



Jane Austen Times

Jane Austen Society of North America Puget Sound Region

December 2016

Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue 6

Letter from the Regional Coordinator

Greetings from the Regional Coordinator!

Wow! This has been a busy two months since the last newsletter. There have some important changes to our organization.

The first big change is that the national JASNA executive committee met at AGM and voted to abolish all regional dues. JASNA will subsidize US Regions at the rate of approximately \$10 per member from its nationally held funds. The subsidy will replace local dues and assist Regions in maintaining administrative functions, such as paying for web sites, email servers, printing, and programming costs such as room rentals and honorariums.

This change is based on recommendations from the Region Dues and Finances Sub-Committee, chaired by Liz Philosophos Cooper, Vice-President for Regions, which met this spring and early summer. Their work included conducting a survey among regions about dues, speaking with several Regional Coordinators, and reviewing financial information from Regions. The survey was sent to all Regional Coordinators with a response rate of 96%. The Sub-Committee forwarded recommendations to the Finance Committee, which has reviewed the recommendations and will be creating a plan in the next six months to fund the subsidy.

The major finding of the Sub-Committee on Dues was that most JASNA RCs found the collection of local dues confusing to members and awkward, confusing, inconsistent, and time consuming to administer. Many members had difficulty recognizing the difference between regional dues and national dues. They sometimes thought they had paid dues to one entity when they had not. Regions that did charge dues, (like us) had to keep two lists – one of JASNA members and one of local members – and constantly compare them. We believe that in the long run the proposed changes will be a positive change for JASNA's membership and promote inclusiveness. (This change will certainly make the work of our regional membership coordinator and regional treasurer easier.)

I called a meeting of our executive committee to review and edit our bylaws to comply with the new rules. In the process, our national VP for Regions advised = to remove any "Operating Procedures" from the actual bylaws document and create an separate "Operating Procedures" document for the day-to-day operations of our region. We were able to utilize several existing region documents, such as a very strict set of expenditure procedures for the Treasurer's position, and fairly well documented guides for the Program Coordinator (continued page 2)



and the Newsletter Editor. We need to develop guides for a few more of our positions. Our web site now contains both the operating procedures documents as well as with our bylaws for all to view. As this is an all-volunteer organization it is hoped that everyone will volunteer for one of the positions at some time during their JASNA membership.

Another big change on the horizon is that we are forming a committee to review member communications such as the newsletter and the website to determine how to best improve the delivery of information to both members and the public. This communications committee already has a few volunteers but if you would like to help shape the future of our communications, or if you are a communications professional and you would like to share your expertise with us please let me know and I will get you involved. This committee likely will meet in January but no date has been set.

The final big item I need to share regards the Nominations committee. First, not one single person volunteered to be on the committee with me! In a normal year, this would be a disaster but this year it is not too horrible a problem since all the officers whose terms are expiring have agreed to stay on. One exception is that Maggie Lohnes would switch to Program Coordinator to replace Carolyn Kine who needs to step down. This change left the Newsletter Editor position open, but since we are considering perhaps changing the role of Newsletter Editor as part of our communications update, Maggie has agreed to stay on in that role as well, and I will be her co-editor for the newsletter in the coming year. It may be a smaller newsletter, more like a reminder with only information about the upcoming meeting but there will be the usual six issues.

The proposed revised bylaws are available [on our website](http://austenps.com/files/Proposed%20Puget%20Region%20Bylaws%202016-11.pdf) for you to download and read before our meeting in December. We are required to vote to approve the bylaws at a meeting before they become official. I will bring a few copies to the meeting as well for those who do not have a chance to read them in advance. They are fairly long so reading them on your computers will save quite a bit of paper. The full link is: <http://austenps.com/files/Proposed Puget Region Bylaws 2016-11.pdf>

I look forward to seeing everyone at the December 11th meeting at Carolee's house for Jane's Birthday Celebration.

Sincerely,
Agnes

Agnes Gawne
Regional Coordinator
JASNA Puget Sound Region



JASNA Puget Sound Region
Executive Committee Meeting



December Program: Sunday, December 11th - 2p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Program: Jane Austen 241st Birthday and Holiday Celebration
Carolee Jones' Home**



Location:

Home of Carolee Jones
12141 SE 21st ST
Bellevue, WA 9800
Phone: 425-449-4798

Directions:

Take the SE 8th exit off 405 and drive under the railroad trestle. Take the first right (121st) and follow the road to the top of the hill. After the stop sign at the top of the hill take the first right (21st). Carolee's house is the second house on the left.

Food Hosts: Everyone bring a sweet or savory dish to share

Tea Hosts: Marian LaBeck & Charlene Kern

Jet City Improv presents: Austen Translation

Dec 1 - 23, 2016 8:00pm Thursdays and Fridays \$10-\$18

Every performance of AUSTEN TRANSLATION tells the story of a bright young heroine's journey to navigate the designs of her family and the delicacy of her heart. While faithful readers of the Grande Dame of English romance novels are sure to delight in the country dances, carriage rides, and turns about the room in this unscripted romance, beloved characters like Mr. Darcy or Emma Woodhouse will be nowhere in sight. Instead, a cast of trained improvisational actors will create a completely original cast of characters in a tale full of stolen glances, tantalizing secrets, and a love story for the ages.

Don't forget to get your Janeite discount: Here's how - just click on the link for tickets
https://wingitproductions.secure.force.com/ticket#details_a00G0000007YA6WMAW

And enter the ticket code: austenps

Good for all tickets for every performance.

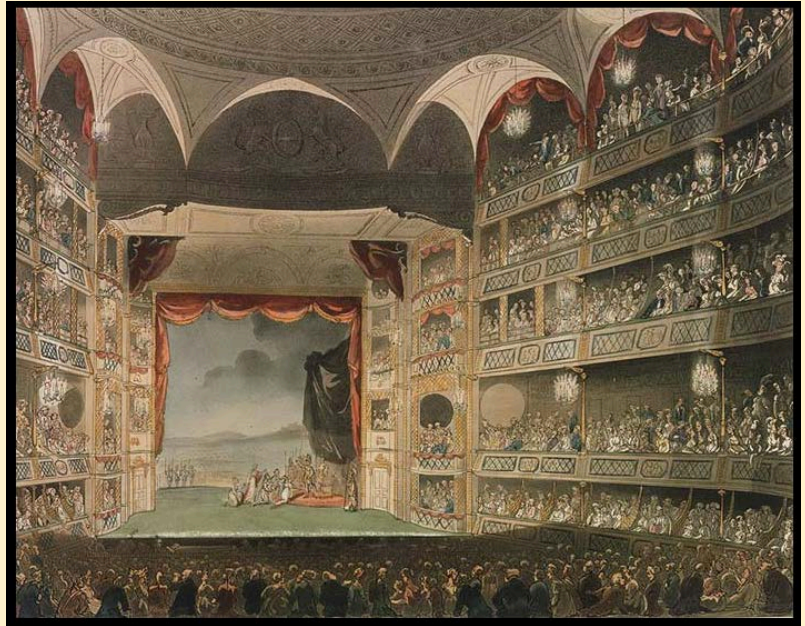
Save the Date: Sunday, April 9th, 2017

"Places are secured at Drury Lane..."

This is how Jane Austen shared with her sister her high expectations for an afternoon of festivity at the famed Drury Lane theatre in London. You are invited to arouse your own high expectations for an afternoon of festivity on Sunday, April 9th, 2017.

An early supper, a presentation on Georgian theatre, and the performance of a one act play will make for a delightful afternoon. All in the elegant Georgian interior of the Women's University Club.

Avant Theatre Supper: a three-course meal specially prepared for us. No host bar. Dairy free and gluten free options available.



Presentation by Kimberly Milham: Come experience the raffish and risqué world of Georgian theatre, a place of high drama on and off the stage. Learn about the actors and the playhouses in London and Bath. With visuals, anecdote and humor, Kimberly will create the world of Georgian theatre, incorporating Austen's critical eye.

Play: Love and Friendship, by Jane Austen. Adapted for the stage by Lynnae Pulsifer

Date: Sunday, April 9th, 2017

Time: TBA

Location: Women's University Club, 1105 Spring Street, Seattle

Parking: some parking on site, free street parking, paid parking at Town Hall lot at 8th & Seneca

Reservation deadline: April 2, 2017 (no on-site ticket sales)

Early bird discount, prior to February 28, 2017:

JASNA members \$30.00

Non-Members: \$45.00

Reservations received March 1-April 2, 2017:

JASNA members \$35.00

Non-members: \$50.00

Reserve your spot:

Julie Buck - 206-524-0066

abucksworth@gmail.com

Warren Hastings Part II: The Impeachment Trial and Afterwards By Loveday Conquest

Warren Hastings returned England June 1785 after having spent thirty years in India (1750-1764 and 1769-1785), having finally resigned his post as first Governor General of the East India Company (EIC). He received thanks from the Board of Directors of the East India Company, and was graciously received by the King and Queen. Fanny Burney met him and was favorably impressed. “. . . he appears to be one of the greatest men now, living as a public character; while, as a private one, his gentleness, candour, soft manners and openness of disposition, make him one of the most pleasing.” His opinion was asked on a number of questions pertaining to India. Nonetheless, there was no peerage granted, nor an offer of a role in government.

Shortly after Hastings arrived back in England, Edmund Burke (who had harbored no complaints when he actually owned stock in the EIC) gave notice in the House of Commons that sometime in future, he would “make a motion respecting the conduct of a gentleman just returned from India.” Given Hastings’ general popularity, nothing at all might have happened, had not a certain Major Scott, a friend of Hastings, challenged Burke in Parliament as to exactly when Burke was going to bring forth this particular motion. Burke, who had been heavily influenced by Philip Francis, Hastings’ rival for six years in India, now had no choice but to proceed with producing articles of impeachment. Scott may have thought (along with Hastings) that by challenging Burke to do his worst and ultimately triumphing, that suitable honors and government employment for Hastings would finally follow.

Twenty-two articles of the charge of “High Crimes and Misdemeanors” produced by Edmund Burke against Hastings, 4 April – 5 May 1786, included the following:

1. The Rohilla War of 1774;
2. Opium contracts;
3. Hastings’ revenue policy for the EIC;
4. Misdemeanors in the state of Oude;
5. Refusal to resign in 1777;
6. A libelous letter of 20 March 1783 by Hastings to the Court of Directors on the subject of Benares;
7. The Maratha War;
8. The Benares charge, in which it was alleged that Hastings had driven Raja Chait Singh of Benares to revolt in 1781;
9. Confiscation of landed income and treasure of the Begums (high ranking women) of Oudh;
10. Awarding of corrupt and extravagant contracts;
11. Illegal receipt of presents from Indians;
12. Suppression of correspondence.

Burke brought forward a list of charges against Hastings, and in May 1786 Hastings was given the opportunity to respond before the House of Commons. It is here where Hastings made a major tactical error. Instead of giving a general speech recounting his eminently recognized services to the EIC and to England, Hastings made the mistake of trying to refute each and every charge in detail. This reading of his rebuttal went far into the night and into the next day. A year later, William Pitt commented, “If at the commencement of the inquiry it had been urged in favour of Mr. Hastings, that though his conduct in some parts of his administration might be faulty, yet those faults were fully counterbalanced by the general tenour of his conduct, and the meritorious service he had performed, in that case, the House would have had to have weighed his crimes against his virtues.” But Hastings tried to show that his conduct was without fault regarding each of the

charges in detail, which was a difficult case to make. This left the House of Commons with no choice but to examine witnesses, and the grounds for impeachment grew. The longer the impeachment proceedings lasted before coming to a vote, the more reluctant members seemed to have all of the articles defeated. Hastings was advised to hire legal counsel but apparently delayed in doing so. Ultimately, Hastings was prosecuted in the House of Lords on twenty articles of impeachment.

In February of 1788, the House of Lords voted on the order of hearing the evidence. Instead of hearing evidence on both sides for each charge (one at a time), their Lordships voted to hear the prosecution's evidence on all of the charges, followed by the case for the defense. This proved to be in Hastings' favor, since it would take a long time to hear everything the prosecution had to say. Thus, it would be difficult to sustain a required "level of indignation", not only in the House of Lords, but in the press and the eyes of the public. Because some of the charges were rather loosely written and therefore lacked

legal precision, much discussion ensued about the admissibility of evidence. The prosecution was stymied by what appeared and (more importantly) what did not appear in the EIC records. Astute EIC servants were keenly aware that their records might be subject to future hostile scrutiny and had edited them with great care, leaving out what might be construed as damaging material. Much business had been carried out via personal letters between Hastings and Indian nawabs, rather than through official EIC correspondence. The House of Commons was

generally against forcing a man to surrender his private papers which might incriminate himself, and their Lordships deferred to this principle. Many witnesses were also Hastings supporters and were determined to give away as little as possible, weakening the case against him.

When the trial began in February 1788, it garnered incredible publicity. The opening day must have been something—picture 160 Peers of the Realm of the House of Lords, robed in scarlet and ermine, with parliamentary



Trial Venue

proceedings read in flowery eighteenth-century language. The public rushed to purchase tickets, and anyone of fashion made it a point to attend the proceedings, at least at first. It soon became apparent, however, that the trial would be a long one. At the end of the first year, judging by the rate of progress, some predicted that the trial could last for twenty years. And, besides Hastings' trial, Parliament had other issues to attend to in the six months each year when members actually sat and conducted business. Hastings actually tried to help things along by offering to be judged

immediately at the end of the second year. But the prosecution was not yet finished, so the trail slogged on. The prosecution concluded its case on 30 May 1791. Five years after Burke had introduced the preliminary charges, Hastings finally was given the opportunity to present his defense. With all the cross-examining of witnesses from Burke, this took yet another three years.

It was now 1794. In July 1789, the Bastille had been stormed in Paris, marking the beginning of

the French Revolution. Britain was now at war with France, moving Hastings' trial well out of the public interest. (Also by this time, Hastings' goddaughter, Eliza de Feuillide, had lost her French husband to the guillotine during the Reign of Terror.) Hastings had tried unsuccessfully a second time to ask for a judgment vote from their Lordships in 1793. All but Edmund Burke, who tried to introduce fresh evidence until the very end, it seems, were bored to death. On 23 April 1795, a verdict was finally rendered. Of the 160 peers who had been present at the trial's beginning (some of whom had died in the meantime), only twenty-nine had actually attended the proceedings sufficiently to feel justified to vote. Hastings was acquitted on each charge, either unanimously or by large majorities. He was called in by the Lord Chancellor, informed that he had been acquitted, and hereby discharged. Hastings was vindicated, but the associated costs (approximately 100,000 pounds) left him heavily in debt. His petition for reimbursement of at least some of his legal expenses was rejected. Eventually, the EIC Directors granted him an annuity of four thousand pounds per year and an interest-free loan of 50,000 pounds, two-thirds of which was ultimately forgiven.

After his return to England, Hastings had managed to purchase Daylesford, his ancestral home, and set about improving the house and gardens. He bred cattle and attempted to grow Indian plants in England. He also had reconciled himself to never receiving honors; nor would there ever be a place for him in government. A verse that he penned says it all:

"Be this enough for me:

To bear contented my accomplished lot
Impeach'd, revil'd, acquitted and forgot."

Perhaps Warren Hastings' greatest revenge was living long enough to outlive the many prejudices and charges that had been thrown against him. He died in 1818 in Daylesford, still married to the former Baroness Imhoff. In 1813, at the age of eighty-one, he was summoned before the House of Commons when the renewal of the EIC's charter was under consideration. This time, his extensive knowledge of judicial and revenue matters in India was considered to be of great value. When he left the House, "all the members, by one simultaneous impulse, rose with their heads uncovered, and stood in silence till I passed the door of their chamber." -- a worthy and final tribute from the House that had impeached him over twenty years prior.

References (in addition to the ever-present Wikipedia):

Carnall, Geoffrey and Colin Nicholson, eds. 1989. *The Impeachment of Warren Hastings*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 193 pp.

Marshall, P.J. 1965. *The Impeachment of Warren Hastings*. London: Oxford University Press, 217 pp.

Moon, Penderell. 1947. *Warren Hastings and British India*. London: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., 361 pp. (All quotations are from Moon's book.)

--Loveday Conquest

Aunt Jane Needs YOU!



If 2016 was the "year of food", where many meetings saw the food hosts providing something that was inspired by the program (or WAS the program), 2017 will be the "year of participation"! Many of the upcoming programs will rely on your participation, so please think about what you can take part in.

In February, we will have "A Couple of Minutes with Jane Austen" in which we hope to have 15 (you read that right - **fifteen!**) volunteers to stand up and speak on any topic they choose (having to do with the life, times, and literature of Jane Austen, of course) for two minutes. We all have come to Jane Austen through various channels of interest, and so we each have a wealth of knowledge to impart, even if there isn't enough to make up a whole program. Now, you can do your "two minutes' worth" and not have to worry that it wasn't enough. Come on along and be a part of the crowd! Two minutes - you can do two minutes! I know you can!

In April, we're going to the theater! Kimberly Milham will be presenting a fascinating look at what an evening at the theater was like in Jane Austen's London. After Kimberly's talk, Lynnae Pulsifer will be presenting her Jane Austen Players - performing her adaptation of a short section of *Love and Friendship*. We need 8 players to strut upon the stage! What fun - wouldn't you love to be part of this? Let Lynnae or Julie know, and we'll get you in on the ground floor! There will be one rehearsal, and then the performance. You could be a star!

In August, we'll be back in the schoolroom. We need 6 volunteers to each take a teaching position for the day! You'll find out ahead of time whether you're running a Dame School in your home, or are the Mistress of an Elegant Academy for Young Ladies, or some other position. You'll research your position and present a short talk about what your "typical day" is like, who are your students, etc. Have you secretly longed to know what Mrs. Goddard taught in her boarding school? Here's your chance to research and get to the bottom of that!

In October, everyone will be participating, of course, because it will be another book discussion - this time, *Northanger Abbey* seems spooky enough for Halloween! Let's gather together and discuss all the ghoulish details!

So, you see - there's plenty for any and everyone to do for the programs this year - let's all jump in and have a lot of fun! No matter your preference, there's something for you to do next year - and remember, the Puget Sound Region of JASNA is only as good as its participants!

October Meeting: You Dirty Rat: Ratting, a Regency Necessity and Sport!" Presented by Jack Laney

Meeting Notes by Connie Winkler

Rats!!! Who are you goin' call?

What Jane knew about rats and catchers – and now we do, too.

If Jane spotted a brown rat racing along a foundation, who would she call? Jack Laney -- of course -- our eminent Puget Sound rat-buster, rodent expert and fellow member. Outfitted in his excellent britches and jacket with deep pocket for his needed ferret, Jack explained it all at our October meeting at the Kirkland home of Dan Ledesma.

Now we, too, know what Jane knew and/or probably experienced. Moreover, Jane's sailor brothers surely could tell a rate tale or two of experiences on board ships, where rats were "millers". Here are tidbits that Laney shared:

1. *Persuasion* holds the only inclusion of rats in the storyline when Charles Musgrove and visiting Captain Benwick (Louisa's newly intended) scare rats out of the Uppercross barn, working to catch as many as possible ... and out of the fields. As Charles tells in Chapter 22, "We had a famous set-to at rat-hunting all the morning in my father's great barns; and he played his part so well, that I have liked him the better ever since."
2. While it wasn't Jack himself (unless he's been reincarnated), Jane probably knew a rat catcher ... especially on farms and in the larger towns such as Bath [locations with food and water]. The job was an essential profession that brought a decent living, but was also dangerous and even lethal given that rats carry deadly diseases. Rats carry at least 29 diseases of the awful sort that people can catch; damage property such as ropes, cables and harnesses; devour food and grains; and their waste is both dirty and destructive.

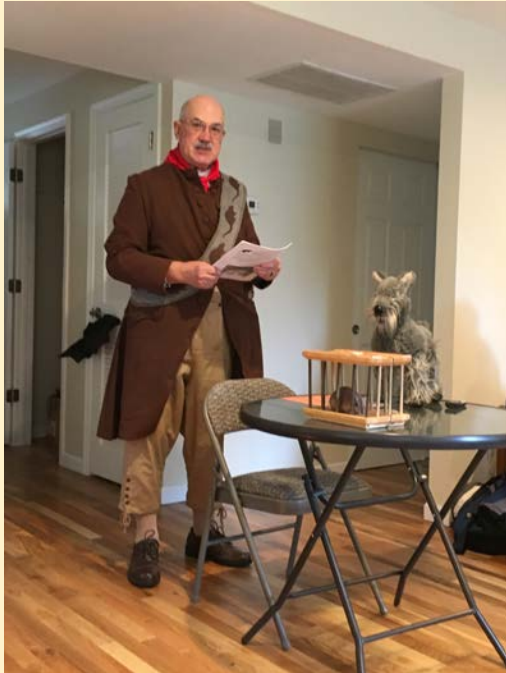
"It was relatively lucrative for a young entrepreneur, but a little dangerous because of the diseases," Laney tells about his profession, which he marketed in London by wearing sandwich-boards and his distinctive outfit, and barking out, say from street corners.

3. Armed with a trusty terrier-type dog and trained ferret, catchers and assistants worked from dusk to midnight, using candles, long nets, and scary practices to crawl through dark, cramped spaces, walls and rout out the rats nests of cloth, canvas and debris ... and the vermin themselves. Catchers – for another fee -- wanted to both snare and round up the displaced rats in order to supply them to sporting/betting venues for sport. The ferrets first scared the rats out of the walls and then the dogs either killed them or cornered them. Before the hunt, in London for example, night watchmen had to be notified of the coming ruckus.
4. At the sporting rat pits – usually in pubs or other gathering spaces – bets were placed on how many of these "resale" rats a dog could catch and kill in a set time. The quick, approximately 15-pound dogs could collar as many as 100 rats in 3.24 seconds or so (that was a long standing records in a sporting newspaper.) The encased pits were 4-5 feet high and white-washed to easily show the action. Of course, wagers were popular and dogs were handicapped by weights, etc.
5. In Britain (and Seattle, it also seems – as below) there are two commonly found types: The bigger, brown "Norway" rats and black rats, which are more nimble and capable of leaping. The browns especially gather around available food and water and can build huge colonies below and above ground.

(continued next page)

- Especially aboard ships, it wasn't unknown to eat rats – they were considered “cleaner” there – and it was free, fresh meat to the young midshipmen, even though each rat yielded just around 6 ounces of meat. (See recipe below.)

Finally, what Jane didn't know: Within a week on our meeting, local news and the Orkin pest control company reported that Seattle-Tacoma ranks the #11th rattiest city in the U.S. That's based on the number of rodent treatments done in each metro area in the past year. Both the Orkin press release (and my personal experience) suggest that our area's current construction boom has upset the rats' former homes ... along with lots of trash and food waste easily accessible.



Jane Austen Society of North America Puget Sound Region

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