



The Jane Austen Society of North America

JASNA Vancouver

NEWSLETTER NO. 63

AUGUST 1998

APPLES FOR AUTUMN

What a sweet little cottage there is among the trees - apple trees too! (NA)

"Bramley's Seedling, the most popular cooking apple in England, was raised from a seed between 1809 and 1813 in a cottage garden in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. The original tree was still alive in 1988." [Vanc. Sun, Oct.21, 1996]

Catherine Morland makes the delighted remark about the cottage and its apple trees, and Mr. Shepherd makes a brief reference to stolen apples in Persuasion; but it is in Emma that apples are a major topic of conversation. And it is in this novel that Jane Austen makes the "mistake" of apple trees in blossom at the strawberry picking day at Donwell, at Midsummer. Her brother Edward teased her about it: "Jane, I wish you would tell me where you get those apple-trees of yours that come into bloom in July." [Quoted in LeFaye: A Family Record, p.207].

This has often been referred to as "Jane Austen's only error", but was it really an error? Various writers have exonerated Jane Austen from fault. In 1993, Stephen Derry [Notes and Queries] points out that Spenser, in the Faerie Queen, described an ideal garden, where "There is continually spring and harvest there...At once the trees with leaves unfolding grow;/The fruits are ripened and the blossoms blow." The editor notes that this idea of simultaneous seasons draws on both classical and Biblical traditions, and that another example can be found in the earthly paradise in Ariosto's Orlando Furioso, a translation of which Jane Austen owned. In the passage about Abbey Mill Farm, Jane Austen may be contrasting the suspect and delusive Maple Grove with the genuine paradisaal estate of Donwell.

John Sutherland, in Is Heathcliff a Murderer? (1996), puts forward this argument: "When Emma considers that the Abbey Mill Farm might be safely viewed by Harriet, 'with all its appendages of prosperity and beauty, its rich pastures, spreading flocks, orchard in blossom, and light columns of smoke ascending (Emma, p.360),' she is not giving us a picture of the farm as she now sees it before her, but rather reflecting that it is now safe for Harriet to look at it at any time of year, in spring, early summer, midsummer or autumn, because she is now safe from Robert Martin."

Finally, in an article in Nature (July 10, 1997), quoted in the February Newsletter, Euan Nisbet justifies Jane Austen - "What are apple trees doing in flower in mid-June?...The weather was unusual in 1814. The annual mean temperature was one of the coldest on record...colder than in 1816, the 'year without a summer' after the eruption of the Tambora volcano...In the cool spring of 1996, mild in comparison to 1814, apple trees flowered as late as early June. Perhaps Austen herself saw apple blossom on two hot days, 14 June (85°F) and 15 June (78°F), at Painshill and Box Hill. Austen is accurate. If she says the orchard was in bloom, then it surely was in bloom."

That seems to settle it. Not an error - a deliberate subtlety that most readers missed.

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"OH! THE BLESSING OF A FEMALE CORRESPONDENT"

Letters from: Catherine Hutton and Her Friends (Ed. Mrs. Catherine Hutton Beale, Birmingham, 1895)

May 19, 1782 - "I am truly concerned to hear that your health, instead of being better, has been worse than usual. I wish you to persevere in your intended trip to Matlock, as there is a certainty of its doing you good... Sea bathing is of greater service to me than anything I have tried, and if I had any money to throw away upon watering places, I should think Margate entitled to the preference, from the essential benefit I received from it last year."

August 1799 - "For once, my dear mother, I shall venture to become my own trumpeter. We have done wonders this wash, entirely finished ironing on Tuesday night. I am not a little proud to fancy a little of my mother's disposition peeping out in me at last. I have bottled the second elder flower wine, and have made a barrel of currant, but I bungled at it sadly; however, I believe it will be very good wine."

To-morrow I am going to be very busy papering, etc., my own room, which I intend shall be so neat and comfortable that you will hardly know it on your return. My father has been so indulgent as to let me have a carpenter at work in it for the last two or three days making a chimney board, and canvassing over the end wall, where the beams were damp, and making me a little book-shelf, etc.; at present it is quite a hobby-horse for me."

May 24, 1813 - "I have completed a second novel... in the sixteen days I was in London, Messrs. Longman and Co. received it at my hands... agreed with me on the terms of publication, and got it printed..."

All secrecy on that subject is now at an end, as I have been obliged to put my name in the title-page of my 'Miser Married'. The horror I feel at publicly owning my compositions is extreme. I have one comfort, however, and that only could have induced me to comply. I do not see the world, and cannot hear it. I shall only be made acquainted with its opinions at second hand."

Dec. 16, 1814 - "Here are books, and pictures, and music, and dry gravel walks, a fine large mansion, and good hearts within it... There has been a sad accident at Burton, with the gas that lights the cotton mill. A candle, by some inadvertency, came in contact with the gas, and the meter - a vast iron reservoir - blew up with a tremendous explosion; one poor man was killed. There is a great alarm about thieves; at Lichfield they say people dare not go out after dark; Derby and Nottingham are also in alarm."

March 25, 1827 - "I have been tolerably well this winter, and have been knitting, netting, reading magazines, Miss Mitford's 'Our Village', and Jane Austen's five novels, and writing now and then a trifle for 'La Belle Assemblée'; the paper on Autographs, in the number I send, is one of them. This 'Belle Assemblée' writing suits me exactly; it does not require exertion, and it keeps me from stagnating."

DRIVING IN HYDE PARK

Jane Austen, growing up in Steventon, Hampshire, seldom had a chance to go to London. In 1788, however, Mr. and Mrs. Austen took Jane (aged 12) and Cassandra (15) to visit his uncle Francis Austen at Sevenoaks, Kent. Deirdre LeFaye (Family Record, p.61) reports: "On their way back to Hampshire in August, the Austens spent a day or two in London...So far as is known, this trip was Jane's first visit to ... London.

In one of the earliest extant letters to Cassandra, Jane Austen writes of another visit to London. In August, 1796, her brothers Edward Knight and Francis Austen (home on leave from the Navy) took Jane to Edward's home at Rowling, Kent. On this trip they broke their journey in London, and Jane wrote to Cassandra from Cork Street, the home of Benjamin Langlois, an uncle of the Rev. George Lefroy of Ashe, good friends of the Austens. All Jane tells Cassandra about London in this letter is at the beginning: "Here I am once more in this scene of dissipation and vice, and I begin already to find my morals corrupted." [Letters No.3, p.7]. They planned to go see Astley's Circus (where the John Knightleys took Harriet and Robert Martin) in the evening, but what else she saw or did in these two early visits to London we do not know. She would have been as fascinated by everything around her as other first-time visitors.

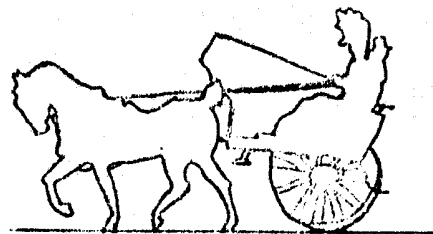
Richard Hodgkinson, a steward on a large Lancashire estate, was in London in 1794, and to put in time during the delays in his business meetings he wandered the streets of London, which he was seeing for the first time. He gazed at the new bridges built across the Thames, went to a comedy at the Haymarket Theatre, and saw the King and Queen. He admired the horses in the King's Mews, was offended by "the indelicacy of a figure of Neptune" in Westminster Abbey, attended an improving medical lecture on mental illness, visited the beasts in the Tower of London Menagerie, and took a coach to Royal Windsor. One afternoon, he wrote:

"We set off to Hyde Park to see the Company there. And indeed the concourse of Gentlemen and Ladies on foot, on Horseback and in Carriages is truly astonishing. Were a person out of the Country to be taken (immediately upon coming to Town) into Hyde Park at four o'Clock on the Sunday Evening, he would think all the inhabitants of London were collected to that one place. The number of Carriages is truly astonishing; for the whole length of Hyde Park which, in one view, I conceive cannot be less than a Mile from 3 to 5 o'Clock you may see Carriages two fold continually passing. In Hyde Park, there is one road for the Carriages, one for the Horses and one for foot people. Many of the Nobility walk out on foot. I met the Earl of Derby returning. I also saw the Duke of Clarence who was on foot. He is of the middle size, rather broad-set and has nothing striking in his appearance." [p.41]

- A Lancashire Gentleman. The Letters and Journals of Richard Hodgkinson 1763-1847. (Ed. F.& K. Wood. 1992).

Elizabeth Grant was the daughter of a Scottish MP, and spent several months each year in London. Writing her memoirs about 1854, she recalls her London childhood in 1809:

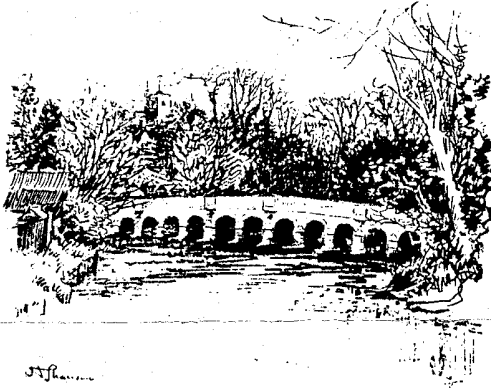
"On Sundays...we all set out for Rotten Row, where the amusement consisted in the long file of carriages at a foot's pace going one way, passing another long file of carriages at a foot's pace going the other, bows gravely exchanged between the occupants, when any of the busy starers were acquainted. All London was engaged in this serious business. We sometimes prevailed on my Mother to make a diversion round the ring, that we might see the swans on the water, but she only now and then obliged us, much preferring that long procession up and down a mile of dusty road - the greater the crowd, the slower the move, the greater the pleasure. 'Delightful drive in the park to-day' meant that there was hardly a possibility of cutting into the line, or moving much above a yard in a minute. 'Most dreadfully stupid in the park to-day' meant that there was plenty of room for driving there comfortably." [p.139]



- Memoirs of a Highland Lady 1809-1810. Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus. (1898).

Highways and Byways in Jane Austen's Life - No. 3 - by Keiko Parker -

This month we shall travel to Surrey, directly south of London. Eric Parker, in his *Highways and Byways in Surrey* with illustrations by Hugh Thomson (London: Macmillan, 1935), observes that "[w]hat was Surrey country a hundred years ago has been gathered into the network of London streets, and belongs, in the mind and on the map, to London." Still, enough of Surrey remains to connect us to the old days—the age of Jane Austen.



Leatherhead.

The town of Highbury, "the large and populous village almost amounting to a town" has been variously identified as some Surrey town or village such as Esher or Dorking. But the author observes that E. V. Lucas, in his edition of *Emma*, puts forth the theory that Highbury is Leatherhead and that the town satisfies most of the conditions of the book—its distance from London, Kingston, and, to a lesser extent, from Box Hill. It seems that Leatherhead also has a river, a "Randalls," and an "Abbey Farm." Its parish registers contain the uncommon name of Knightley. The parish literature also includes a poem entitled "Norbury Park," penned by a man called Woodhouse.

However uncertain the identification of Highbury with Leatherhead is, there is no question of the real town of Kingston. The readers of *Emma* will remember that Mr. Knightley, as he passed Miss Bates' house on his way to Kingston, asked Miss Bates if he could run an errand for her. His kind offer was most specific: "Mrs. Cole has servants to send [if she wants something from Kingston]. Can I do any thing for you?" (*Emma*, I, x or Chapter 28)

The scene is memorable also because Mr. Knightley nearly steps inside the house at Miss Bates' invitation upon hearing that Emma is within at that very moment. However, he changes his mind and declines the invitation once he finds out that Frank Churchill is also inside. A hint of jealousy? Perhaps. It shows the supreme good sense and feeling of delicacy that Mr. Knightley exercises in a "sticky" situation. And so he continues on his way to Kingston.

In 1908 when the book was first published, Eric Parker stated that Kingston had kept little of its past. The quaint inns such as Harrow Inn, the Anglers, and the Three Compasses had been pulled down, and in the Market Place modern businesses now stand cheek by jowl. But, he says, one can capture the olden days on "a market morning, when the square is bright with sunshine on fruit and flower-stalls, apples, oranges and cauliflowers side by side with pansies and daffodils. There are market noises in the air, and market smells."

The Stone still remains on which the Anglo-Saxon kings such as Edward the Elder, Ethelstan, Edmund, Edred, Edwig, Edward the Martyr, and Ethelred the Unready were crowned. The coronation Stone, which gave the town its name, has been moved from the Saxon chapel of St. Mary, to the Market Place, and then to the open space where once an Anglo-Saxon palace stood.

It is fitting that Mr. Knightley goes to Kingston on business. It evokes by association the nobleness of his character and the ancient origin of his family, as Emma herself admits, as well as his capable business dealings as a first class gentleman-farmer.



Kingston.

"Cruelty, do you call it? - We differ there" [MP p.456]

Fur jackets and coats are coming back into fashion, fox-hunters are resisting new regulations, and soon Animal Rights groups will be in the headlines again.

This is not new. Animal rights activism has a long history. Arguments on both sides of the question in the British Parliament in the early 1800s sound very like those we hear in the media today.

Hogarth published a print sequence, "The Four Stages of Cruelty", and wrote of: "that cruel treatment of poor animals which makes the streets of London more disagreeable to the human mind than anything whatever".



In 1800, Richard Brinsley Sheridan spoke in Parliament as a Whig MP, eloquently and vividly against bull- and bear-baiting. William Wilberforce, later renowned for his anti-slavery campaign, tried to introduce a ban on these bloody sports, not necessarily for the suffering of the animals, as for the harm done to the character of those watching: they would become "brutes" and "degraded", like animals themselves. His opponent, William Wyndham, warned that banning the "fun" of the lower classes might lead to discontent and rebellion, and that this "athletic, manly, and hardy exercise" produced the best soldiers - a powerful argument in a country at war. Byron turned the same argument upside down when he made the bull the hero of the bull-fight in Childe Harold, and claimed that the feuds and bloody quarrels plaguing Spain derived in large part from the cruel sport that the Spaniards revelled in.

Another attempt in Parliament occurred in 1809 when Lord Erskine, a well-known animal lover who kept many pet animals (including two leeches which had saved his life when he had been bled by them), introduced a bill to ban cruelty to domestic animals in general. He took the position that animals had feelings very similar to those of people, and quoted the poet Cowper: all animals "the meanest things that are" should be "as free to live and to enjoy that life, as God was free to form them."

Wyndham was again the opponent and he agreed, "speaking abstractedly", with Erskine's views, but he felt that the brunt of the legislation would fall on the labouring classes, and he challenged the upper-class MPs to consider abolishing their popular field sports before they harrassed their poorer neighbours. His oratory was powerful and easily defeated the bill.

Other attempts were also unsuccessful, and it was not until 1822 that Parliament passed legislation to protect domestic animals. To some, that legislation is still not adequate.

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CELEBRATION

"On August 21, 1815, Wordsworth and Southey joined a crowd [on Skiddaw mountain in the Lake District] to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo, eating roast beef and plum pudding around a bonfire of blazing tar barrels. Wordsworth enlivened the festivities by accidentally kicking over the kettle that held water to dilute the gentry's rum punch. Bravely, the company drank it undiluted." (p.185)

- Literary Guide to the Lake District: Grevel Lindop.

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"Those who can read see twice as well", wrote the Attic poet Menander in the 4th c. BC."
(p.187)

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"THE PLEASANTNESS OF AN EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT ALWAYS EVINCE ITS PROPRIETY." [S&S]

Conduct Books were best-sellers in Georgian society. Here are some excerpts from one: Regency Etiquette. The Mirror of Graces (1811), by A Lady of Distinction. (This book is now in our JASNA Vancouver library). (Reprint: R.L.Shep, 1997)

Much is said...on the attractive grace and powerful charm of modesty! Its advantages are so self-evident, that I am only astonished that policy alone does not prevent the fair fashionable from ever rejecting so becoming and favourable an appendage. [xvii]

Beauty is a blessing, and is to be used with maidenly discretion...modesty is grace; simplicity, elegance; and consistency, the charm which rivets the attracted heart of well-judging man. [13]

The morning, about two or three hours after sun-rise, is the most salubrious time for a vigorous walk. But, as the day advances, if you chuse to prolong the sweet enjoyment of the open air, then the thick wood or shady lane will afford refreshing shelter from the too-intense heat of the sun.- In short, the morning and evening dew, and the unrepelled blaze of a summer noon, must alike be ever avoided as the enemies of health and beauty. [39]

I would strenuously recommend, for health's sake, as well as for beauty, that no lady should make one in any riding, airing, or walking party, without putting on her head something capable of affording both shelter and warmth. Shakespeare, the poet of the finest taste in female charms, makes Viola regret having been obliged to 'throw her sun-expelling mask away!' Such a defence I do not pretend to recommend; but I consider a veil a useful as well as elegant part of dress; it can be worn to suit any situation; open or close, just as the heat or cold may render it necessary. [46]

The person, when over-heated, should always be allowed to cool gradually, and of itself, without any more violent assistant than, perhaps, the gentle undulation of the neighbouring air by a fan. Streams of wind from opened doors and windows, or what is called a thorough air, are all bad and highly dangerous applications. These impatient remedies for heat are often resorted to in balls and crowded assemblies; and as frequently as they are used, we hear of sore-throats, coughs, and fevers. While it is the fashion to fill a drawing-room like a theatre, similar means ought to be adopted to prevent the ill effects of the consequent corrupted atmosphere, and the temptation to seek relief by dangerous resources. Instead of the open balcony and yawning door, we should see ventilators in every window; and thus feel a constant succession of pure and temperate air. [47]

Elegant dressing is not found in expense; money without judgment may load, but never can adorn. You may show profusion without grace: you may cover a neck with pearls, a head with jewels, hands and arms with rings, bracelets and trinkets, and yet produce no effect, but having emptied some merchant's counter upon your person. The best chosen dress is that which so harmonizes with the figure as to make the raiment pass unobserved. The result of the finest toilet should be an elegant woman, not an elegantly-dressed woman. [61]

The frequent and sudden changes from heat to cold, by abruptly exciting or repressing the regular secretions of the skin, rough its texture, injure its hue, and often deform it with unseemly, though transitory eruptions. All this is increased by the habit ladies have of exposing themselves unveiled, and frequently without bonnets, in the open air. The head and face have then no defence against the attacks of the surrounding atmosphere, and the effects are obvious. The barouche, for this reason, and the more consequential one of subjecting its inmates to dangerous chills, is a fatal addition to the variety of English equipages. Our autumnal evenings, with this carriage and our gossamer apparel, have already sent many of my young female acquaintance to untimely graves. [45]

LIBRARY CORNER - Dianne Kerr

A Donation of \$20.00 to our Library! Our first ever donation of Currency rather than Kind. We thank Keiko Parker excessively, and hope more of you will be encouraged to do likewise, since our budget has no provision whatsoever for Library purchases. JASNA Vancouver has a small bank balance; we have no fund-raisers; we do nothing other than strive to 'break even' every year.

Austen-Leigh, Joan: FOUR CANADIAN ONE-ACT PLAYS. Donated to the Library, upon request, by the author herself, on Jane Austen Day, 23rd of May last. Originally published in 1990 under the name JOAN MASON HURLEY - but it really is Our Own Particular Joan! This will be reviewed in a later report; it is available for borrowing now.

Austen-Leigh, Joan: MY AUNT JANE AUSTEN. Speech delivered by Joan Austen-Leigh at Vancouver on May 23rd, 1998. This was the overwhelming favourite of all presentations on our Jane Austen Day. Many of you buttonholed me to make sure that I got a copy. And Joan very graciously sent me this by soonest Post; it is already out on loan. During her speech, Joan presented a visitor, Rosamund Bigg-Wither Laidler, a direct descendant of Harris Bigg-Wither, Jane Austen's one-time fiancé. We all hope that we get to see more of Rosamund.

Austen, Jane: SENSE AND SENSIBILITY. Vol #1 of 6. Undated, but evidently very old. Big book; large print; illustrations appear to be those of C.M.Brock. Much thanks to Roxi Yelf for this donation.

Collected Reports of the JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY. 1949-1965. Also to be reviewed later. Unfortunately, we can't remember who made this wonderful contribution. Will the Donor please let me know?

And finally, a heart-felt thanks to Flora Farnden for donating her collection of JASNA Journals PERSUASIONS #10-18 (1988-1996). I have removed #13 and #15 (crediting Flora); our Library collection is now complete except for #4. Should we raffle off those remaining? Award as prizes? The Suggestion Box is open!

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HOT WEATHER TREAT, THEN AND NOW

"Dessert of Presidents" - "In the early days of the nation, ice cream was a luxury. Dolley Madison served it at formal dinners and so did Thomas Jefferson. The president who may have had the sweetest tooth of all had false teeth, George Washington.

Ledgers from 1790 show that in a few short weeks, the father of [his] country spent \$200 - nearly 10% of his allotted months salary - buying ice cream from a New York confectioner. There were no such shops near Mount Vernon, Virginia, so when Washington served ice cream there, he had to make his own.

An inventory of belongings at Mount Vernon shows that Washington owned a 'cream machine for making ice.' He also owned two pewter pots for making ice cream. The larger pot was filled with ice and salt, lowering the temperature to below freezing. The smaller bowl, containing cream, eggs, and sugar, was placed within the larger one. As the inner pot chilled, the ingredients were whipped with a spoon until they hardened."

Better Homes & Gardens Country House, June 1996.

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"While the enemies of our church and state continue to pour their poison into unwary ears through [the novel], it behoves the friends of our establishments to convey an antidote by the same course."

- The Infidel Father: Jane West, 1802.

GEORGIAN SLANG - From "A Gentlewoman in Upper Canada"

Shanty - OED Chiefly US and Canada: "A small, mean, roughly-constructed dwelling; a cabin, a hut." [Earliest written ref. 1820].

Bush - OED #9 (Recent, and probably a direct adoption of the Dutch bosch, in colonies originally Dutch). "Woodland, country more or less covered with natural wood; applied to the uncleared or untilled districts in the British Colonies which are still in a state of nature, or largely so, even though not wooded; and by extension to the country as opposed to the towns". [Early 19th c. dates].

Prog - OED Food, victuals, especially provisions for a journey or excursion (colloq.) slang: cf. grub.

The word was used by Mrs. Delany (1772): "Your father...sent me some good Xmas prog according to custom." In 1783, Mrs. D'Arblay (Fanny Burney) used it with the meaning of "food for the mind": "If my letters will give you any amusement, I will...supply you with all the prog I get myself." By 1813, Lady Burghersh was putting quotation marks around the word. And in 1870, it is satirically defined as "the refined expression by which scholars convey to each other the refined delicacies which tickle their palates."

[In an article about Newfoundland words by Bill Casselman (Can. Geog. Jan./Feb. 1998) I discovered this: "Among the earliest words to enter the Newfoundland word hoard was prog, an English dialect verb, in print as early as 1615, originally meaning to poke about, to beg for food. Soon after it became a noun too, meaning food or grub." Ed.]

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MORE HONOURS FOR JOAN AUSTEN-LEIGH

We again offer our congratulations to Joan Austen-Leigh: her novel "A Visit to Highbury" has recently been published in Polish!

The tital is SWIAT EMMY, which apparently means The World of Emma.

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INVASION COMMAND POST

"In 1803, the little village of Weedon in Northamptonshire found itself suddenly important. It was to have been the regional seat of government in the event of a Napoleonic invasion...There was the canal, along which troops could have been transported, and two great roads meeting in the village.

The Government bought 125 acres of land, and even built a royal pavilion, for it was intended that King and Government should make a last stand here...

There remains a great wooden portcullis like Traitor's Gate on a branch of the Grand Union Canal...Beyond it are the vast brick buildings, still elegant, for in 1803 it was impossible to build anything badly. The scale of the place is a reminder of just how frightened the Government was in those years."

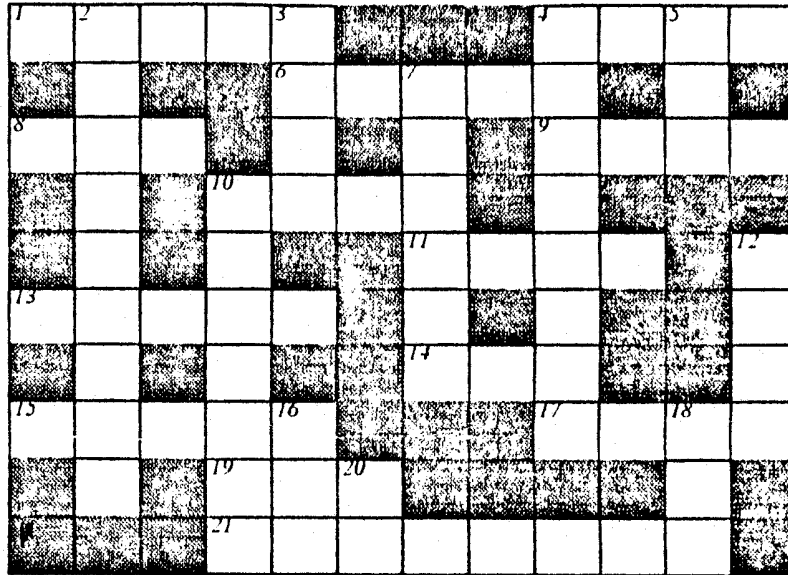
- In Britain, March 1984.

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Literature is with us [women] an ornament, or an amusement, not a duty or profession; and when it is pursued with such avidity, as to withdraw us from the especial purposes of our creation, it becomes a crime.

[Letters to a Young Lady by Jane West, 1806]

A Crossword for fans of Jane Austen



ACROSS

1. *Augusta's cara sposo* (5)
4. *Darcy's financial status* (4)
6. *Mr. Bennet's supply of daughters* (5)
8. *Where Lydia and Kitty treated their sisters to a dish of cold meat* (3)
9. *Where the Gardiners lived* (4)
10. *Clueless heroine* (4)
11. *"Pictures of perfection, as you know, make me ----"*
(JA letter) (4)
13. *Method* (5)
14. *Mr. Bennet's supply of sons* (3)
15. *Mr. Woodhouse's health* (5)
17. *Eponymous heroine* (4)
19. *--- classical* (3)
21. *Fictitious seaside resort* (8)

DOWN

2. *Bennet residence* (9)
3. *Regency architect* (4)
4. *Regency purse* (8)
5. *Harriet Smith's favorite animal* (3)
7. *Mr. Collins's profession* (6)
10. *Fanny and Edmund were* (7)
12. *Amusing regency period landscape feature?* (4)
16. *Meadow* (3)
18. *"The --- shan't come and part us, I am determined"*
(P & P) (3)
20. *"They were actually -- the same sofa" (Persuasion)* (2)



FANNY PRICE - 'BOISTEROUS AND SURREAL'?

In a letter from JASNA President Elsa Solender:

Miramax Filming of MP begins in August: The Toronto Star reported that Patricia Rozema, a Toronto native whose quirky, but engaging *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* earned high praise, will write and direct a film version of Mansfield Park. It will be her first non-Canadian film.

MP was considered unfilmable, Rozema noted from London in her Star interview, because Fanny Price "is almost not there. She hardly speaks. She never motivates the action. She is a retiring soul to the point of irritation." But Rozema thinks she has found the key: "to build up the character and base Fanny on Jane Austin [sic] herself, and that I did from her juvenilia writings that are boisterous and surreal with a touch of burlesque. I made the main character a writer." Intrigued by Rozema's bold approach, I will watch for casting news with interest ('name' British actors were mooted).

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CHARADES - HAVE YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.

The summer Wisconsin Wire tried these puzzles on members. I hope they print the answers in the next issue. Let me know if you guess them.

(This came with payment for a tour - which may be significant) :

The king is in danger
Fenced in yard
123 Cassandra's sister's
Blue Bloods.

(This was sent to Shirley's birthday) :

A positive response to a request to do.
A wind that blows toward you
To whisper words under one's breath
A brown quadruped that often is shot to death,
The living quarters of a monk or inmate
The sounds donkeys make.

Good luck!

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"I have sought for happiness everywhere," confessed Thomas à Kempis, early in the 15th century, "but I have found it nowhere except in a little corner with a little book."

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This Newsletter, the publication of the Vancouver Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America, is issued 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.