Jane Austen's England

The Cultural Background of the Novels.
Program

Thursday Oct. 13

From Noon  Hospitality Suite. Get room number from desk. Early Registration. Pick up Conference Packet. We'll help with arranging optional activities:
1. Tour of Chicago
2. Chicago shopping - Oak St. Area, Water Tower, Bloomie's.
3. Museums and Tours - Art Institute, Museum of Contemporary Art, Terra Museum.

10 P  Early-bird late-night talk fest. Parlor 1, 2, 3.

Friday Oct. 14

8 A to 8 P  Registration/Hospitality/City Desk. Pick up Conference Packet.
Special exhibits:
1. Jane Austen's homes, etchings. Arranged by Dean Cantrell, Georgia Exhibit.
2. Late 18th-early 19th Century books, Regency prints, silver, lent by Bonnie Ichlenfeldt, Illinois
3. Special display, books by JASNA Patrons and 1988 AGM speakers.

8 A to 5 P  JASNA Board Meeting.

Noon  Lunch on your own. Special tours available. See City Desk.


6 P  Evensong conducted by Hugh McKeil, Toronto.


9 P  Dutch Treat supper. See Registration form.

Saturday Oct. 15


9 A  Official opening of 10th annual meeting, Lorraine Hanaway, president of JASNA.


10:15 A  Breakout Sessions: five to choose from.

11:15 A  Breakout Sessions: five more to choose from.

Noon  Lunch on your own.

2 P  Breakout Sessions: five others.


3:45 P  Annual General Meeting, Lorraine Hanaway, president.

4:30 P  Break

6:30 P  Authors Autographing Party in conjunction with Cash Bar.

7:30 P  Banquet, Empire Room. Stuart Forth, life member from Pennsylvania, will conduct his audience pleasing quiz. "Jane Austen's Music" will be performed by the Aldeburgh Connection, Toronto.

10 P  Optional visit of Lincoln Ave. Book store, pub, small cabarets and coffee bars in two-block area. Meet on mezzanine (share-a-cab for transportation).

Sunday, Oct. 16

7:30 A  Regional Coordinators Breakfast, Parlors 1-2-3.

10:00 A  Gala Breakfast/Brunch. Dine at your favorite literary manse: Pemberley, Rosings, others.

10:45 A  "In Defense of Miss Austen." Catherine Kenney.

11:45 A  Recap. Farewell

Noon  Conference closes.

1 P  Optional activities
Program
In the Main Rooms

Our keynoter, Park Honan, has completed a major new biography, "Jane Austen--Her Life," just released by St. Martin's Press. Thrill to his behind-the-scenes stories of discovering new letters by the Austens and their relations, and his trek through England, and judge for yourself whether Prof. Honan's biography will rank as the best! His talk: "The Austen Sisters and Brothers." "Were Jane Austen's relations with her sister and brothers quite so blissful and unproblematic as we have been told in the past? How did these Austens hinder, force or influence her writing, so far as we can tell from the evidence now have? We may need to adjust some of our notions about families."

Julia Prewitt Brown subject is "Jane Austen's England." The talk will consider the question of what is meant by that well-known term. Why has a novelist whose subject matter was, in her own words, "three or four families" in a village come to be associated with an entire nation's character? What is the relationship between family and nationality?

In a lighter mode, Catherine Kenney's speech, "In Search of Jane Austen," will consider the tantalizing prospect of comprehending a period writer.

Early risers hungry for knowledge will enjoy John Murphy's presentation at 7:45 am Saturday. "A British Chef Prepares Afternoon Tea" will include secrets of tea-making, scone recipes and morsel-sampling. Tea and wake-up coffee after.

Dr. Julia Prewitt Brown is associate professor of English at Providence College. Her books include "Reader's Guide to 19th Century Novels" (now reprinted in Japanese) and "Jane Austen's Novels: Social Change and Literary Form," three sections of which have been reprinted in Harold Bloom's critical work. She formerly taught at Harvard and MIT, and lives in R.I.


Dr. Catherine Kenney, a life member, is associate professor of English at Mundelein College. She has written "Thurber's Anatomy of Confusion," and her book in progress is "The Remarkable Case of Dorothy L. Sayers." She was the keynoter at the 1987 Gala in Chicago, and lives in Illinois.

John Murphy, born in Brentwood in Essex, has lived in Illinois for eight years. His wife is life-member Gail. He is president of Sales Technology, Inc., an executive recruiting firm specializing in data-processing personnel.
"I come to you to be talked to, not to read or hear readings. I can do that at home."

In the Break-out Rooms

1. "Jane Austen and the Political Passions." Mollie Sandock will discuss the fierce political arguments raging in England (the time of the Napoleonic Wars) in Jane Austen's day, and consider whether the idea that her novels have no political implications is, in fact, true.

2. "Early Childhood Influences." Farnell Parsons and Deborah Kaplan, in a panel discussion. Ms. Parsons will discuss what Jane Austen read, or might have read, as a child, through scrutiny of her works, biographical information and conjecture based on what was published for children in her time. Dr. Kaplan will discuss early literary productions of Jane Austen against the background of the unpublished writings her family and neighbors frequently produced—with emphasis on the poetry.


4. "A Woman's Place in Jane Austen's England." Barbara Swords will present a look at the legal and economic restrictions, changes in courtship and marriage patterns, education of girls and young women, and social and philosophical attitudes toward women in period 1770-1820.

5. "Love and Courtship." Conrad Harper and Paula Stepankowski will discuss classic Austen concerns in the wider context of courtship and marriage as recorded by several major male and female letter writers of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

6. "Parish Business in Jane Austen's Time." Patricia Kulisheck will discuss what life was like in an English country parish in about 1790-1815.

7. "Attitudes Toward Music." Hugh McKellar and the attendees. "Except for N.A.E.," notes McKellar, "each Austen novel includes at least one woman who plays a music instrument well; but no man ever gets closer to actual music-making than turning pages of the score." Why so?

8. "Propriety vs. Morality in Austen's Novels." Jane Nardin will discuss the code of manners in Regency England, pointing out that manners can be considered both a social expression and a claim to a particular social status.

9. "Bookbinding in 18th Century England." Bill Minton will discuss techniques of the late 1700s-early 1800s. Utilizing slides, he will show the entire process of hand book-binding, and discuss conservation techniques.

10. "Jane Austen and the Circulating Library". Lee Erickson will focus on how the circulating libraries made reading a public, social activity in late 18th and early 19th century England, and would comment on those places in the novels, letters and Sanditon.

11. "Jane Austen's Stuart Loyalties." John McAlear will discuss Stuart influences brought to bear on the Austen family, and show evidence within her works of her Stuart loyalties.

12. "Monetary Language in the Fiction of Jane Austen's Time." Edward Copeland will discuss the economic conditions of women in Austen's time. He'll measure these by the fiction and illustrations that appeared in the Lady's Magazine over Austen's career in month-to-month installments. W/slides.

13. " Seen But Not Heard: Servants in Jane Austen's England." All Jane Austen's households—Pemberley, Mansfield Park, Uppercross Cottage, even the Bates' modest establishment—have their servants. The furnishing of the households, the duties and reminiscences of real servants is fascinating to consider, in this servantless age.

14. Gardens of England. A presentation by the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glenview IL, with slides. An English Walled Garden is being constructed there; preview plans will be discussed.
Dr. Edward Copeland, a life member, is professor of English at Pomona College. He has published many articles on Jane Austen and Richardson, and contributed to the Jane Austen Companion. He lives in California.

Lee Erickson is assistant professor at Marshall University, Huntington WV. He teaches 19th century literature, has published Robert Browning: His Poetry and His Audiences, and is working on another. He lives in WV.

Conrad Harper, a life member, has an LL.B. from Harvard, and since 1971 has been with Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, where he is presently a partner. He was a staff lawyer at the NAACP in the late 60's, and a visiting lecturer at Yale Law School from 1977 to 1981. He lives in New York.

Dr. Thomas Hoberg is associate professor of English at Northwestern Illinois U. in Chicago. A specialist in medieval studies, he is now studying Jane Austen, presenting "Jane Austen's Heroes" at the Gala. He lives in Illinois.

Dr. Deborah Kaplan is associate professor of English and American Studies at George Mason University. She is the recipient of many grants, and is completing a book on J.A. in her social context. She lives in Virginia.

Patricia Kulisheck is a graduate student in English Social History at the University of Minnesota. She has been published in Persuasions, vols. 6, 7, and 8, and lives in Minnesota.

John McAlister is Professor of English at Boston College. A prolific writer, he is the author of biographies of Rex Stout, Emerson, Thoreau and Dreiser, and has contracted to deliver an Austen biography in 1991. He lives in MA.

Hugh McFadden holds degrees in Religious Studies, English, French, Music and Library Science. He wrote and read an Evensong service for Steventon, and lives in Ontario.

Bill Minton has a degree in Industrial Technology, and served a 7-year informal apprenticeship in hand-bookbinding and conservation. He has his own shop, is a member of the Amer. Inst. of Conservation, and lives in Illinois.

Dr. Jane Nardi, a JASNA patron, is professor of English at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her books include Those Elegant Decorus: The Concept of Propriety in Jane Austen’s Novels, and Barbara Pym. Her book on women in Anthony Trollope’s early novels is under consideration. She lives in WI.

Farrell Parsons is a children's librarian at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis. She spends summers in England doing research, and lives in Missouri.

Dr. Hollie Sandock is assistant professor of English at Valparaiso U. She is writing an article on Henry James' assessment of Jane Austen, and presented a paper on "Forms of Address in Jane Austen's Fiction." She lives in Indiana.

Ronnie Jo Sokol, a life member, teaches in Evanston. Her special interest is serving students with learning disabilities. She is VP and bulletin editor for Hope-Haddassah, and publicist for Tikvah. She lives in Illinois.

Paula LeBeck Stepansky is the business and economics reporter of The Daily News, Longview (WA). She earned an M.A. in Journalism, and was editor of The Inland Register in Spokane. She lives in Washington state.

Barbara Swords is assistant professor of English at Elmhurst College. Her special interests are her course in The Six Novels of Jane Austen and a seminar on Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte and George Eliot. She lives in IL.

Judith Terry, earned her M.Ph. from University College, London. She has taught at the U. of Victoria for 20 years. She wrote Miss Abigail's Part, or Version & Diversion, a continuation of Mansfield Park from a servant's point of view, has finished a second novel and is working on a third.

Dean Cantrell, a life member, is in the Dept. of English at Berry College, and has prepared a special exhibit for this AGM. She has just returned from a tour of home sites of American women writers. She lives in Georgia.
We asked speakers to include works by Jane Austen as well as themselves if the works apply, for this outside reading list.

Julia Prewitt Brown: "Jane Austen's England"
Most important will be Persuasion.

Edward Copeland: "Money Talks: JA and The Lady's Magazine"
Edward Copeland, JA and the Consumer Revolution, JA Companion, ed. Grey, pp. 77-92
Alison Adurbaham, Women in Print, London, 1972

Lee Erickson: "Jane Austen and the Circulating Library"
Sanditon

Conrad Harper-Paula Stepanowsky: "Love and Courtship"
Letters, diaries of Frances Burney, Mme. D'Arblay, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and others.
Jane Austen's Letters to her Sister Cassandra and Others

Thomas Hobbes: "Henry Fielding's Influence on Jane Austen"
Henry Fielding, Joseph Andrews
Andrew Wright, Henry Fielding: Mask and Feast
Stuart Tave, Some Words of Jane Austen
David Cecil, Portrait of Jane Austen
Norther Abbey

Park Honan: "The Austen Brothers and Sister"
W. and R. A. Austen-Leigh, Jane Austen; Her Life and Letters: A Family Record, London & NY, 1913
J.E. Austen-Leigh, Memoir, London, 1871 or recent editions
P. Honan, Jane Austen: Her Life, NY, 1988

Catherine Kenney: "In Search of Jane Austen"
A general knowledge of the novels is sufficient.

Patricia Kulischek: "Parish Business in Jane Austen's Time"
"There are no books for the general reader. Both these are heavy going, even for an historian, especially the Webbs. Object of my talk is to make this information accessible and show how it may have influenced JA's concept of social relations."
Sydney & Beatrice Webb, English Local Govt.--Vol. 1: The Parish (various eds since 1906)
Emma shows the best examples.

John McAleer: "Jane Austen's Stuart Loyalties"
George Tucker, Goodly Heritage
Maggie Lane, Jane Austen's Family Through Five Generations
W. H. Helm, Jane Austen and Her Country-House Comedy
Sir Edgerton Brydges, Autobiography (2 vols.)

Hugh McKellar: "Attitudes Toward Music"
Piggott, Patrick, The Innocent Diversion: Music in the Life and Writings of Jane Austen, 1984
Pride and Prejudice, ch. 6, 18, 31

Jane Nardino: "Propriety vs. Morality in Austen's Novels"
Jane Nardino, Those Elegant Decorums: The Concept of Propriety in Jane Austen's Novels
Mary Pooey, The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer: Ideology as Style in the Works of Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen
Ssense and Sensibility, Mansfield Park, Emma and Pride and Prejudice

Farnell Parsons: "Jane Austen's Childhood Reading"
Attick, The English Common Reader
Darton, Children's Books in England
Townsend, Written for Children
Carpenter, Oxford Companion to Children's Literature
Demers & Moyles, From Instruction to Delight. An anthology of children's literature in 1850.

Mollie Sandocks: "Jane Austen and the Political Passions"
Marilyn Butler, Jane Austen and the War of Ideas (especially)
---- Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries, Oxford Univ. Press, NY
Tony Tanner, Jane Austen, Harvard Univ. Press

Ronnie Jo Sokol: "Literary Antecedents of Northanger Abbey"
Ann Radcliffe, Mysteries of Udolpho and Romance of the Forest
Northanger Abbey

Barbara Swords: "A Woman's Place in Jane Austen's England"
Katharine Rogers, Feminism in 18th Cent England, University of Illinois Press, 1982
LeRoy Smith, Jane Austen and the Drama of Woman, 1983

Judith Terry: "Seen But Not Heard"
Jane Austen's novels and The Letters