

A Word from the Editor Elect

I am honoured to have been invited to take up the editorship of *Persuasions* when our founding editor, Joan Austen-Leigh, lays it down. I predict no changes in editorial policy, nor in the general look and conduct of the Society's main publication. *Persuasions* has reflected the Society, and the author it celebrates: I hope it will continue to be "light, bright and sparkling," with the occasional "chapter of sense, if it can be had"; and even "solemn specious nonsense," if submitted, will be considered on its merits—so that the reader may be brought "with increased delight to the playfulness and epigrammatism of the general style."

Persuasions will continue to include a combination of full-length articles on Jane Austen—often those delivered at the conference, though others are invited—and of shorter notes, squibs, and (for the inspired) verses. While I shan't have access to the wealth of graphic material with which the current editor has pleased our eyes, I shall welcome pictorial embellishments to submissions, and I shall try to preserve the attractive look of our journal, as well as to maintain the quality of its content. I hope that members of the Society, and of the community of lovers and critics of Jane Austen, will continue to contribute witty and learned material for the delectation and enlightenment of our members and subscribers.

I know we shall miss our founding editor, who has brought not only her own "acuteness, penetration and taste" to the task, but an authentic waft of the Austen family tradition, in which we have been fortunate to participate. I shall try to be a worthy successor.

Juliet McMaster