

Muse & Musings

"The company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation"

Jane Austen Day, April 21st

Persuasion and Performance

For this year's Jane Austen Day, we were pleased to host two of the officers of JASNA-Canada, Elaine Bander, President, who came to speak to us, and Renée Charron, Treasurer, who came to visit, both from Montréal. And as our own past RC Phyllis is now JASNA-Canada's Membership Secretary, we had three-quarters of the executive in the room. Other out-of-town guests included Victoria's new RC Alison Brown and Carmel Harris from Australia.

We wish to thank JASNA-Canada for supporting the presentation by Dr. Bander. Elaine's talk was titled "*Persuasion: from Silence to Eloquence*," in keeping with the 2018 focus on *Persuasion* marking 200 years since its publication. She started by telling us about the usage of the word "persuasion" in JA's time meaning rhetorical eloquence – though this idea is slightly undercut by the fact that it was Henry Austen and not JA who gave the novel its title. She discussed this subject at length in a 1993 article in *Persuasions* #15:

[Link to article in Persuasions](#)



Before lunch, Victoria RC Alison Brown told us about happenings and plans in Victoria.

Elaine pointed out that there is almost no dialogue in the novel between the hero Captain Frederick Wentworth (FW) and heroine Anne Elliot (AE) from start to finish, but how instead of talking they silently "read" each other. Noticing AE in spite of himself, FW rescues her from attack by two-year-old Walter; and he intervenes when he sees that she is overtired during the walk home from

Winthrop. AE has little inward soliloquies following her first meeting with FW after eight years, again when he removes little Walter from her back and again when he places her in the gig – "that his will and his hands had done it." She notices (as no one else does) a slight curl of the lip that tells her that FW was probably at pains to get rid of the unlamented Dick Musgrove from his ship.



Three of four JASNA-Canada officers: Elaine Bander, President; Renée Charron, Treasurer; Phyllis Ferguson Bottomer, Membership Secretary.

In the first half of the novel, Anne is largely silent, listening to others' complaints and overhearing others' conversations. Gradually, she progresses to speaking for herself – advising Captain Benwick on his reading, and taking charge during the disaster at Lyme. And finally she speaks – eloquently and persuasively, to Captain Harville – but in FW's hearing. FW's silent response, by letter, is JA's only eloquent and moving love declaration.



Left: Out-of-hemisphere guest Carmel Harris from Australia. Right: UBC Opera School performers Justin and Ivy, with their coach.

After lunch be were magnificently entertained by singers Justin Cho and Ivy Calvert, accompanied by pianist and opera coach David Boothroyd all from the UBC Opera School. Selections included “O sole mio” and a duet from Rossini’s *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella).

– by Elspeth Flood

May 12th Meeting

Keiko’s “Remembering Jane Austen” tour of England



Last October, Keiko Parker (above) led a small group tour of Jane Austen sites around southern England, including Chawton House, Winchester Cathedral, Blaise Castle and Stoneleigh Manor. Our May meeting featured Keiko’s slide show from the “Remembering Jane” tour. Several members of that tour group were in attendance, as well as members of Keiko’s Japanese Jane Austen reading group (below).



– by Elspeth Flood

From Eileen’s Archive

Newsletter #10 – May, 1985

“What hours of transports we shall spend”

John Galt wrote in 1810 about the Acropolis of Athens: “Its distant appearance somewhat resembles Stirling Castle, but it is inferior in preservation and altitude.” Galt’s was certainly unlike most views of Greece, and the lecture at UBC in February [1985] describing his travels, “A Scotsman’s View of Greece, 1810,” was just as unlike any other lecture on this subject. Professor C.W.J. Eliot narrated the facts, illustrated by contemporary and recent slides, and Dr. James Russell, in kilt and with appropriate accent, read from John Galt’s letters and journals. It was an illuminating combination.



The “inferior” Acropolis above and Stirling Castle below.



John Galt, born in Scotland in 1779, combined various careers (and several bankruptcies) with literary interests, writing satire, poetry, dramas and novels. *Annals of the Parish*, *The Entail*, *The Last of the Lairds* and other novels were published a few years after Jane Austen’s death, and are considered “microscopic local studies confined to some Scottish village but seasoned with the most simple and charming humour.”

Never robust, Galt set out for a tour of the Mediterranean in 1809, seeking to improve his health. Unlike other British philhellenes, however, he found the ruined antiquities very little to his taste. His comments would have shocked Catherine Morland with “her passion for



Portrait by
Charles Grey

ancient edifices” and Marianne Dashwood with her raptures about “ruined tattered cottages” and “twisted blasted trees.” Suffering aches, fevers and depressions, Galt wrote of the “shapeless ruins of Ephesus,” of Corinth having a “mean and ruinous appearance,” of Argos, “the ancient ruins are trifling,” and considered the gate of the palace at Morea “not unlike the entrances to some of the closes in Edinburgh.” His greatest praise was for the mausoleum at Mycenae, “a curiosity worth going a couple of miles out of the way to see.” And everywhere fleas assailed him “with feet and fang.”

When his health improved, however, Galt wrote in a better humour and with a sympathetic eye for the country and people, of the “infinitely sublime spectacles” of the picturesque ports, the seashore and the sunsets. His letters are filled with homey but vivid turns of phrase; one man wore “a cap in the shape of a parish bell upside down on his head;” a Turkish pasha wore “on the little finger of his left hand . . . a diamond as big as the knob of a vinegar cruet;” and he crossed to the island of Salamis in “a boat of little less antiquity than Charon’s.”



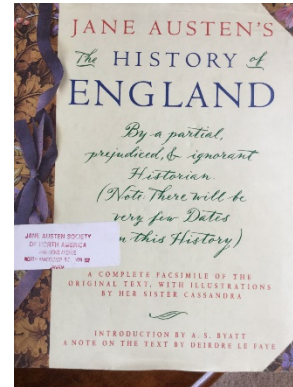
“Infinitely sublime spectacles”

On his return to England, John Galt renewed an earlier connection with Canada. In 1807, he had written “A Statistical Account of Upper Canada,” and from 1820-29 he came to the New World as Commissioner of the Canada Company, to develop and sell lands in Upper Canada for settlement, founding the town of Guelph, among others. Later he was dismissed, however, returned to England, spent some time in a Debtor’s Prison, suffered increasingly from ill health, and died in 1839. His three sons returned and settled in Canada, one becoming a wealthy industrialist, one a Chief Justice and the third, one of the Fathers of Confederation. Incidentally, a later descendant wrote the music for *Hair*. . . . It is interesting to read this writer, contemporary with Jane Austen, but so very different.

– by Eileen Sutherland

All of Eileen’s newsletters are now available on our website at: <http://www.jasnavancouver.ca/newsletters/>

From our Library The History of England by Jane Austen



This month I am highlighting one of Jane Austen’s juvenilia, *The History of England*, written when she was just 16 years old. It is an irreverent description of England’s monarchs from Henry IV to Charles I, accompanied by equally irreverent portraits by her sister Cassandra.

The edition in our library includes a facsimile of the original work in Jane’s handwriting which made me feel somewhat complicit with these two teenage girls just having a bit of fun writing something they did not think would go further than their immediate family. I found it quite charming.

– by Cathleen Boyle

*If you have questions about our library, please see Cathleen Boyle or Carol Sutherland. We welcome **your** submissions on books from our library.*

Member Profile

Marg Savery

1. Tell us a bit about yourself and your life to-date.



I was raised on the Prairies, graduated from UVic with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. I worked in the legal field until retirement, when I moved to Keremeos.

2. When did you join JASNA?

In 1988, when I heard Eileen Sutherland on CBC discussing Jane Austen and JASNA. Also there was an article in Chatelaine Magazine about JASNA which gave me Eileen’s name and phone number.

3. How did you first get started with Jane Austen?

I read *Pride and Prejudice* in high school and the nuns showed us the movie with Laurence Olivier and Greer Garson – I haven’t looked back since!

4. What do you like about JASNA?

Meeting so many intelligent and interesting people who share my love of Jane Austen's writing and learning about her life and times.

5. Has JASNA given you any special memories?

When I first joined meetings were held in Eileen and Ron's house and we had to phone ahead to tell them we were coming so they could make enough sandwiches and put out enough chairs!

RC's Corner

Michelle Siu



Before our Jane Austen Day meeting, members of the Program Committee took our-out-of town guests out to dinner and Michelle took a selfie. Left to right: Alison Brown, Pam Ottridge, Elaine Bander, Elspeth Flood, Joan Reynolds and Renée Charron.

We will be holding our second summer event, outside our normal programming year. The main purpose for a summer event is member outreach and increasing the public awareness of our group. This year, we will host a free public talk by Emma Clery, author of *The Banker's Sister*. Clery is a professor of English from University of Southampton. In her book, she explores how Jane's life

and novels were influenced by Jane's brother Henry Austen. Henry's career was mostly in the finance realm, even when in the militia. There were benefits to Jane's life from Henry's successes and she was greatly aware of his crises and financial scandals.

We look forward to Clery's talk at 11 am on Sunday August 12, at Mount Pleasant Public Library Meeting Room, 1 Kingsway. Please share this event with your friends and family. Following the talk there will be a ticketed tea at nearby La Petite Cuilliere tea house – email me (address below) for prices and to purchase your ticket.

This year's AGM will be held in late September, earlier than usual, in Kansas City, a city of fountains. The theme is "*Persuasion*: 200 Years of Constancy and Hope" – my favourite novel! I've already got my ticket to see Amanda Root's interview on Thursday night! The AGM is taking a waitlist for those who have not registered yet (and there may be some to drop their registration).

If you have programming suggestions, please approach me at our meetings or email me at:

JASNAvancouverRC@gmail.com

Fall 2018 meeting dates

Mark your calendar!

September 15	TBA
October 27	Kansas City AGM recap
November 17	TBA
December 15	JA Birthday lunch: program TBA

For more up-to-date information, please see the program of events on our website: [JASNA-Vancouver program](#)

This Newsletter, the publication of the Vancouver Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America, is distributed to members by email and posted on our website. Members who so request may receive a hard copy either at a meeting or in the mail. All submissions and book reviews on the subject of Jane Austen, her life, her works and her times, are welcome.

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