



# Jane Austen Society of North America

Vancouver Region

NEWSLETTER NO. 54

MAY 1996

## ST. GEORGE'S SHALL RISE AGAIN.

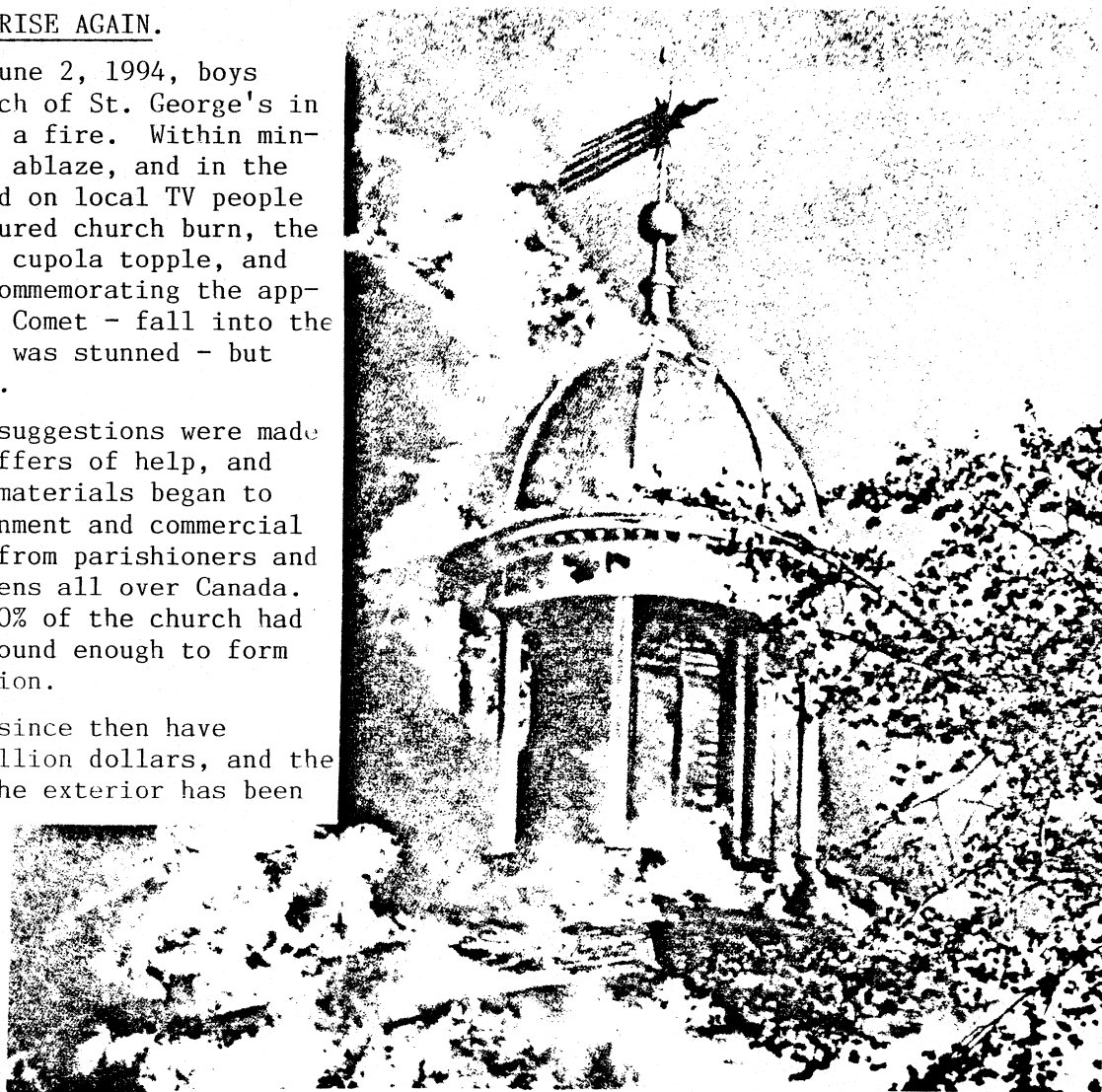
In the evening of June 2, 1994, boys broke into the church of St. George's in Halifax and started a fire. Within minutes the church was ablaze, and in the adjacent streets and on local TV people watched their treasured church burn, the walls collapse, the cupola topple, and the weathervane - commemorating the appearance of Halley's Comet - fall into the flames. The parish was stunned - but rallied immediately.

That very evening, suggestions were made for restoration. Offers of help, and gifts of money and materials began to pour in, from government and commercial organizations, and from parishioners and other private citizens all over Canada. It was found that 60% of the church had survived, and was sound enough to form a base for restoration.

Generous donations since then have totalled over 3½ million dollars, and the reconstruction of the exterior has been completed. It is now a weather-tight and perfect church exterior - there remains the interior.

The connection with Jane Austen?

By the end of the 18th century, the little log church, built in 1756, was too small for the growing population of Halifax, and a new church was planned. The Duke of Kent, one of the brothers of the Prince of Wales, and the commander of the British forces in Nova Scotia, had a vision of the little town of Halifax becoming an elegant centre of government. Under his influence the new church was designed on classical lines - a large drum with a smaller drum above it, and on top of that a gilded cupola - with simple harmonious proportions. But the great beauty was the interior: elegant pillars supporting a main balcony, and two more balconies soaring above, the upper one hidden by the curved ceiling of the dome.



With the Duke of Kent's personal interest, and a donation of £200 from King George III himself, St. George's Round Church was built in 1800.

In 1805, when his father died, Charles Austen was aboard HMS Indian at Halifax. It would seem almost certain that when he was ashore he worshipped in the lovely new St. George's - it was the church of the Navy. (At about the same time, Francis Austen, the other sailor brother, was in command of an expedition to the West Indies, but probably did not get to Nova Scotia at that time).

St. George's has been an active part of the community ever since that time. In 1990, the church was declared a National Historic Site, as the only 19th century round church in Canada. Its architectural and historic significance make it an important treasure, not just for Halifax, but for the whole of Canada.

If you would like to be a part of the restoration project of this beautiful and unique church, donations will be welcomed by:

St. George's Restoration,  
2222 Brunswick Street,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 2Z3.



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#### AND YET MORE "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

From the Knowledge Network Program Guide May/June 1996:

#### **Pride and Prejudice**

Five Sundays at 9 p.m. starting June 23

Jane Austen's novels have enjoyed a long history of film and television adaptations. **Emma**, **Persuasion**, **Northanger Abbey**, and **Sense and Sensibility** have all benefited or suffered, depending on your point of view, from film and television treatments. **Pride and Prejudice** has made the leap from the page to the screen at least three times.

The earliest is the 1940 version featuring Greer Garson as Elizabeth Bennet, Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane Bennet, and Laurence Olivier as Mr. Darcy. This one is still seen on late-night television and on the shelves of speciality video stores.

In 1995 millions of British viewers faithfully tuned in to watch a six-part BBC dramatization (shown in North America on A & E). The British

press managed to get a **Pride and Prejudice** angle on almost everything for the six weeks of the series. There was much talk of the authenticity of the period wallpaper, what would have happened to the Darcy family's wealth in the 19th century, and whether people still marry for money.

With all this talk of **Pride and Prejudice**, we decided to show a third, perhaps more faithful retelling of the story. Starting June 23, we offer a 1979 BBC production featuring Elizabeth Garvie in the lead role. This older production is a memorial to the BBC Classic Serials usually shown on Sunday afternoons in Britain. A "must see" for Austen aficionados.

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS who have recently joined the Vancouver group:

Freda Bailey, Stephen Challen, Agnes Law, Stacey Lobin, Marilyn J. Navarro Leiton, Joan Reynolds, Joyce Sjerpe, Linda Wilkes.

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## JANE AUSTEN AROUND THE WORLD, cont.

Joan Austen-Leigh sent the Russian beginning of Emma. For those of you who would like to read it for yourselves, she adds a note: "In Russian, only five letters, A K M O T, look and sound the same in English":



### КНИГА I

#### ГЛАВА I



Эмма Вудхаус, красавица, умница, богачка, счастливого нрава, наследница прекрасного имени, казалось, соединяла в себе завиднейшие дары земного существования и прожила на свете двадцать один год, почти не ведая горестей и невзгод.

Младшая из двух дочерей самого нежного потатчика-отца, она, когда сестра ее вышла замуж, с юных лет сделалась хозяйкою в его доме. Ее матушка умерла так давно, что оставила ей лишь неясную память о своих ласках; место ее заступила гувернантка, превосходная женщина, дарившая своих воспитанниц поистине материнскою любовью.

Шестнадцать лет прожила мисс Тейлор в доме мистера Вудхауса, более другом, нежели гувернанткой, горячо любя обеих дочерей, но в особенности Эмму. С нею у нее завязалась близость, какая чаще бывает у сестер. Мисс Тейлор, даже до того, как формально сложить с себя должность гувернантки, неспособна была по мягкости характера принуждать и обуздывать; от всякого намека на ее власть давно уже не осталось и следа, они жили вместе, как подруга с подругой, храня горячую обоюдную привязанность; Эмма делала, что ей вздумается, высоко ценя суждения мисс Тейлор, но руководствуясь преимущественно своими собственными.

Здесь, правду сказать, и таился изъян в положении Эммы; излишняя свобода поступать своевольно, склонность излишне лестно думать о себе — таково было зло, грозившее омрачить многие ее удовольствия. Покамест, впрочем, опасность была столь неприметна, что Эмма ни в коей мере не усматривала в этом ничего дурного.

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## CHINA'S CLAIM TO TAIWAN IS A MYTH

In an almost-full-page article in The Vancouver Sun of March 20, our remarkable linguist, René Goldman, proved that he not only can read Chinese (among the nine languages he is competent in), but he also can analyse, clearly and persuasively, the intricate political situation between that country and Taiwan.

Congratulations, René, for an excellent explanation of what is going on there.

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And Eileen Sutherland found some delightful Hugh Thomson illustrations in a German edition.

Mit einem Stück von Mrs. Westons Hochzeitskuchen in der Hand.

Avec chacun une tranche du gâteau de noces de Mrs. Weston.

Con in mano una fetta della torta nuziale di Mrs. Weston.  
With a slice of Mrs. Weston's wedding-cake in their hands.



...WITH A WINE GLASS, FULL OF SOMETHING, IN HER HAND (S&S).

[Recently I came across an old issue (Spring, 1976) of *Snaug*, a publication of the Vancouver Museums and Planetarium Association, which contained an interesting article, "The Splendour of Georgian Glass", written by Elizabeth Merrick, the History Cataloguer. The Museum had on display at that time seven drinking classes of the Georgian period in England. (*Snaug* was the name of the first known community that existed on the land now occupied by the Centennial Museum and Planetarium). Ed.]



The 18th century was a period of great extremes in living standards: of appalling poverty on one hand, and great wealth on the other. But drinking was a universal pastime indulged in to excess by rich and poor alike – the latter, no doubt to try to forget their hunger pangs. The poor still drank their brew from wood or horn cups or from cheap soda glass vessels. But those who could afford it preferred the fine lead crystal which had been first perfected by George Ravenscroft of the Savoy glasshouse in 1678, and was thereafter made in glasshouses throughout England.

Known as "flint glass", English glass was very much in demand all over Europe. The Lead content of this glass gave a combination of strength and clarity which made it not only practical to own, but also lent itself to the decorative techniques of cutting and engraving. Much English glass was exported to the Netherlands where it was then engraved by skillful Dutch artisans.

Fashions changed in the style of drinking glasses as much as in the fine porcelain which accompanied it on the dining tables of the landed gentry. Glasses may be dated by the changes in bowl, stem and foot formation. These were liable to the vagaries of fashion as much as any lady's dress style, or the cut of a gentleman's coat.

Some stylistic changes were dictated by necessity rather than whim. As glasses were sold by weight, it follows that with the introduction of the crippling glass Excise Acts, the first of which was introduced in 1745, the content of glass was considerably reduced in order to sell more cheaply. Stems became thinner and straighter, and the early 18th century "folded foot" was modified to a plain foot.

All seven glasses on view in the Museum date from the years after the introduction of the first glass tax. The early 18th century baluster stem with its swelling knob has now become a straight stem which is ornamented by various decorative techniques. A plain stem on a wine glass has a "tear" which is simply a drawn out air bubble. A cordial glass with a short bowl (no doubt the contents were very potent!) has a long stem with "air twist" decoration – again an economical use of spirals of imprisoned air instead of more glass. Another wine glass with an "incised" or "air twist" stem is beautifully engraved around the bowl with a deep floral border. Engraving was done with either a copper wheel or a diamond point and was much in favour for commemorative glasses which marked special occasions such as family celebrations, political events, battles and wishes of success to the sailing vessels of the period.

Opaque white twist stems which had long been made in Venice were also made in great quantity in England in this period. The twists were made by placing rods of opaque white (or coloured) glass upright in a circular mould. The clear molten glass was poured in and the resulting mass was drawn out to the required diameter and at the same time twisted with exact regularity. An astonishing variety of single, double and triple twists display the glassmaker's skill in working with rapidity on the molten glass.

Two ale glasses with conical bowls are ornamented with opaque twists. The bowls are small and hold no more than three ounces of liquor, which will surprise a modern beer drinker. However, this can be explained by the fact that Georgian ale was much stronger than our own today.

Ale glasses, mugs and tankards, toasting glasses and toastmaster glasses with a deceptively small bowl which kept the toastmaster sober, loving cups, posset cups, tumblers and wines were ordered by the dozens to grace the Georgian table as contemporary records show. Pyramids of glistening jellies, sweetmeats in towering epergnes and sparkling glasses with their contents of brown ale or mead, ruby port from Portugal, madeira from Spain and fine wines from Germany and France were illuminated by the light of flickering candles in crystal chandeliers and candlesticks. The glassmaker's art in an age of elegance is one of the finest reminders of the Georgian period in England.

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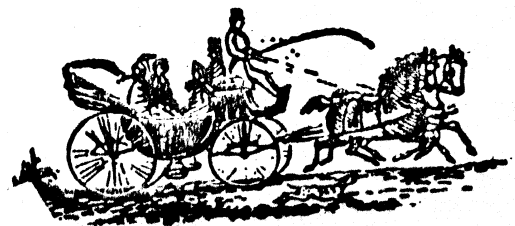
#### "YE FALLEN AVENUES"

*Repton, or any body of that sort, would certainly have the avenue at Sotherton down; the avenue that leads from the west front to the top of the hill. MP p.55.*

In the discussion on improvements, cutting down a long line of fine old trees was treated (except by Fanny) as a matter of course in order to conform to the latest fashion of landscaping. John Dashwood, also, casually mentions that "the old walnut trees are all come down" to make room for Fanny Dashwood's new greenhouse [S&S p.226]. For those who had the money and cared about being up-to-date, massive changes were made in many of the great country estates.

Now, some of them are being returned to their former "glory", and ancient avenues are being replanted. At Penshurst Place in Kent, a fifteen-year plan has been implemented to re-create the historic parkland there. Last November, a 700-yard-long double line of English oaks - 210 saplings - was planted. The old avenues usually formed routes from the house to entrances into the park and circuits around its boundaries. Picturesque sights, such as the tower of a nearby village church, were framed by the trees at the far end of the avenue. Research in old drawings, surveys and maps of the estate has been of use in determining the accuracy of the sites for the new trees, and it is hoped that the park landscape can be returned to its original form.

The result of the replanting at Penshurst, and similar projects at other estates in England, may make it possible for the owners to drive their guests all around the park: *a low phaeton, with a nice little pair of ponies, would be the very thing.* [P&P p.325].



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*Books carry an inward dialogue with oneself and with them which no other form can replace. Books can be constantly reread...A book can always accompany you, it will grow with you, it will change with you. It is surely the indispensable companion.*

George Steiner (TLS Jan.12,1996)

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## ANOTHER VIEW OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

[Laid up with 'flu, and too weak to change channels, this Non-Janeite "suffered through" the recent BBC Pride and Prejudice. Here are excerpts from a letter to her JASNA friend, also named Jane].

Dearest Sweet Jane,

Please, please help me dear friend. I fear I shall be quite ill until at least Michaelmas unless I have another "Pride and Prejudice" fix!!!! I find myself lurking in the reference corners of dusty old libraries furtively consulting Debetts and Burkes as I feverishly search for my very own "Mr. Collins". Who in [this town] would rate as a patron worthy enough to suck up to so that I too might be described as being obsequious and unctuous!!!! Dear, dear Jane, my problems seem insurmountable.

Next will be the selection of a carriage to drive me about the shires as I pursue my totally meaningless life totally absorbing myself in visiting friends equal to me in importance/wealth, etc. Unfortunately dear dear Jane, the steed pulling my very proper carriage will have to be a cob as one as plump as I shall need a sturdy horse. We are not all so trim and fit at 55 as you are, dear Jane!

So much to learn about this society that my head does spin with barely contained excitement. I am presently studying whist, loo, commerce & speculation. I am feeling an uncontrollable urge to hunt, fish and buy large guns. Arranging menus for my upcoming ball is becoming impossible as I mull over the endless possibilities of sweet breads au jus, roast saddle of mutton, turkey poult, duckling or green goose. Then there is the "coming out"!!! I'm checking my closets for this one!!!

And then there is that pesky entail & right of primogeniture to worry about and that brings us back to our Mr. Collins. Please tell me my dear Jane that your return to England does not include one such as he.

Well my dear Jane, I must run and work on my family pride and shop for an epergne to centre my groaning table.

Sealed with the finest wax that my candle would produce and entrusted to Canada Post's finest.

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## CARELESS AND IMMETHODICAL, LIKE OTHER MEN (Pers.)

Last month I received a brochure advertising business cards, with this sample name and address.

Would you buy business cards - or anything else - from this firm?

\* \* \* \* \*

161466

Attn : EILEEN SUTHERFORD

JANE AUSTIN SOCIETY  
4169 Lions Ave  
No Vancvr, Bc V7r 3s2  
Canada,

## QUARRELING OVER A DIRTY BONE (Emma)

The Weekend Sun, Saturday, January 13, 1996

SYDNEY — An Australian university is genetically "fingerprinting" a skull thought to be that of Thomas Paine, a founding father of American independence, to try to prove its identity.

The University of Queensland said Friday it had taken a fragment of the skull, owned by a Sydney couple, and hoped to match its genetic makeup with those claiming to be descendants of the 18th-century philosopher.

Paine, whose pamphlets are credited with inspiring leaders of both the American and French revolutions, died a vilified and impoverished man due to his unconventional religious beliefs. Foreign secretary in the first U.S. government, Paine was buried unceremoniously in the yard of a New York farm.

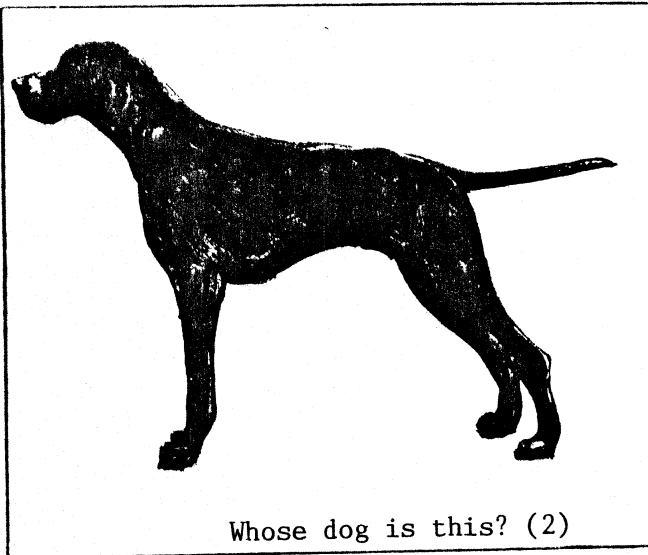
His remains were exhumed about 10 years later by an English admirer who planned a proper burial in Paine's country of birth. But Paine was never reburied and his bones have been scattered, Burgess said.

Paine's biographers claim he died childless but there is evidence to show Paine had a son by a friend's wife in 1779, she said.

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WHAT AN IMPUDENT DOG I WAS! (Emma)

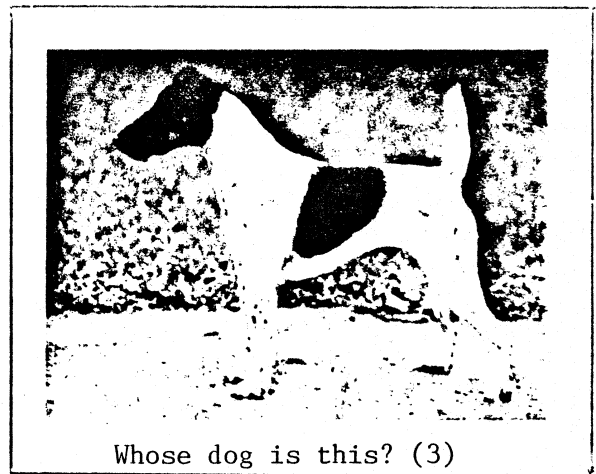
Not many dogs are mentioned in Jane Austen's novels. Here are a few: who was the owner, in which novel, and in what circumstances was it mentioned? (Answers, p.9)



Whose dog is this? (2)



Whose dog is this? (1)



Whose dog is this? (3)



Whose dog is this? (4)



Whose dog is this? (5)

*How pleasant it is, methinks, to be...at leisure to sip and browse among who or 'what you will'. How refreshing to contrast the organ notes of Milton with the sonorous aphorisms and noble despair of the worthy Sam Johnson! And to weigh the rough stone of Dryden against the ardent ore of Jack Donne! It makes an old 'carl' such as I wish for four eyes, that I could read TWO BOOKS AT ONCE!!!!!!* (Philip Larkin, TLS Jan.12, 1996)

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## A COMPLETE PARTY OF PLEASURE

In 1808, Dorothy Wordsworth wrote of a "Picnic upon Grasmere Island" where nineteen people were to have dined but were caught in a thundershower. She asked what was the derivation of the word "picnic" and said the Windermere gentlemen had one almost every day. [Wordsworth and Coleridge in Their Time, p.70]

The Oxford English Dictionary reports that the word has been used in Europe since the mid-eighteenth century, and derives from the French "pique-pique". It has only been in common use in England since 1802: "The rich have their sports, their balls, their parties of pleasure, and their pic nics" [Annual Register]. The essential feature in the earliest usage was each person contributing something to an outdoor affair, but later the outdoor aspect was stressed.

Jane Austen wrote of two picnics in her novels, in both of which the plans sound delightful, but the events themselves were disappointing. In Emma, "Two or three more of the chosen only were to be admitted to join them [Emma and Mr. Weston], and it was to be done in a quiet, unpretending, elegant way, infinitely superior to the bustle and preparation, the regular eating and drinking, and pic-nic parade of the Eltons and the Sucklings". [E p.352]. Mention is made of a "cold collation", and "they all sat down", and a time limit of "two whole hours...were spent on the hill", but nothing is said of the proceedings of the picnic itself, except reported conversation.

In Sense and Sensibility [p.62-63], the group planned to visit a neighbouring estate: "The grounds were declared to be highly beautiful...They contained a noble piece of water; a sail on which was to form a great part of the morning's amusement; cold provisions were to be taken, open carriages only to be employed, and every thing conducted in the usual style of a complete party of pleasure." But Jane Austen's customary mockery appears in her description of the feelings of the Barton party preparing for their outing: "They were all in high spirits and good humour, eager to be happy, and determined to submit to the greatest inconveniences and hardships rather than be otherwise." The "inconveniences and hardships" were never suffered, as Colonel Brandon was called away and the outing had to be abandoned.

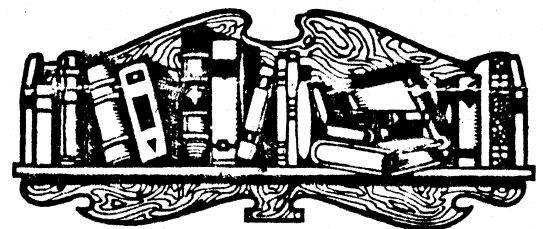
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## FOLIOS OR OCTAVOS

Simon Fraser University has acquired (as a gift of the Wosk family) a special collection of old and rare books, written in Latin and Greek, and published by Aldus Manutius, an important figure in late 15th and early 16th century publishing. The books, by such authors as Euripedes, Plutarch, Cicero and Homer, are described as "masterpieces of the printer's craft." Hugh McDonald, the collector, said, "To hold one of them is to touch history. It's really an indescribable feeling to be in the presence of such beauty and craftsmanship."

Aldus Manutius and his fellow craftsmen at the Aldine Press in Venice invented Italic type, and designed Greek and Roman typefaces, some still in use today. Aldus invented the small octavo-sized book. Before his time books had been printed as large folios and quartos, too cumbersome and weighty to be read except at a desk, and accessible usually only to the elite. Octavos made book-owning possible for many more people.

Jane Austen would have approved. Writing to her sister in 1813, she discusses a Book Society: "Ladies who read those enormous great stupid thick quarto volumes which one always sees in the Breakfast parlour [at Manydown], must be acquainted with everything in the world. I detest a quarto. Capt Pasley's book [which she was reading] is too good for their Society. They will not understand a man who condenses his thoughts into an octavo."



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## HAMPSHIRE DOWN - Eileen Sutherland.

I read Watership Down, by Richard Adams (1972), years ago to enjoy the story - and it is a good story - of leadership and endurance and self-sacrifice and honour. The characters are rabbits but the story is about society: tyranny and the love of power, indolence and apathy, interdependence and strength in working for the good of all.

Recently I read the novel again, this time with the knowledge that the adventures of these rabbits take place in the countryside of that part of Hampshire where Jane Austen lived. The descriptions are timeless, and could be picturing the fields and woods and streams she must have known so well.



"The sun, risen behind the copse, threw long shadows from the trees...The wet grass glittered and nearby a nut tree sparkled iridescent, winking and gleaming as its branches moved in the light wind...Between the copse and the brook, the slope was covered with pale lilac lady's-smocks, each standing separately in the grass, a frail stalk of bloom above a spread of cressy leaves. The breeze dropped and the little valley lay completely still, held in long beams of light...Upon this clear stillness, like feathers on the surface of a pool, fell the calling of a cockoo". (p.75)

"[The wood] was different from the meadow copses...a narrow belt of trees...a kind of windbreak common on the downs. It consisted almost entirely of well-grown beeches. The great, smooth trunks stood motionless in their green shade, the branches spreading flat, one above the other in crisp, light-dappled tiers...The continuous, gentle rustling of the beech leaves was unlike the sounds to be heard in a copse of nut bushes, oak and silver birch". (p.119)

"It was a fine clear evening in mid-October...Although leaves remained on the beeches and the sunshine was warm, there was a sense of growing emptiness over the wide space of the down. The flowers were sparse ...Along the edge of the wood a sheet of wild clematis showed like a patch of smoke, all its sweet-smelling flowers turned to old man's beard... As the wind freshened from the south, the red and yellow beech leaves rasped together with a brittle sound, harsher than the fluid rustle of earlier days". (p.417)

And at the beginning of the last chapter is part of a quotation from Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey: "...by improving their knowledge of each other, and adding strength to their attachment..." The rabbit warren in the beech hanger at the top of the hill prospered and grew.

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## DOGS - Answers:

- (1) "I hope she will not tease my poor pug", said Lady Bertram. (MP)
- (2) "[Willoughby] has got the nicest little black bitch of a pointer I ever saw". (S&S)
- (3) "...a proposed exchange of terriers between [John Thorpe and a friend]". (NA)
- (4) "Henry [Tilney] with the friends of his solitude, a large Newfoundland puppy and two or three terriers". (NA)
- (5) "[Charles Musgrove and Captain Wentworth] had taken out a young dog, who had spoilt their sport". (Pers.)

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## LIBRARY CORNER - Dianne Kerr.

Southam, B.C.: Jane Austen's Literary Manuscripts (1964; hard-cover). A study of the novelist's development through the surviving papers. Facing the title page is a photo of 'the first page of the manuscript Chapter 11 of Persuasion', which is now in the British Museum. Southam starts with the writing of the Juvenilia, works his way through the Two Chapters (#11), of Persuasion, and concludes with a long look at Sanditon, and Theories of Composition for Mansfield Park and Emma. Southam carves very neatly and deeply, although quite politely, into earlier theories that Austen merely 'drew widely upon the events of her own life, on the lives of those around her...and on (her own) Juvenilia', when writing the novels. Southam opts for: brilliant creative imagination as the genesis of her genius.

Duckworth, Alistair: The Improvement of the Estate. (1994; paper-back ; reprint with some alteration and expansion). This is the book Keiko Parker recommended following her October 1995 presentation: "Jane Austen Knew Best". (I don't have Keiko's text).

Tucker, George H.: Jane Austen the Woman (1994; paper-back).

Korman, Maureen: Sanditon, JA's unfinished novel. Flat photocopy. The Nov.25th presentation read by Maureen, with Mavis and Paul Jones. A good read for those who have already heard, and a must-read for those who missed the meeting.

Castle, Terry: Sister-Sister (1995). Flat photocopy; the article in the London Review of Books, wherein Castle does not exactly state, but strongly implies, that Austen and Cassandra had a lesbian relationship. Attached are a number of protesting letters, including a particularly fine riposte by Brian Southam, current JAS Chairman, who examines what Castle has to say not only meticulously, but calmly and with respect.

Persuasion. The Video. BBC 1971 mini-series version. 225 mins.

Emma. The Video. BBC (1993?) mini-series. 257 mins.

## GLEANINGS (from Other Regions, 1995)

Linda Wertheimer, co-host on National Public Radio (US) lists first among "Four famous people you's invite to a dinner party": Jane Austen; and Favourite Book: Pride and Prejudice.

A New Orleans "Destination Consultant Company" (hoi Polloi Travel Agent?) has a full-page ad reading: "LAST YEAR, We Entertained 20,000 Doctors, 15,000 Lawyers, The Jane Austen Society and an Arab Prince Who Came to New Orleans with 12 of his 17 Wives. Everyone Was Delighted!"

Patrick O'Brian, 81 year old author of the widely acclaimed Aubrey-Maturin series of naval mystery novels: "confessed that Jane Austen is his favorite English author for her similar economy of style: 'I read her so very often. I turn back to her and find new wealth on every page'."

There is a fine review, entitled "Jane Made Plain" of the Tucker Jane Austen the Woman, which we have just acquired.

A review recommending a Dorothy Sayers book notes: "...as a bonus you get a topnotch mystery and the best marriage proposal since Jane Austen's Emma."

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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, 4769 Lions Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 3S2. Price to non-members: \$4.00 per year.*