened to Lady Russell, in that flow of anxieties and fears which must be all to herself." (p.218)

Surely Jane Austen intended Lady Russell to be  
one of the villains of PERSUASION!

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RE-READING JANE AUSTEN:

*Nothing on this earth could induce me not to read all Jane Austen's works. I love the thorns among her moss-roses. I love the sudden flash of steel from those delicate velvet paws. Jane Austen is probably the most exquisitely accomplished cat in the whole history of literature, and, just as probably, the only lovable one. For we cannot imagine this quality of 'cattishness' percolating into her private life, nor can we imagine her doing or saying anything mean.*

"Jane Austen and George Eliot", Edith Sitwell (The Vogue Bedside Book II, 1986). [Thanks to Eleanor Hill for discovering this]

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THOUGHTS ON WINTER

Dr. Johnson put it well: "To the men of study and imagination, the winter is generally the chief time of labour. Gloom and silence produce composure of the mind and concentration of ideas: and the privation of external pleasures naturally causes an effort to find entertainment within. This is the time in which those whom literature enables to find amusements for themselves have more than common convictions of their own happiness". [Quoted from Richard Ingrams: "A Week in the Country", Country Life, March 24, 1994].

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BOOK REVIEW - Jean Brown.

This is part of my summer 1994 reading:

The Feminist Companion to Literature in English, Virginia Blain, Isobel Grundy and Patricia Clements, eds. 1990.

A huge and worthy book, easy to delve into. One page pertaining to Jane Austen:

"... Jane Austen's decorous social comedies of country gentry deal with women's training for life and the role expected of them. Her ironic narrative subjects systems of authority to damaging scepticism; she celebrates intellect, feeling, and moral sense in her heroines and ridicules their absence in others... She adopts a conservative approach to accommodating women's aspirations to existing social structures. Walter Scott ranked her high, but Charlotte Bronte found her passionless, and Victorian women novelists...did not esteem her. Virginia Woolf recognized her stature..."

Bachelor Brothers' Bed and Breakfast, Bill Richardson

Richardson writes a column in The Vancouver Sun. Four members of the Jane Austen Society come each year to this fictional bed-and-breakfast establishment to re-read Emma - a charming, light summer read.

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*This Newsletter, the publication of the Vancouver Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America, comes out four times a year: February, May, August and November. All submissions on the subject of Jane Austen, her life, her works and her times, are welcome. Mail to the Editor: Eileen Sutherland, 4169 Lions Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 3S2. Price to non-members: \$4.00 per year.*