

SPRING 2022

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1

The Work of Many Generations

"What a delightful library you have at Pemberley, Mr. Darcy."

-Caroline Bingley

"It ought to be good. It has been the work of many generations."

-Mr. Darcy
Pride and Prejudice

The Library of Congress is the world's largest, containing millions of books, recordings, newspapers, maps, photographs, and manuscripts among its collections. Now, JASNA's *Persuasions On-Line* has joined *Persuasions* in the library's extensive archives.

"We believe this publication is an important and valuable addition to our collections and to the historical record," wrote the Library of Congress Web Archiving Program to Editor Susan Allen Ford in November 2021. The letter further detailed the reasons JASNA's online journal was selected for inclusion. "The Library of Congress preserves cultural artifacts and provides enduring access to them in order to serve the needs of Congress and to support education and the creation of new scholarship. The Library's traditional functions of acquiring, cataloging, preserving, and serving collection materials of historical importance extend to digital materials."

A perusal of the library's digital holdings at loc.gov/collections reveals some of the company that *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line* will be keeping. They include a vast range of important materials, such as Alexander Hamilton's papers, those of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, the American music creators web archive, Persian language rare materials, and the Wright brothers negatives.

"The Library of Congress has very extensive and selective collection policies, but we also strive to be inclusive and diverse," says Regina

Reynolds, director of the U.S. ISSN Center and head of the ISSN Section. She notes that an organization's size and profit or nonprofit status are not part of the decision-making process. "Rather, the value and relevance of the content to the collection is a primary consideration."

While *Persuasions On-Line* came to the attention of the library's new Openly Available Serials project independently, Reynolds says the library encourages small publications to apply for an international standard serial number (ISSN) to ensure their works are considered for inclusion in the permanent national collection.



Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.



Library of Congress Great Hall



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DATES AND DEADLINES

JASNA News Summer 2022

Submission deadline: April 1, 2022 Publication date: mid-June

JASNA News Fall 2022

Submission deadline: July 1, 2022 Publication date: mid-September

JASNA News Winter 2023

Submission deadline: October 1, 2022 Publication date: mid-December

2022 JASNA Essay Contest

Submission deadline: June 2, 2022 Info: jasna.org/programs/essay-contest

2022 Young Filmmakers Contest

Submission deadline: September 15, 2022 Email: youngfilm@jasnasw.org Info: jasnasw.com/young-filmmakers-contest



Sanditon returns March 20.

JASNA News

The newsletter of the Jane Austen Society of North America

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JASNA News is mailed to members four times a year and also can be downloaded digitally. To forgo a printed copy, change your preferences in JASNA's Member Portal at jasna.org/login.

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President's ColumnLiz Philosophos Cooper



On our cover, you will read the exciting news that the Library of Congress has selected JASNA's *Persuasions On-Line* for inclusion as "an important and valuable addition to our collections and to

the historical record." It is an honor for our online journal to be included in this collection that "strives to be inclusive and diverse."

This recognition is due to the hard work and contributions of so many, chief among them *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line* Editor Susan Allen Ford and previous Editor Laurie Kaplan. In 1999, it was Laurie's vision to "offer the electronic community a new venue for intellectual engagement" among a broad readership. Being included in the Library of Congress means JASNA's online essays will now be read by an even broader audience.

Another illustration of JASNA's widening reach is the new International Region, led by Catherine Gwinner. On a pre-pandemic visit I made to the West Coast Florida Region, Catherine shared her vision with me, and we got to work to make it a reality after she moved to Stuttgart, Germany. At its first meeting, JASNA's 81st region had participants from Germany, Israel, Thailand, England, and Scotland. One of the members is Laurie Kaplan, who now resides in England.

On the other side of the globe, JASNA Hawaii and JASNA Southwest co-hosted the first-ever Pan Pacific conference on Jane Austen, with seven speakers from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the U.S. This meeting was the brainchild of Hawaii RC Bob Newell, who worked with Southwest RC Susie Wampler to make it a reality. Members from the Jane Austen Society of New Zealand continue to regularly participate in JASNA Hawaii's Zoom meetings.

JASNA relies on volunteers to run the society at the regional and national levels, and we are always looking for members interested in giving their time and skills in a variety of areas. Please consider sharing your talents to help JASNA continue to thrive and grow. In January, we added a Volunteer Skills & Interest Form to the Member Portal, and I encourage you to fill it out. To find the form, log on to the Member Portal and select "Volunteer Form" from the drop-down menu.

We look forward to seeing more JASNA members' talents on display in 2022 and beyond.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The JASNA Nominating Committee invites you to propose candidates for officer and at-large board positions. All current JASNA officer terms will expire in 2022, but some are eligible for a third term. The officer positions include: president; first vice president (regions); second vice president (publications); third vice president (conferences); secretary; treasurer; assistant treasurer; and membership secretary.

The terms of directly elected board members George Justice (Greater Phoenix), Paul Savidge (Eastern Pennsylvania), and Carlotta Marie Boone (District of Columbia) expire in 2022. Board members who have not reached their term limits may be reelected.

JASNA members in good standing may submit their own name or that of any other member, in writing, by July 1, 2022. New officers and board members will begin their roles in December 2022. Each director is expected to attend, at their own expense, all Annual General Meetings during their term of office, beginning with the 2023 AGM.

Please provide the nominee's name, address, telephone number, and email address; a brief description of their JASNA activities (local and/or national); special skills that would be helpful to the board; and assurance that the nominee is willing to serve and attend all AGMs.

Questions may be directed to any member of the Nominating Committee: Chair Susan Jelen (North Texas) at sjelen3@gmail.com, Carolyn Brown (Mississippi) at carolynjbrown1212@gmail.com, and Elizabeth Steele (Eastern Pennsylvania) at liza_janeite@hotmail.com. Send nominations and candidates' information to Jelen using the subject line "JASNA Nomination," or by mail to 4213 Prospect Lane, Plano, Texas 75093.

In addition to the board, JASNA maintains several committees to which qualified members may be appointed. Write to President Liz Philosophos Cooper at liz.p.cooper@gmail.com to recommend someone for committee service.

Annual General Meetings

Journeys for Janeites

Jane Austen's travels to resort towns and her relatives' residences never took her more than 150 miles from home, but appreciation of her work reaches around the world. JASNA holds its Annual General Meetings in cities throughout the U.S. and Canada (and once in the U.K., for 2003's "Homecoming" AGM), giving members the opportunity to discover new places while deepening their knowledge of Austen's novels and her life.

The 2022 AGM will take place in western Canada, where we haven't held an AGM since 2007. The following year offers the possibility of visiting Colorado's Front Range, where Denver, Aurora, and other cities lie in the plain just east of the Rocky Mountains. In 2024, Cleveland beckons, offering the buzz of a revitalized, historic city on Lake Erie. Whatever the location, AGMs follow the formula of an intellectually stimulating core conference, supporting programs that explore Austen's world, and an array of entertainment, tours, and hands-on activities.

Getting to Victoria

This year's AGM in Victoria gives attendees the opportunity to enjoy a top Canadian vacation destination while diving deeply into Sense and Sensibility. Victoria is the capital city of British Columbia. Though



Victoria's Inner Harbour

overtaken in commercial importance by Vancouver, Victoria retains a historic charm, complemented by its island location and mild climate. Gardens, attractions, and restaurants abound.

Choose one of several options for getting to Victoria. Want to get your feet on the ground in the city as soon as possible? Victoria International Airport (code YYJ) has direct flights from Seattle and many Canadian cities, as well as connecting ones through Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver. The airport is just a short shuttle ride from the AGM hotels.

Do you think getting there is half the fun? Look into itineraries that use ferries or seaplanes for the final leg. While this may sound exotic, the harbor outside the Empress Hotel is an official airport with many daily flights. Dedicated travelers who are not in a hurry might also consider taking the trans-Canada railroad to the AGM.

2022 Tours

AGM organizers are planning a diverse slate of tours to help attendees make the most of their time in Victoria and appreciate the location's



Averill Creek Winery Vineyard

many aspects. Bus tours will take participants on a scenic drive to award-winning vineyards in Cowichan Valley, north of the city, and to the famous Butchart Gardens, where 55 acres of horticultural splendor have attracted visitors for more than a century.

Victoria itself is a wonderfully compact, walkable city. Tours will enable visitors to learn about the city's history and visit fascinating spots, such as Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. Special walking tours combine history, exercise, and indulgence, with stops (and snacks!) at purveyors of famous Canadian food and beverages.

You can also choose your own adventures. Easy and rewarding options to pursue on your own or with friends include visiting the wonderful Royal British Columbia Museum and Archives (just a short walk from the AGM hotels), taking a whale-watching boat tour, or enjoying the world-famous afternoon tea at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Catching a water taxi to reach a restaurant or walk around a neighborhood is a low-cost scenic delight.

Making the Most of Your "Traveling Purse"

Austen lamented the limitations imposed by her lack of funds for travel, and all of us have certainly felt the same at some point. JASNA keeps AGM registration fees as low as possible by relying on volunteer labor, pricing tours and workshops separately, and cutting expenditures on items such as printing and decorations.

Nonetheless, attendees have to reach the AGM in the first place, and the real challenge for many is the cost of travel and hotel stays. One of the reasons the AGM takes place in different regions is to enable as many JASNA members as possible to attend a "hometown" AGM at some point, without the expense of long-distance travel. Moving the AGM

around enables JASNA to alternate between higher- and lower-cost areas of the U.S. and Canada.

In booking hotels for AGMs, the cost to attendees is always a top factor. Working several years in advance of each AGM, JASNA negotiates hard to strike the best deal on behalf of members.

For 2022, you can choose from the Fairmont Empress, Doubletree, and Marriott Inner Harbour. Attendees can save money by choosing one of the latter two, and many may prefer their modern high-rise layouts. All are within walking distance of the Victoria Conference Centre, where AGM programs will take place. Rooms at all three hotels can be shared, and the room block at the Marriott includes suites that can accommodate four people.

Sharing rooms is an informal tradition for many JASNA members, providing a way to economize and enjoy company. For those who don't have someone to share with, getting in touch with members of your local JASNA region is a first step. Closer to the AGM, the conference sponsors will launch a members-only online bulletin board where potential roommates can post requests. Members looking to share airport shuttles can also use the online board.

The AGM 2022 webpages contain abundant details about Victoria and the upcoming AGM. For travel tips and an Air Canada discount code, visit jasna.org/agms/victoria/travel.php

We can't wait to see you in Victoria, September 30 to October 2, 2022!



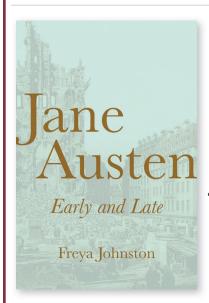
Victoria Conference Centre



Arrival by seaplane

ADVERTISEMENTS

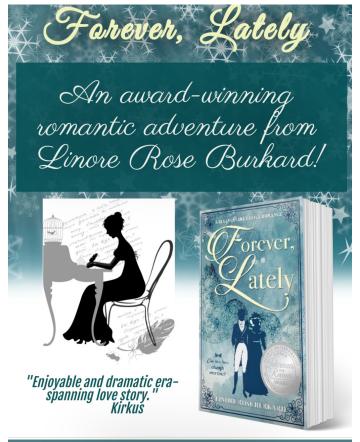




A reexamination of Austen's unpublished writings that uncovers their continuity with her celebrated novels and that challenges distinctions between her "early" and "late" work

"Fans of Jane Austen will enjoy Freya Johnston's Jane Austen, Early and Late, which examines some of the teenage writings from the author of Pride and Prejudice, many of which were, surprisingly, full of 'gallows humour.'"

-Martin Chilton, Independent



Available in print and ebook

Features

Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific

When Bob Newell applied to JASNA in October 2013 to launch a new region in Hawaii, he already envisioned big things for his small but dedicated group. "We have tripled our membership since those first days," he says. "And although we're still a tiny region, we are active and thriving."

As he concluded his eight-year tenure as regional coordinator at the end of 2021, Newell fulfilled a longtime goal—holding the first-ever Pan Pacific conference on Jane Austen. With seven speakers from five countries—Australia, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, and the U.S.—and attendees from even farther afield, the November 2021 event spanned 12 time zones. It also confirmed Austen's universality and importance to people around the globe.

"Hawaii is the 'crossroads of the Pacific' in commerce, trade, and travel," Newell notes, "so I thought, 'Why not the crossroads for Jane Austen, too?" While he had successfully developed a partnership with the Jane Austen Society of New Zealand, Newell had long dreamed of a more expansive program of presenters from throughout the Pacific Rim. Southwest RC Susie Wampler attended the March 2021 Hawaii-New Zealand meeting and soon after proposed partnering with Newell to bring his vision for a Pan Pacific Austen conference to life. As JASNA's largest region, the Los Angeles-based Southwest Region can host larger Zoom gatherings than many smaller regions and also had the infrastructure to publicize and help develop the event.

Working from Newell's research on potential Pacific Rim attendees and speakers and his impressive mapping of complicated time-zone logistics, the duo collaborated on topics and structure for the event. Held Saturday, November 13 in the United States, and Sunday, November 14 in the Eastern Hemisphere, the resulting "Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific" conference featured five hours of programming that highlighted established and emerging Austen scholars and writers. Each of the presentations remains available for viewing on the Southwest YouTube channel (go to YouTube and search JASNA Southwest to access the recordings).

The event began with JASNA President Liz Philosophos Cooper greeting attendees in the native tongues of the speakers' countries. Newell introduced each presenter in turn while Wampler handled the Q&A segments following each talk.

Goucher College Professor of Literary Studies Juliette Wells delivered the opening presentation, "Jane Austen in Translation." The college holds an unparalleled collection of Austen works in translation, with volumes encompassing some 70 languages. In addition to providing an overview of Goucher's remarkable collection, she shared a few visual highlights, including images of Austen translations in several Asian languages.



Some of Goucher's Pan Pacific holdings

Next up was Joanne Wilkes, an Australian who has spent most of her academic career in New Zealand. Her talk, "Jane Austen in Australia and New Zealand," provided an overview of Austen's reception in the two countries and the role her novels play in the education systems there. The University of Auckland professor opened her remarks with a discussion of Barbara Ker Wilson's 1984 novel *Jane Austen in Australia*, which imagines Austen visiting Port Jackson, the country's first European colony, with her aunt and uncle Leigh-Perrot.

Wilkes was followed by Hatsuyo (Hatty) Shimazaki, a founding member of the Jane Austen Society of Japan who has twice been granted a visiting fellowship at Chawton House. A specialist in the representation of speech and thought in the novels of Austen and 18th century fiction, Shimazaki analyzed Kazuo Ishiguro's 2021 novel, *Klara and the Sun*, as a modern interpretation of *Mansfield Park*. Klara is a companion robot, or "artificial friend," and, like Austen's Fanny Price, holds a marginalized position in both society and the household in which she lives.

New Zealand-based writer and editor Ruth Williamson—also editor of the Jane Austen Society of Australia's newsletter, the *Chronicle*—offered several interesting examples from the publication's series "Austen Passports." The project invites Janeites to share personal stories of their engagement with the novelist's work. Profiles have featured women from around the globe,



Hatty Shimazaki's talk

including Brazil, India, Indonesia, Japan, and the Netherlands. In her presentation, "Jane Austen in the Philippines," Maria Lorena (Lorie) Santos of the University of the Philippines described how Austen is transformed for Filipino audiences, and she provided an overview of three contemporary novels based on *Pride and Prejudice*. Her compelling segment on "Preoccupations and Prejudices" discussed issues related to beauty and whiteness, the repression and expression of female desire, and female identity in a postcolonial—but not decolonized—Philippines.

Sydney-based writer and researcher Judith Stove highlighted the experiences and letters of pioneer Rachel Henning, who immigrated to Australia in the mid-19th century. Henning's correspondence depicts the countryside as well as daily life in her era in a manner Stove describes as having "a touch of Jane Austen." Stove's latest book is *Jane Austen's Inspiration: Beloved Friend Anne Lefroy*. Closing speaker Susannah Fullerton—president of the Jane Austen



Lorie Santos on "Jane Austen in the Philippines"

Society of Australia for more than 25 years—described the history of the society and also speculated on what Austen herself might have known about Australia. Fullerton noted that Austen's brother Frank was in Portsmouth training with the Royal Navy in 1787, when the first fleet transporting convicts sailed for Botany Bay. In 1800, Austen's aunt Jane Leigh-Perrot went on trial for stealing lace—which could have led to her being sent to Australia had she not been acquitted.

A Confidential Resource

by Amanda Halla

I am honored to introduce myself as your JASNA ombudsperson. Since this is a new role within our organization, some of you may not be familiar with the position. During the 1950s, the Swedish term ombudsman (meaning "representative") began to be used in the U.S. to designate a person who could facilitate conflict resolution within an organization or governmental entity. Over time, this title evolved into ombudsperson or just ombuds. The ombuds is "one who assists individuals and groups in managing conflicts and raising concerns in service of a highly effective and healthy organization," according to the International Ombudsman Association.



You may be wondering what this role has to do with JASNA and the enjoyment of Jane Austen's writing. Our society has grown to more than 5,000 members and, as with any organization of this size, members may at times need advice or want to report an issue or incident that is not in keeping with JASNA's Community Guidelines. As ombudsperson, I am a designated neutral party to whom members may speak in *complete confidentiality*. My job is to provide a process through which members feel heard, respected, safe, and comfortable.

My work will include confidential needs assessments, factual investigations, shuttle diplomacy, facilitation, mediation, and other communication/resolution methods as necessary. I will also compile data about my work (with all possible identifying information erased) and share it with the JASNA Board of Directors so they are aware of trends or issues that need to be addressed to ensure a healthy, welcoming culture.

My professional and academic background is in conflict resolution, and I have a master's degree in intercultural relations. In addition, I have been a JASNA member for 15 years. When I saw the ombudsperson job posting, I knew it was an opportunity for me to marry my interests. How exciting!

After serving as a regional coordinator, regional board member, and tour manager for the 2006 and 2016 AGMs, I am deeply invested in the health and wellbeing of our organization and membership. This role allows me to apply the skills I have learned through my studies, experience in equity, diversity, and inclusion, and work with the Tucson Police Department, state of Arizona, and U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as life skills learned from being a wife and "special needs" mom.

If you are not sure how to resolve an issue or where to start, contact me for direction and advice. My office hours are Mondays 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thursdays 7-9 p.m. (Eastern time), or you can request an appointment outside those hours. I can be reached at JASNAombudsperson@gmail.com or by texting or calling 401-200-6801. I look forward to serving you.



GUIDANCE FOR THE CLASSROOM

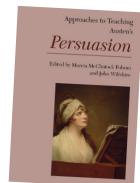
Approaches to Teaching Austen's Persuasion

Edited by Marcia McClintock Folsom and John Wiltshire **Modern Language Association (2021)**

240 pages, paperback, \$32

Review by Linda Troost

This guide to *Persuasion* is the fourth Austen novel addressed in the *Approaches to Teaching* World Literature series. The editors have selected valuable pedagogical essays, and the book has much to offer both the novice and the experienced college or university teacher.



The volume is divided into two parts. The

first, "Materials," reviews currently available classroom texts of the novel, gives a potted history of *Persuasion*'s critical reception, surveys three television adaptations, and provides an overview of useful digital resources. Oxford or Norton? Penguin or Broadview? The material included here will help instructors choose, and the editors even present a précis of each edition's introduction. They also offer specific guidance on how to teach topics of current interest in the academy. Among the items covered are Austen's style—in particular, free indirect discourse—the matter of the two endings, and the tantalizing question of whether the novel was actually finished. Other subjects reviewed include Anne Elliot's psychology, disability and the body, and the navy.

The materials described are necessarily selective. The production timeline, unfortunately, prevented mention of the updated *Modern* Persuasion from 2020 and the forthcoming film of Persuasion starring Dakota Johnson. The editors' coverage of texts and websites is good—I am especially glad to see attention paid to Laura White's innovative Austen Said project at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln—but it would have been helpful to evaluate less academic websites like Molland's, which is where many of my students actually go to read the novels (even if I have assigned a specific edition).

The second part, "Approaches," presents teaching advice from 22 contributors. I wish I had space to describe them all. In "Historical Context," Peter J. Capuano writes about how to adjust historical context when teaching *Persuasion* in different courses, be it looking back to the detailed realism of Robinson Crusoe in a survey of the 18th century novel or forward to Dickens and reformist literature in a 19th century literature course. His exercise on "deforming the text," selectively looking at grammatical patterns, will help students see

how Austen creates the emotional punch of, say, Wentworth's letter to Anne. Capuano's approach to getting students to engage with free indirect discourse is also masterful. Monica F. Cohen and Sheila Johnson Kindred both unpack Austen's handling of the Royal Navy. Cohen uses the contrast between the culture of the land and the culture of the sea to examine Austen's presentation of social change. Kindred explains the careers of Austen's brothers in the navy and provides several excerpts from their correspondence to shine a light on the novel's realism. Paul Westover and William Nelles both offer guidance on how to read *Persuasion* in the context of the wars with France.

"Close Reading and the Inner Life" serves up innovative ways to get students to look deeply into the text. Margaret Case has students examine the opening of the novel as well as genuine entries in The Baronetage, which can lead to discussions of titles, social rank in England, and political obligations. Timothy Peltason explains how he guides students to see both narratorial irony and authorial affection for Anne through the close study of Austen's use of the language of feeling.

"Literary Contexts" offers examples of how to teach Austen's novel to various audiences while highlighting themes such as home and world (Julia Prewitt Brown) or Wollstonecraftian feminism (Madgalena Nerio) and literary contexts like Augustan or Romantic poetry (Lynda A. Hall, Anna Dodson Saikin). Finally, "Other Teaching Strategies" delivers imaginative takes on teaching *Persuasion* with film (Abigail Burnham Bloom), using hand-drawn maps and Google Earth to clarify ideas of space (Rebecca Posusta, Catherine J. Golden), scrutinizing Austen's presentation of illness, disability, and nursing (Sylvia A. Pamboukian, Talia Schaffer), and debating the value of Lady Russell's advice (Melissa J. Ganz).

All in all, Folsom and Wiltshire give us a volume that provides practical assignments to open up the novel to a variety of students at the college level. It will be most helpful for those finding themselves teaching Persuasion or even Austen for the first time and who

have no idea where to begin, but it also offers much to refresh the repertoire of the seasoned teacher.

Linda Troost is a professor of English at Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. With Sayre Greenfield, she edited Jane Austen in Hollywood, and continues to study Austen's work as adapted into different media.

COOKING AT CHAWTON

Martha Lloyd's Household Book

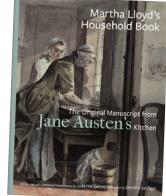
Introduced with annotated transcription by Julienne Gehrer

Foreword by Deirdre Le Faye Bodleian Library, University of Oxford (2021)

312 pages, 85 color illustrations Hardcover, \$36.94

Review by Gillian Dow

Books produced by the Bodleian Library imprint are always a feast for the senses and Martha Lloyd's Household Book:
The Original Manuscript from Jane
Austen's Kitchen is no exception. In this



lavishly illustrated publication, both Martha Lloyd—friend and relation to the Austen women—and household matters in their Chawton home are brought to life.

Central to this endeavor is the facsimile of the original from the Jane Austen's House collections. Reproducing the digitized manuscript facilitates a beguiling proximity to this unique object. We see for ourselves the spots and stains, marks of use and ownership, various handwriting, and variant spellings. For a modest sum, you too can own a slice of household history.

It is, however, in the careful introduction, historical contextualization, and explanatory notes that editor Julienne Gehrer demonstrates the true value of this publication. Here, we meet Lloyd, her extended family, and her neighbors in Hampshire. There is certainly some speculation about the woman whose life, Gehrer tells us, contains "no great headlines."

We read that Lloyd "must have looked forward" to the move to Chawton because it enabled her to focus on her cookery interests; that she "must have known" about Austen's secretive composition practice; that "surely" Lloyd "enjoyed listening as Jane read her work aloud." These interpretations—a necessary part of the business of biography—do not, however, spark unnecessary flights of fancy: This mini biography is meticulously researched and backed up with references to Austen's letters. In "Martha's Household Book in Historical Context" (31–41) we are introduced to the sources that one might usefully read alongside this book. A complete glossary of terms and a helpful index are included.

Turning to the recipes themselves, one encounters a dizzying array of ingredients and methods from a local network of contributors, involving a global supply chain. The results are both culinary and medicinal. Gehrer draws attention to "Fashionable French Flair," and influence comes from much farther afield. The British colonies are represented via the liberal use of sugar and spices. One recipe involves "Carolina Rice," and various others include Indian pickles and curries.

A note on the very first page, containing bibliographical information about the publication, points out that many of the recipes contain "ingredients now known to be toxic" and that are "not advised for consumption or use," a message that Gehrer repeats. In our own pandemic-afflicted times, nothing makes one grateful for the wonders of science and modern medicine as much as reading the desperate "remedy" for "Hooping Cough" (whooping cough) (132). This involves cutting a crown-sized, or one-half-inch, piece of hair from the top of the head, and applying a samesized piece of brown paper, dipped in "rectified oyl of amber" to the bald patch for nine consecutive mornings! Other medical "receipts" would have proved not just ineffective but also positively deleterious. And one cannot turn the pages on curing, preserving, drying, salting, and pickling without deep gratitude for the wonders of refrigeration.

What a treat it is, too, to read the words of the late Deirdre Le Faye in her foreword. Le Faye draws connections between Martha Lloyd and Jane Austen, pointing out that, in spite of Austen's great gifts, she was "not brilliant at everything and it has to be admitted that she was not particularly domesticated" (viii).

For Le Faye, Lloyd's labor on household matters gave "Jane's genius time and room to expand," and she suggests "a toast to her memory, in her own favourite spruce beer." Might I add my own recommendation to infuse Mrs. Henry Austen's gin and bitter almond "Noyeau" (122)? We can then raise a glass to all who contributed to this fine publication. It is worthy of a place in every Austenite's collection.

Gillian Dow is associate professor of English at the University of Southampton. From 2014 to 2019, she was executive director of Chawton House, home to a large collection of 18th century household books, including those used by Jane Austen's relations the Knights.

EVERY DAY I WRITE THE BOOK

Pride & Prejudice* (*sort of)

By Isobel McArthur after Jane Austen Criterion Theatre, London (December 2021)

Review by Susan L. Wampler

As a devoted Janeite equally passionate about live theater, I was eager to see Pride & Prejudice* (*sort of) in London's West End on my first post-COVID overseas trip (which turned out *not* to be post-COVID after all). What I thought would be just a fun little



Isobel McArthur as Mr. Darcy, Meghan Tyler as Liz, Christina Gordon as Jane, and Hannah Jarrett-Scott as Mr. Bingley

lark won me over with its ingenuity, hilarity, and exuberance.

Isobel McArthur—who wrote and co-directed the play and also brilliantly portrays both Mrs. Bennet and Mr. Darcy—simultaneously captures the spirit and key plot points of Austen's beloved novel while modernizing the storytelling and language (yes, there's profanity). The production is infused with irreverence, gender politics—plus karaoke! McArthur describes her goal in writing the play as "affectionate-whilst-knowing" and "fourth-wall-breaking and celebratory."

Because Pride and Prejudice is about five daughters, she chose to tell the story from the perspective of five female servants, who in turn play their employers—and all the other characters—in this version of Austen's tale. "At its very heart, this was always a woman's story," McArthur says about the decision to use an all-female cast.

The resourcefulness of the acting and writing is most evident in what McArthur calls "multi-roling." Hannah Jarrett-Scott (Annabel Baldwin at my performance) portrays Charlotte Lucas (in love with Elizabeth) and both Charles and Caroline Bingley. Christina Gordon plays Jane, Lady Catherine, and George Wickham. Tori Burgess (Leah Jamieson on the night I saw the show) depicts both Mary and Lydia Bennet as well as Mr. Collins and Mrs. Gardner. Meghan Tyler—as Elizabeth (Liz) and servant Effie—is the only performer to play just one Austen character, since Liz is in virtually every scene. Mr. Bennet is represented by the back of a winged armchair with a newspaper and smoke from an imagined pipe.

It is excessively diverting to see these talented actors instantly transform into their various—and wildly different—characters following just a quick costume change. The striking set features an impressive, winding staircase with books under each step. And the use of karaoke adds another element of energy, beginning appropriately with Elvis Costello's "Everyday I Write the Book." Liz singing "You're So Vain" to Mr. Darcy at the ball where he snubs her is on the nose, but hilariously so, while Jane and Bingley singing "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" is also apropos.

Yes, it's sometimes jarring to hear Elizabeth and Darcy swear, and Austen's iconic dialogue is largely lost in furtherance of a fast pace and the need to appeal to a wider, modern audience. But the production is often side-splittingly funny and fueled by its own unique wit. Affection for Austen and the novel is clearly evident, as McArthur admits in her introduction to the printed script. "This is an adaptation that adores its source text," she writes.

McArthur adds: "Jane Austen could not publish under her own name during her lifetime because of her gender. I'm lucky enough to live in a time when I can put my name—and hers—on the front of this book."

I feel lucky enough to have caught this joyful show in its West End debut (having missed the chance in 2020 to see Laura Wade's groundbreaking version of *The Watsons* because of the pandemic). Sadly, COVID shortened this run of Pride & Prejudice* (*sort of) but a U.K. tour is anticipated for fall 2022 followed by a return to the West End. Just as the novel rewards repeat reading, so too does this production warrant a long life and repeat viewing.

Susan L. Wampler is editor of JASNA News, coregional coordinator for JASNA Southwest, a JASNA Life Member, and creative lead for an eponymous writing/editing agency serving nonprofit clients.



Meghan Tyler as Liz, **H**annah Jarrett-Scott as a servant, Isobel McArthur as Mrs. Bennet, Tori Burgess as Lvdia. and Christina Gordon as Jane



Christina Gordon as Wickham sharing his tale of woe with Meghan Tyler as Liz, as three servants serenade them

photos by Matt Crockett

MURDER, MYSTERY, AND MEDICINE AT THE SPA

Jane and the Year Without a Summer: Being a Jane Austen Mystery

By Stephanie Barron Soho Press Inc. (2022), 321 pages Paperback, \$27.95

Review by Lynda Hall

The latest episode in Stephanie Barron's *Jane Austen Mystery* series takes place during the last full year of Austen's life, 1816. The "year without a summer" was due to a global weather disruption caused by the eruption

of the volcano Mount Tambora in the Indonesian islands.

The novel is set during that rainy summer at Cheltenham Spa, where Jane and Cassandra travel in quest of a cure for Jane's unexplained ailment. They board in a home with several characters who provide distraction from the horrid-tasting "waters" that Jane is prescribed to drink and the continuing illness that will eventually take her life.

Pertinent events in the last year of Austen's life are peppered throughout the narrative: Henry's bank failure and bankruptcy, a lawsuit against Edward Knight's inheritance, and Austen's early sketching of *The Elliots*, which will be published posthumously as *Persuasion*. The narrator's description of her niece Fanny Austen-Knight as "handsome, clever, and rich" will remind readers of Austen's *Emma*, and a few other "Easter eggs" hinting at characters and events in *Persuasion* and *Sanditon* will delight those familiar with Austen's works.

The fictional characters in this tale include an overly pious clergyman—who reads the inclement weather as the beginning

of the biblical apocalypse—his sister and her beloved pug, a mysterious "Beauty in the Basket Chair" (89) and her attendant, and a shadowy theatrical elocution coach with a strange connection to a dashing captain of the navy, turned onshore during peacetime.

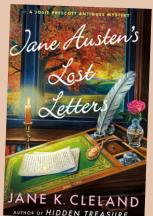
The characters find themselves in turmoil during a masquerade ball commemorating the king's birthday. Readers of Barron's previous novels will recognize recurring characters who assist Austen in solving the mysterious deaths in and around the boarding house and provide her with protection, companionship, and perhaps genuine love.

Although the narrative includes historical events as well as period-specific celebrations and behaviors, Barron deftly includes subtle commentary on women's health practices in Austen's time that would be shocking to 21st century readers. Austen was ailing—perhaps from a kidney disease now referred to as Addison's—and it is disheartening to realize that drinking the sulfur-laden waters of Cheltenham Spa would not cure her (nor would the fictional doctor's misogynous diagnosis). As we come to the historic end of Austen's life, it is also disheartening to realize that we may also have come to the end of the life of the fictitious detective Jane.

Lynda Hall is an associate professor of English at Chapman University in Orange, California. A JASNA member for more than 30 years, she has presented at several AGMs and has had a number of papers published in Persuasions. Her monograph, Women and "Value" in Jane Austen's Novels, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2017.

BOOK GIVEAWAY

The winners of the drawing for copies of Jane Cleland's latest mystery novel, Jane Austen's Lost Letters, are Sara Tavela of the North Carolina Region, David Graves of the Northern California Region, and Abigail Fuller of the Southeastern Virginia Region. JASNA News is grateful to Minotaur Books for providing the courtesy copies.



SUMMER READING

Have you already planned your summer reading list? What new (or revisited) titles are you looking forward to diving into? How would you describe your summer reading habits? How have those habits changed over the years?

Share your story with *JASNA News* by April 5, and your comments may be featured in this year's Summer Reading Issue. Email jasnanews@gmail.com.



To nominate yourself or another member, email JASNA News Editor Susie Wampler at jasnanews@gmail.com. Responses may be edited for length, style, and format.



ANITA CAMPBELL

Nova Scotia

When did you first discover Jane Austen?

I'd love to be able to say that I fell into Austen's world at an early age but, in truth, it was the film adaptations of the mid-1990s that lured me in. But I truly entered her world when I joined JASNA and became a member of my local region here in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Member since: 2008

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA. I've attended four AGMs and am determined to make it to the 2022 conference in Victoria. During the pandemic, I thoroughly enjoyed the Zoom presentations from other regions and hope these virtual meetings continue in some form. An active member of my region, I've given presentations on Regency fashion and coordinated a Christmas luncheon based on Austen family recipes.

Background: I worked for Parks Canada for 35 years as a material culture researcher in archaeology and then as a historic house curator—including the Anne of Green Gables house in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island. So I'm particularly drawn to the history, culture, and fashions of Austen's times.

Other passions/interests: When I'm not reading Austen or books about Austen, you'll find my nose in a good mystery. Before the pandemic, I enjoyed English and Scottish country dancing as well as Irish set dancing (think square dancing to lively Irish tunes). I love making Regency gowns and bonnets, knitting, and sketching.

I'm addicted to online jigsaw puzzles but justify this by only doing ones of paintings; in the process, I've discovered a lot of new-to-me artists. I live in what I like to call "my little cottage in the city," with its garden full of English roses and delphiniums.



MICHELLE SIU

Vancouver

When did you first discover Jane Austen?

When I was in grade 8 or 9, I dashed into the school library and grabbed a hardcover that caught my eye in

the classics display. I was merely in need of a book for a required reading activity. I slowly fell in love with this elegant and stately Regency world and learned to love having plentiful footnotes.

What do you love most about Austen?

Her romantic storylines got me hooked, then I read deeper-noticing that little bit of cheek, a little bit of subversion, that writer's "wink-wink, nudge-nudge" that allows me to feel like I'm connecting to Austen, the writer.

Member since: 2007, and Life Member since 2017

What do you enjoy most about JASNA?

Such a great group of people coming together with a shared admiration of Austen and also a desire to learn more about her and the Regency period

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.

I read about the Vancouver AGM in the local paper and joined the regional meetings. It wasn't until 2014 that I could make it to my first AGM in Montreal. I have my own Regency dress-made with the help of my mother—and I've updated it with a great pelisse from Matti's Millinery & Costumes that I picked up at my second AGM at Huntington Beach, Calif. I served as the regional coordinator for Vancouver from December 2014–2021, staying an extra year to pivot us online through the pandemic. We have a great group that embraced the Zoom technology. Online meetings are a new normal. We've seen how they improve accessibility and create incredible opportunities but we're looking forward to safely moving to in-person meetings.

Background: I hold a BA in English literature and, instead of going into education like most of my peers, I took a long, winding path into broadcasting, including working as an audio technician on live television. Currently, I'm a newsroom administrator for a national Canadian broadcasting station.

Other passions/interests: I love trying new cuisines. In Vancouver, there's always a new favorite restaurant to discover. In just one month, I've had Vietnamese, Pakistani, Japanese, American BBQ, Korean, Chinese, and Singaporean foods. Yum!

Favorite Austen work/character: Darcy and Lizzy were my first Austen favorites, but Wentworth and Anne are now No. 1 on my list.

Other favorite authors/genres: I love the Thursday Next series by Jasper Fforde, and anything by Jan Wong, including her travel memoir Apron Strings.

What are you reading now? I've got Ruth Ozeki's A Tale for the Time Being on my audiobook player. My last e-book was Fflorde's The Constant Rabbit.

Fun facts: I was working on a national hockey TV program when I got my five seconds of fame. Our interview guest arrived late and I had to help him with his microphone while he was being introduced live!



NANCY MARTIN-YOUNG

North Carolina

When did you first discover Jane Austen?

Remember Scholastic Books? I used to pore over those order forms for hours. When I was in third or fourth grade, one of the titles offered was *Pride* and Prejudice. The cover had a line drawing of Darcy and Elizabeth covered in blue and green

wash. And that book was thick, the fattest book I'd ever tackled, with much smaller print than Magic Elizabeth or My Side of the Mountain.

The prose was daunting that first time I tackled it, but eventually I grew accustomed to Austen's rhythm and came to love her meticulous style. Year after year, I went back to that book, until eventually the spine split. My opinions of characters have shifted over the years, especially regarding Mr. Bennet and Lydia.

What do you love most about Austen? Her snarkiness Member since: 2017

What do you enjoy most about JASNA? Where else can you find a congenial group of people who are willing to talk for hours about Austen, the Regency, and the difference between a pocket and a reticule?

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.

It's been my pleasure to attend meetings in person and, since the pandemic, online, as well as participating in the JASNA North Carolina book club. Without that book club, I'd have missed out on the delightful exploits of Frances Burney's Evelina. Someday I hope to attend an AGM. I love to watch the dancing on Twitter.

Background: I was an English and film professor for many years, as well as a newspaper reporter, editor, and choir director. The first novel I taught as a teaching assistant was *Pride and* Prejudice. Recently, I found some old lecture notes when I cleaned out the attic. Some key points I made when I was 22: "Elizabeth must choose a partner who is as complex as herself." "Curiously, only the *bad* proposals are related in dialogue." "Much regarding marriage in the novel is dependent on chance."

Other passions/interests: I write poetry, short stories, and novels. Wit and Prattles, my new Regency novel, explores the backstory of the Palmers from *Sense and Sensibility*. One of my short stories, "Pride and Fawning," shows what happens when Wentworth and Darcy show up at the JASNA North Carolina Region.

I also must confess my love of horror moviesnot slashers, except for *Psycho*, but eerie ones like Robert Wise's The Haunting, Dead of Night, Get Out, and Browning's Dracula.

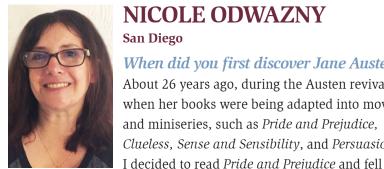
In addition, I love basset hounds. And cats. And squirrels, who have grown so cheeky here that they peer in the window to tell me the bird feeder is empty. Most of all, I love my kids and Dan, who took me to the prom and still squires me around.

Favorite Austen work/character: Anne Elliot's elegance of mind and sweetness of temperament earn my vote, and *Persuasion* is my favorite Austen novel. Of course, Pride and Prejudice and Lizzy are close seconds. As the author of three gothic novels, I also have a deep affection for Northanger Abbey.

Other favorite authors/genres: Mysteries, romantic suspense novels, horror, and gothic (Jane Eyre and Moura rank high)

What are you reading now? A Study in Scarlet Women by Sherry Thomas and Collins Hemingway's The Marriage of Miss Jane Austen

Fun facts: I've been to Bath and enjoyed myself there much more than Austen did.



NICOLE ODWAZNY San Diego

When did you first discover Jane Austen? About 26 years ago, during the Austen revival when her books were being adapted into movies and miniseries, such as Pride and Prejudice, Clueless, Sense and Sensibility, and Persuasion.

in love with the book, prose, and characters. Then I was hooked!

What do you love most about Austen? She was able to give women a voice when they did not have one. She also gave the heroines in her books the ability to learn from their mistakes and become confident and secure individuals.

Member since: 2021

What do you enjoy most about JASNA? I like to discuss Austen and the people, places, and things that were relevant to her, with people who share the same enthusiasm about her and her works.

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA. I was a board member at large but recently took over the programs director position for our region.

Background: I was born and raised in San Diego, where I still live with my husband, 11-year-old son, and dog, Saki. I graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in history (my emphasis was modern Europe). For the last 20 years, I have worked for the Del Mar Union School District, first as a preschool teacher and more recently in special education.

Other passions/interests: I am a big fan of Lucille Ball and I Love Lucy, probably to the same extent that I am of Austen. Another passion of mine is the movie Grease—I love the music, singing, and dancing. I also like attending concerts and musical theater, and going to museums and art exhibits.

Favorite Austen work/character:

My favorite Austen work has to be Pride and Prejudice and my favorite character is Elizabeth Bennet. Second runner-up would be Persuasion and Anne Elliot and Captain Frederick Wentworth.

Other favorite authors/genres: My other favorite authors are Diana Gabaldon, Shannon Hale, and Ann Mychal.

What are you reading now? I just started reading Longbourn by Jo Baker. Before that, I read Jane Austen: A Companion by Laura Dabundo.

Fun facts: A couple of months ago, I bought Martha Lloyd's Household Book. My husband and I decided to make one of Austen's favorite meals—"toasted cheese" with an egg, grated cheese, a teaspoonful of mustard (dry), and a little butter on toast. I have to say that it was pretty tasty!



PAULETTE PENZVALTO

Northern Califormia

When did you first discover Jane Austen? I honestly do not remember when I first read Austen but I became more serious

about her work in grad school in Cardiff, Wales. I remember becoming unwell and having a hard time falling asleep. I listened to the entirety of Pride and Prejudice multiple times and would sometimes wake up and realize I'd spent the whole night listening in my sleep. At one point, I had large portions of the book memorized.

What do you love most about Austen?

I have autism and I love Austen's keen insight into human connection and interaction. It's given me a really useful handbook for understanding and participating in social dynamics. I rarely find a situation that arises in which I can't point to some scene to draw wisdom from. It's quite remarkable how many human scenarios she managed to cover throughout her various novels.

Member since: Life Member since 2013 What do you enjoy most about JASNA?

I have enjoyed making friends who share my deep interest in Austen. I feel that they understand me in a unique way and that we often share other mutual interests, such as historical costuming, dance, and travel.

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.

I have attended a number of events over the years, one of my favorites being the premiere of Pride &

Prejudice & Zombies in New York City, attended by about 150 women and one man—my boyfriend. That is how I knew he was a keeper. Other favorite activities include viewing Austen's portrait, seeing first editions of her novels at Sotheby's with my NYC Jane's Juvenilia friends, attending the premiere of the Pride and Prejudice opera at San Mateo Public Library, and going to a celebration of Austen's birthday at the Bellevue Club in Oakland with other members from my Northern California Region.

Background: I am an engineering program manager in privacy, safety, and security at Google, and I lead the Google Disability Alliance. I am also a professional operatic soprano specializing in dramatic repertoire.

Other passions/interests: Sewing, baking, singing opera, travel, and dancing

Favorite Austen work/character: I love anything Austen or Austen-themed, as well as young adult literature, especially if it involves royals! I also like to read biographies, science journals, and history books.

What are you reading now? The Jane Austen Project by Kathleen A. Flynn. I highly recommend it!

Fun facts: For my 40th birthday, I flew to London for the trip of a lifetime and visited Austen's house in Chawton, as well as the place where she died, and Winchester Cathedral, where she is interred. Some exciting highlights included meeting her great-great-great-great-great-grandnephew, Jeremy Knight. I also loved sitting at her spot at the family dinner table in the big house. And I got the biggest thrill viewing her writing table. It felt like a spiritual experience.



ERIKA KOTITE

Southwest

When did you first discover Jane Austen?

The summer I turned 15. I was bored and wanted something new to read. A copy of *Pride and Prejudice* was sitting in my sister's closet and I liked the title. The rest is a blur of reading and rereading each of the six novels.

What do you love most about Austen? I couldn't believe how long ago the books were written because I recognized many of my own family members and acquaintances among Austen's characters. The novels also satisfy my constant search for harmony in life. The Kotite DNA contains a fair amount of impulsiveness, which often leads to chaos. Austen's writing style, word choice, and paragraph structure are like tonics. I'm convinced that these elements have actually improved my life and strengthened my character.

Member since: 1990

What do you enjoy most about JASNA? I'm in awe of the

scholars, academics, artists, and writers who provide new ways of enjoying and understanding Austen. I enjoy the adrenaline rush I get during and after every AGM and each regional meeting that I attend.

Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.

I've attended 14 AGMs, beginning with Washington, D.C., in 1990. In 2014, I joined the JASNA Southwest Steering Committee and began working on the 2017 AGM in Huntington Beach, where I live. I was soon afterward elected second vice president, publications, for JASNA. I am also in my third year chairing Southwest's Young Filmmakers Contest.

Background: My career as a magazine reporter and editor spans 25 years, from Entrepreneur Magazine to Victorian Homes and Romantic Homes as editor-in-chief. From there I was a book packager and also developed content programs for brands such as Boston Market and Evite. A serendipitous reference to the folks at Quarto Publishing turned me into an expert on all things she-shed related. I am author of two books about she sheds and co-founded She Shed Living in 2018.

Other passions/interests: My first passion is reading, mostly fiction, but I am also interested in nonfiction related to the Gold Rush and westward migration in the U.S. I am an accomplished home cook and recently tested a vegan mushroom bourguignon that is almost as good as beef. I adore jigsaw puzzles, plein air paintings, ghost towns, Siamese cats, Old English sheepdogs, traveling, and going out for breakfast.

Favorite Austen work/character: I love Elizabeth Bennet but have to say my favorite is Anne Elliot. She represents constancy, strength of character (without a smidge of annoying sanctimoniousness), and intelligence—someone I would acknowledge to be "the best kind of company."

Other favorite authors/genres: Laura Ingalls Wilder is a lifelong favorite. I enjoy James Michener and recently read *Chesapeake*. I've read Helen Hooven Santmyer's *And Ladies of the Club* multiple times. I'm a repeat reader, and not ashamed of it!

Fun facts: My husband, Tim, secretly followed me up to Lake Louise during the 1993 AGM and proposed (in costume) on the mezzanine of the fabulous Chateau Lake Louise. With such a show of theatricality and love, how could I resist?

Regional News

CANADA

British Columbia, Vancouver

In November, Lindsey Seatter of Kwantlen Polytechnic University gave an in-person presentation on "Imagining Publics, Negotiating Powers: The Parallel Evolutions of Romantic Social Structure and Jane Austen's Free Indirect Discourse." Seatter's talk on Austen's pioneering use of free indirect discourse noted how the reader never knows where the authorial voice leaves off and the character's inner thought takes over. At our December meeting, Janice Mallison was elected RC, succeeding Michelle Siu.



We held our annual birthday tea virtually in December. RC Judith Elson gave an informative talk on the customs and food of Georgian Christmases-so different from Victorian practices. Lidia Larrondo spoke about Austen's music, and



Janice Mallison and Michelle Siu



"Prince Regent's Punch" video

Elaine Bander described the Georgian (and Austen family) custom of children's balls on Twelfth Night. We toasted JASNA and Jane Austen and viewed a short video about how to make "Prince Regent's Punch." This unscripted and unrehearsed performance by Jean Bethel (as Jane) and Bander (as Cassandra) was filmed by Leah Bethel and may be viewed on our Facebook page. We concluded our celebration with some quizzes by Elson.

Nova Scotia

In September, JASNA President Liz Philosophos Cooper joined us via Zoom for a Q&A session following our viewing of her video talk on "Jane Austen, Working Woman." In October at the Central Library's Paul O'Regan Hall, Anita Campbell, Darcy Johns, and library representative Shevon O'Toole presented "Fashions and Filth in Jane Austen's England, Darcy Johns





Clockwise from top left: Accessories on display at the Nova Scotia Central Library event; Austen adaptations; Regency fashions

1775-1817" to a very appreciative audience. An emporium housed period dress and accessories, food, books, and DVDs. Sheila Kindred





spoke in November on "Narratives of Naval Wives During the Napoleonic Wars: Fanny in Fact and Jane in Fiction." That same weekend, Campbell, Jan Parker, and Sheila and Hugh Kindred presented "Letters in Novels and Novels in Letters."

UNITED STATES

Alabama

Blanche Spinks graciously hosted our October meeting at her home. Ian Crawford presented "Jane Austen's Grandchildren: A Comparison of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen Characters"—a brilliant discussion that considered the names, plots, and society of both authors' creations. In December, we celebrated Austen's birthday at Kathi Stafford's home with a program on "Jane Austen's Kitchen," a discussion of Martha Lloyd's Household Book. Bill Crowe described the workings of 18th century kitchens and how goods were obtained. Both meetings were also available via Zoom.

Arizona, Greater Phoenix

In August, we reviewed the one-man show Being *Mr. Wickham.* In October, we held a Zoom discussion of The Castle of Otranto, the first gothic





Left: San Diego members at the Alta Vista Botanical Gardens; Above: Lisa Brown

novel, led by Holly Welker. November featured the Zoom presentation "From Promenade to Pandemic: 20 years of the Jane Austen Festival in Bath," narrated by festival director Jackie Herring. She shared images and behind-the-scenes anecdotes about running the program for two decades. In December, 36 region members attended *Miss Bennet, Christmas at Pemberley* at the Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. The play focuses on Mary Bennet's growth and romance following Elizabeth's marriage to Mr. Darcy.

California, Northern

Julianna Scott Fein and Valerie Sopher have been elected co-RCs, taking over from Danine Cozzens.

California, San Diego

In December, vaccinated members enjoyed tea and luncheon at the scenic Alta Vista Botanical Gardens nestled in the hills of north county. Many donned their best bonnets and Regency attire.

California, Southwest

In November, we partnered with JASNA Hawaii to host "Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific," which brought together seven speakers from five countries across 12 time zones (see page 6). All presentations from the conference are available on the JASNA Southwest YouTube channel. In December, Lisa Brown—RC for Central and Western New York and creator of Jane Austen Bingo—led us in six rounds of the game. Prizes were awarded. Jane Boltz was elected co-RC, joining Susie Wampler in the role.



Susannah Fullerton, one of the speakers at the Pan Pacific conference

Colorado, Denver/Boulder

We celebrated Austen's 246th birthday with high tea at the beautiful Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver, proving that "One cannot have too large a party. A large party secures its own amusement." Michael Clark kicked off the festivities with a lovely toast, reminding us of the joy, solace, and companionship that Austen's writing once again provided in a challenging year. Melissa Hamblin and Mary Smid coordinated a silent auction



Michael Clark's toast



Bidding for the silent auction

that included all manner of Austen-related goodies—from tote bags and an Austen silhouette pendant to delicate china teacups and puzzles.

Colorado, Pikes Peak

Rebecca Posusta, who previously served as RC, has returned to the role, succeeding Pat Sullivan.

Connecticut

In December, we held our annual birthday tea virtually, including our first "All Jane Austen Salon." Participants enjoyed a wide-ranging conversation about adaptations of Austen novels—from film versions to stage productions and digital diaries. Participants identified their favorite villains and substantiated their selections. Michelle Forte was elected RC, taking the helm from Maureen Crowley. Bronwyn DiPeri was selected as programming coordinator, succeeding Kandie Carle. Our book group discussed *Pride & Prejudice: A Latter-Day* Comedy (2003), with members sharing dramatically different perspectives. Doug Gerlach presented scenes comparing the 2003 film with the 2005 and 1995 versions. Our historic sewing circle met virtually in November.

District of Columbia, Metro

Our virtual Second Saturday presentation in November featured Will Glovinsky of Columbia University. A specialist in 19th century British literature and postcolonial studies, he is working on a book titled *Unfeeling Empire: The Realist Novel* in Imperial Britain. He spoke to us on "Sense and Insensibility: Race and Empire in Austen's World." In December, 30 members met at Carmine's Restaurant to celebrate Austen's birthday with a festive brunch. We were fortunate to hear (in person!) Susan Allen Ford—editor of *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line* and professor emerita at Delta State University—speak on the topic "'Just in a Happy State of Flounce': Jane Austen's Economies of Alteration." Susan Farnsworth and Alice Moore were elected co-RCs, succeeding Mary Mintz, whose term began in 2017.

Florida, Orlando

In October, we discussed Austen's juvenilia. In advance of our November virtual meeting, we posted on YouTube a selection of film clips from *Pride and Prejudice* adaptations, including some in foreign languages. A lively discussion ensued in which we critiqued the many scenes. Our December virtual meeting concerned writing Regency novels, both in Austen's era and ours. Authors discussed were Anna Maria Porter, Mary Shelley, Georgette Heyer, Claire Darcy, Elizabeth Mansfield, Joan Aiken, and Joan Smith.

Florida, Southwest

We held a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting in November to discuss the three winning essays from the 2021 AGM. For our December tea, members (in person and on Zoom) read parts from playlets in the 1895 book *Playing Jane Austen* by Rosina Filippi. We read "The Proposal of Mr. Collins," "Lady Catherine's Visit," "A Strawberry Picnic," and "Literary Tastes." Twelve who attended in person enjoyed a scrumptious tea.



(seated) Florida Southwest members Nili Olay, Jerry Vetowich, Bonnie Seiler, and Brenda Hudson; (standing) Jeanne Browne, Jeanne Curry, Rosemarie Purdy, Ann Hartley, Susan Skehan, Anja Carlson, and Cherry Young; (on Zoom) Michael Woodward, Rissi Cherie, Merari Alvarado, Mary Jane Oliveira, and Judy Shipman

Florida, West Coast

Vikki Silverman has been elected RC, taking the helm from Alicia Lopez, who served as RC for the past six years and is now the region's treasurer.

Georgia

At our November meeting, Brenda Cox reprised her AGM presentation on "Satirical Clergy Cartoons."



Erin Elwood, Sonia Kamal, Brenda Cox, Arlene Tuttle, and Renata Dennis at Georgia's Taste of Britain event

Hawaii

In November, we fulfilled RC Bob Newell's longstanding goal of holding a "Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific" conference, partnering with the Southwest Region on this first-ever event of its kind (see page 6). Cheryl Ernst has since taken the helm as RC from Newell, who founded the region.



Ruth Williamson's talk on "Austen Passports" at the Pan Pacific conference

Idaho, Southern

In November, our book club met at Susan Durst's house to discuss Lord Byron's Don Juan. Durst and Donna Crow finished all 16 cantos and coached the rest of us through the long poem, with Durst's supply of port and blackberry liqueur aiding the discussion. While we had to forgo our annual tea because of COVID-19, 20 of us met for a holiday lunch at The Cottonwood Grille in early December. Co-RC Kelly Christensen started what is likely to become a tradition by asking attendees to bring their favorite teacups to toast Austen. Christensen also brought homemade scones, clotted cream, and lemon curd.

Indiana

In December, we met at the English Rose Café & Tea Room in Kokomo to celebrate Austen's birthday with our annual high tea. In addition to tempting treats, the tea room provided a harpist to add to the holiday ambiance.





Left: Tea treats at the English Rose Café & Tea Room; Right: Harp music at Indiana's holiday tea

International

In December, we held the first meeting of the International Region—the 81st and newest in JASNA. RC Catherine Gwinner welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves and shared favorite holiday traditions. Two members are related to Austen, including Ron Dunning, who served as toastmaster. He showed us a wooden box of which he is custodian that belonged to Frank Austen—his ancestor and Jane Austen's brother. The region includes members from the United Kingdom (with 31 members), Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand.

Iowa

In July, Karen Thompson led us through an evaluation and discussion of the various portraits or alleged portraits of Austen. In August, we welcomed Jenny Rytting, associate professor of English at Northwest Missouri State University, to present her 2019 AGM talk, "Fairly Evenly Divided Between the Sexes: Jane Austen on Gender," at Grand View University. In September, mother/daughter duo Paige Beck and April Wyss presented "Performing and Visual Arts in the Regency." It was chock-full of compelling information. In November, we discussed our experiences at the 2021 AGM. We concluded the year with an inperson potluck tea at the Jordan House Museum with the traditional Austen birthday toast given by Tamara Pool. We also decorated the



International Region's inaugural meeting



Jordan House decorations



Jordan House library for the holidays. Special thanks go to Penny Rittgers, Paige Beck, April Wyss, and Jessica Bishop for their decorating prowess.

Louisiana

In December, we gathered for our annual Austen birthday jazz brunch at Commander's Palace in New Orleans. We sang "Happy Birthday" with a jazz trio accompaniment. Beverly Hegre led the toast by reading from Somerset Maugham's praise of Austen.

Maryland

In November, the Maryland and DC regions met jointly to recap the Chicago AGM. In December, we hosted an in-person birthday meeting in the same space where we held our last in-person event in 2019! We enjoyed a wonderful lunch, the annual toast read by founding member Joyce Loney, and several scenes performed by a group of local actors using Rosina Filippi's *Playing Jane Austen*. We were highly entertained by their presentation, "In the Drawing Room With Jane Austen, 2021 Style."



Maryland members Peggy Maxson, Maryellen Kosydar, Ann Wass, Jenn Jones, and June Brandt

Massachusetts

In November, we welcomed Julia Prewitt Brown, recently retired professor of English from Boston University (BU), for "Persuasion and the Transient World." She created a course called "Home and World" in response to the increasing number of students from all over the globe who study at BU. Brown pointed out that transitions



John Mullan

abound in *Persuasion*. Many characters live in rented spaces, families move apart, and couples marry. She noted parallels to Austen's own life, observing that the Austen women moved several times before settling in Chawton, and that Austen's final rented rooms in Winchester were very like the ones where Mrs. Smith lives in Bath in Persuasion.

In December, John Mullan-professor of English at University College London and author of What Matters in Jane Austen? Twenty Crucial Puzzles Solved—gave a talk via Zoom as the Harriet Avery Fund speaker. His presentation, "Offstage Austen," explored some of the cunning ways Austen lets readers know what happens in scenes she does not dramatize. For instance, we are invited to imagine what must occur when servants ("involuntary spies," as Henry Tilney calls them) witness key events, such as how a servant must have spread the story of Maria (Bertram) Rushworth's indiscretion with Henry Crawford. Mullan also noted hints in *Persuasion* in which either Mrs. Clay or Mr. Elliot mentions the other in ways that suggest they have a secret understanding-something not confirmed until the book's last chapter. "There are things going on offstage that you can only see on the second or third or 10th reading," Mullan explained.

Marcia Folsom and Julie DeWitt were elected co-RCs, taking the helm from Jill Crowley and Carolyn Jack, who served for six years.

Minnesota

In November, Uzma Jalaluddin joined us via Zoom to discuss her book Ayesha at Last. We closed the year with special guest Geri Chavis to celebrate Austen's birthday with a toast.







Above: Choir singers at Mississippi's birthday tea

Left: Julienne Gehrer

Below: (back row) Beth Graham, Margaret Cupples, Nancy Neill, Carolyn Brown, and Carla Wall; (front row) Brenda Ware Jones, Nell-Rose Estes, Linda Thompson, Lori Toyota, and Joelene Brown



Mississippi

Last fall, we hosted Julienne Gehrer, who spoke over Zoom about her latest work, Martha Lloyd's Household Book: The Original Manuscript from Jane Austen's Kitchen. In December, we celebrated Austen's birthday at the home of Margaret Cupples. A local choir sang 19th century Christmas carols while we sipped tea and enjoyed delicious treats.

Missouri, Central

In October, we met on Zoom to watch Caitlin Kelly and Misty Krueger's video from the Virtual AGM, "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History: Jane Austen, Women Historians, and Histories of Women." We had a lively discussion of women in Austen's novels who did or did not behave well, expanding upon the list the presenters provided. In November, we welcomed via Zoom Toby Benis, chair of the Department of English at Saint Louis University, who gave an intriguing presentation on "Neighborhood in Pride and Prejudice." In December, we celebrated Austen's 246th birthday with an erudite toast by Meta George, a discussion of the AGM on-demand from the Chicago AGM, and a viewing of Jason Solinger's video from the Virtual AGM, "The Anti-Historical Austen: From 'The History of England' to Northanger Abbey."

Missouri/Metropolitan St. Louis

In December, we celebrated the region's 40th anniversary with a won-derful virtual presentation by four founding members. Nancy Kaprelian revisited the founding of JASNA and our region. Cathy Reilly shared remarkable photos and images from the early years, including the 1984 St. Louis AGM. Phyllis Thorpe discussed our region's love of theatrical presentations. And Bettye Dew paid tribute to the late Shirley Bassett, our region's founder. After sharing memories and looking ahead to the future, we all raised a teacup for a birthday toast to Austen.

Nebraska

In December,
we held our first
in-person Jane
Austen tea in
two years at the
Main Branch
Library in
Omaha. Our
guest speaker
was Juliette
Wells, who



Juliette Wells

presented "Looking at Emma Woodhouse with 21st Century Eyes." She also shared news about Goucher College's Jane Austen archives and the Alberta Burke papers and collection. Now we all have a road trip to Baltimore on our wish list! We held an opportunity drawing for gift baskets, and our local bookstore, The Bookworm, set up a table of gifts and books relating to Austen.

New Jersey

In October, mystery novelist Jane K. Cleland discussed her research methods and gave us a preview of *Jane Austen's Lost Letters*, the latest in her series featuring antiques dealer Josie Prescott. In November, we welcomed JASNA President Liz Philosophos Cooper, who delivered her signature lecture "Jane Austen, Working Woman." In December, our annual birthday/holiday party featured a prerecorded program of Regency carols, performed by singer Jennifer Blades and pianist Andrew Stewart, who joined us afterward to answer questions. Then we tried our hand at Austen trivia, unveiled the books we'd exchanged anonymously ahead of time, and toasted Austen on her 246th birthday. All meetings were held virtually.

New York, Central/Western

In September, RC Lisa Brown previewed her breakout session for the Chicago AGM, "'Composed by an African': Ignatius Sancho's Country Dances." Sancho, born on a slave ship during the long Middle Passage, became an abolitionist, writer, and businessman. Though he is virtually unknown in the U.S., he is well-known in the U.K., but few British people have any idea that he wrote exquisite country dances. Brown demonstrated Sancho's music, signature dance sequences, and a full dance on video.

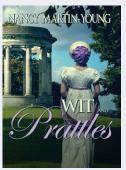
In October, members recapped their experiences at the Chicago AGM. In November, Alice Villaseñor, associate professor of English at Medaille College, explained the economic and social structures of Regency England that frame the marriage plot of *Emma*. In December, A. Marie Sprayberry presented "An Introduction to Martha Lloyd and Cooking at Chawton Cottage." This talk not only provided a biographical sketch of Lloyd but also discussed her *Household Book*. Special guests were Julienne Gehrer, who provided the introduction and transcriptions for the book's new Bodleian Library edition, and members of the Austen cooking club "Book to Fork" in Sacramento, who recommended additional books.

New York, Metro

We welcomed historian Rena Tobey in December for our birthday meeting. Attendees from 11 states and five countries tuned in to hear Tobey's captivating Zoom talk "Landscapes as Political Documents: Art of Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School." It included many examples and tips on "reading" landscape paintings. The discussion also touched on early environmental concerns about the decline of the natural world as coded into the paintings of the Hudson River artists. Tobey has taught at NYU and Southern Connecticut State University.

North Carolina

In October, members shared their experiences at the Chicago AGM. Our virtual book club met in November for a discussion of Nancy Martin-Young's *Wit and Prattles*, a *Sense and Sensibility* spinoff focusing on Charlotte and Thomas Palmer. A discussion with Martin-Young was facilitated by member Erin Handly. Readers praised the novel's realism, psychological depth, and the burgeoning love of the Palmers. In December, we celebrated Austen's birthday with a presentation by Gisele Rankin and Sue Scott on "Jane Austen's Cousin: The Far-From-Ordinary Eliza." In a gripping talk



about Eliza de Feuillide's unconventional life and personality, members enjoyed excerpts from her letters and discussion of her relationships with her mother, her son Hastings, and her two husbands.

Nancy Martin-Young's new book

Oregon, Southern

Our October Zoom meeting featured member and JASNA Traveling Lecturer Collins Hemingway, who gave two talks. First, he examined Sense and Sensibility with a focus on its epistolary origins and recognition of Richardson's influence on Austen. Next, he discussed "How Jane Austen Stages a Novel," a look at *Pride and Prejudice* as a fresh new form of novel that didn't draw on traditional literary forms. Later in October, we met virtually to discuss AGM attendees' reports. In November, we were treated to a presentation by Melissa Anderson on "Information, News, and the Responsibilities of Knowledge in Austen" that explored the sources of information available to Austen and the general public during the era. Both in life and in the novels, information might range from accurate to potentially dangerous, given the rural setting and news lag time, and the unsubstantiated rumor, hearsay, speculation, exaggeration, or outright lies that might color daily communication.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh

In November, Sarah Makowski joined us from Germany via Zoom to talk about "Mean Girls in Jane Austen." Her article "'Do You Know Who I Am?' Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Jane Austen's



Chemisette sample

Proto-Karen" was recently published in *Persuasions On-Line*. Makowski delighted us with ideas from her upcoming book, Bitches in Bonnets: Life Lessons from Jane Austen's Mean Girls, in which she explores parallels between Austen's world and our own. For our annual birthday celebration, members participated in a multimedia tribute, including readings from Austen novels; Washington Irving's description of Christmas festivities in Regency times; a dance video presentation of jigs versus reels; Regency chemisette descriptions and samples; a modern short video bio; visual map and description of Austen's 1813 trip to London; and celebrity fan tributes, from the Prince Regent to Dwyane Wade of the NBA.

Texas, North

In November, we met in Irving and elected new officers, including RC Baronda Bradley-succeeding Susan Jelen-Program Chair Chris Peirson, Membership Chair Roxanne Milton, and Treasurer Erin Baltensperger. Beni Mayer continues as our webmaster. In December, we held a celebration at Maggiano's with outgoing RC Jelen giving the birthday toast. Professor Theresa Kenney spoke on first impressions in Pride and Prejudice.

Utah

Kim Deacon has been elected RC, following Jennifer Brough in the role.

Washington, Eastern/Idaho, Northern

In November, we had our largest-ever attendance for Sheila Johnson Kindred's Zoom presentation "Narratives of Naval Wives During the Napoleonic Wars: Fanny in Fact and Jane in Fiction." Kindred shared the fascinating story of Austen's sister-in-law, Fanny Palmer Austen, wife of Captain Charles Austen, which she researched through





Left: Sheila Kindred; Right: Rosemary Shively, who received a velvet Jane Austen doll in the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho holiday exchange

Fanny's surviving letters and pocket diaries along with the ship logbooks and journals of Captain Austen. Fanny's life onboard ship with Charles and their postings in Halifax and off the coast of England have connections to the portrayal of Mrs. Croft in *Persuasion* and Anne Elliot's possible future as a naval wife. Members held a holiday book, tea, and chocolate exchange through the mail in December.

Washington, Puget Sound

In December, local actor Andrew Gordon joined us to read Austen's "Love and Freindship." We also elected former RC Agnes Gawne as co-RC to join Julie Buck.



Andy Gordon

Wisconsin

In October, we gathered on Zoom to hear tales and see photos from the 2021 AGM. At our birthday luncheon in December, members heard more accounts from the AGM and then had a hilarious time participating in a rousing, action-filled, tabletop version of "The Battle of Prague," a JASNA favorite from Austen's personal music collection. Janet Johnson played the piano while members acted out the battle with chopsticks, cocktail swords,

coconuts, and other goofy props. We finished with a heartfelt rendition of "God Save the Oueen."



Top: Janet Johnson on piano as Wisconsin members act out the Battle of Prague Bottom: Celebrating victory at the Battle of Prague



In Memoriam

Barbara Hellering

Metropolitan New York

Longtime Metropolitan New York Region member and former Regional Coordinator Barbara Hellering died in late fall 2021. She served as JASNA's first vice president for regions and for 20 years led Metropolitan New York's book discussion group, which has been meeting for nearly 35 years. Before her retirement, she was a high school librarian in Long Island. After her husband, Harvey, retired, he became a prize-winning photographer, serving as official photographer of the 2003 "Homecoming" AGM in Winchester, England. Together, the couple enjoyed presenting illustrated lectures about Jane Austen at various public libraries around New York.



William (Bill) Jackson Michigan

Bill Jackson died November 5, 2021, at age 83. A devotee of Austen's work and faithful member of the region for many years, he retired to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, too far to attend meetings until Zoom allowed his return. Friends shared

an observation he made about *Mansfield Park*, his favorite Austen novel, and Fanny Price, his favorite heroine: "Fanny Price is thrust into a family where she is made to feel second class at best. Yet she manages to grow up without bitterness—despite Aunt Norris, a truly mean-spirited woman. In addition, she is willing to forsake whatever advantages she does have at Mansfield Park and be plunged back into poverty rather than alter her beliefs. I think she is a remarkable young woman, not witty but wise, and I think Austen wants us to realize that wisdom trumps wit every time."



Thelma Tomoe Murakami Northern California

Thelma Tomoe Murakami, one of the first members of the San Francisco Region (now Northern California Region), died September 10, 2021, at age 90. Born in Kona, Hawaii, she graduated from the University of Michigan and worked at the University of

California, San Francisco Medical Center as a licensed dietician for 32 years. She was greatly devoted to Jane Austen, mystery novels, and the San Francisco Giants. Although she returned to Hawaii in 2014 to be closer to family, she always considered San Francisco her home.



Robin Hill Murphy Florida, Orlando

Native Floridian Robin Murphy died October 6, 2021, at age 95. In 1984, she became a JASNA Life Member—a gift from her Life Member daughter, Eva. Mother

and daughter attended 16 AGMs and especially enjoyed the 2003 "Homecoming" AGM in Winchester, England. Murphy's greatest pleasures in JASNA were meeting other Austen readers from around the country and renewing friendships at AGMs. In 2016, the Orlando Region was formed, giving her the opportunity to enjoy JASNA locally.

She graduated from Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University). She met her husband, architect Bob Murphy, when he was stationed in Orlando after WW II.

Murphy loved to read, belonged to book clubs throughout her life, and was active in the English-Speaking Union, the League of Women Voters, and numerous arts organizations. She supported the arts, especially music.



Joanna Semel Rose Metropolitan New York

Joanna Semel Rose died November 3, 2021, at age 90. A noted philanthropist and devoted patron of the arts, she, along with her husband, Daniel, underwrote

renovations of several branches of the New York Public Library. They facilitated use of the now-closed Donnell Branch Library for the Metropolitan New York Region's meetings—resulting in increased exposure for JASNA. A number of new JASNA members joined after attending events at the Donnell. In 1988, the couple made a substantial donation to secure the region's financial stability. She also chaired the board of the *Partisan Review* for decades and was a "Quiz Kid" on the popular radio show in the 1940s.



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Sanditon Returns This Spring

The initial run of *Sanditon* on MASTERPIECE in early 2020 left fans dangling with its cliffhanger ending. The series' future was also uncertain until its renewal for two additional seasons was announced in May 2021. Now, the production based on Austen's final, unfinished novel returns to television screens beginning in March, on MASTERPIECE.

Sanditon follows heroine Charlotte Heywood (Rose Williams) to the seaside village of the same name, which is being promoted as a fashionable health resort by Tom Parker (Kris Marshall) with backing by Lady Denham (Anne Reid). Although Theo James is not returning as Sidney Parker, other key characters from Austen's story will recur, including Crystal Clarke as Miss Lambe, Jack Fox as would-be rake and seducer Sir Edward Denham, and Lily Sacofsky as Clara Brereton. Charlotte Spencer is also back as newlywed and now Lady Esther Babington.

Season two brings several new characters to *Sanditon*, including additional love interests for Charlotte, with the British army placing an encampment of soldiers in the town. New principal roles are played by Ben Lloyd-Hughes as Alexander Colbourne, a handsome and enigmatic local recluse; Tom Weston-Jones as Colonel Francis Lennox; Rosie Graham (*Outlander*) as Charlotte's sister Alison; Frank Blake as Captain Declan Fraser; Maxim Ays as Captain William Carter; and Alexander Vlahos (*Versailles*), who plays *Sanditon*'s Bohemian artist, Charles Lockhart.

Since Austen completed only 11 chapters before her death in 1817, the story veered away from the original plotlines early in season one. Andrew Davies (screenwriter for the 1995 *Pride and Prejudice* miniseries as well as adaptations of *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma, War and Peace, Middlemarch*, and other classics) created the series and continues to write episodes for season two. Justin Young, who penned four episodes for the first season, serves as lead writer. Season two will have six episodes.



Rosie Graham as Alison Heywood, Rose Williams as Charlotte Heywood, and Crystal Clarke as Georgiana Lambe



Tom Weston-Jones as Colonel Lennox and Frank Blake as Captain Fraser



On the Sanditon set