



Letter from the RC

I hope this finds you in good health! How quickly things change: More and more people are making plans, and so is JASNA Dayton. The Dayton Reading Group held their first hybrid in-person/virtual meeting, and the Chawton in Columbus Group is scheduled to meet in-person in August. Registration opened earlier this month for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October, and we have even planned a Regency Card Party for September. I hope you will join us as you feel comfortable. We will continue to offer virtual options as well as in-person meetings. The pandemic has opened us up to the possibilities of sharing programs across North America.



Did you register for the AGM? Please send a quick email to rc@jasnadayton.org to let me know! We have reserved a space at the Emporium to raise funds, have Dayton tables at the Dinner and perhaps to meet up in Chicago. Mary Ann Gasior is in charge of the Emporium table, and we are working on fundraising ideas. I'm thrilled to announce that Cam Mauzy has offered another of her beautiful bonnets for a silent auction item. You also don't want to miss English Country Dancing led by Tom and Toni Tumbusch. Don't worry, Regency costume is not required!

I want to commend the JASNA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee for their work to craft our Statement of Diversity and Inclusion. Creating a safe and welcoming space for everyone is crucial to our commitment to share our love of Jane Austen. The Board is searching for an Ombudsman to investigate and mediate complaints, but if in the interim you have concerns please reach out to me, or to the JEDI committee itself, jedi@jasna.org.

Our next regional event is Sunday, August 22, for another episode of Cocktails & Conversation. Details in this newsletter. See you then!

Lynn Slowden



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Diversity and Inclusion Statement: To fulfill JASNA's mission of fostering among the widest number of readers the study, appreciation, and understanding of Jane Austen's works, her life, and her genius, JASNA strives to ensure that all people are welcome and feel valued in its meetings, events, and community spaces. JASNA is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Society. There is no place in JASNA for discrimination or exclusion, including on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, ability, appearance, or education.

Cocktails & Conversation: *Emma* Edition! by Cindy Manship



Greetings fellow Janites! Please join us for the next Cocktails and Conversation when we will be chatting about the latest Emma movie. We will be gathering on Zoom on August 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Be on the lookout for the cocktail recipe Tori will be sending out.

Did you like the new version? How did it compare to the other versions of Emma you have seen? Your hosts will be Tori Manship, (our cocktail diva) and yours truly, Cindy Manship, (one of your Program Committee co-chairs). So please pull up a chair and a glass and let's chat! We hope to see you there!



Regency Card Party by Mary Ann Gasior

Ever find yourself reading an Austen novel and wondering what those card games they're playing are like? JASNA-Dayton is offering a chance to find out on Sunday, September 12th, at the Washington-Centerville Public Library, 111 West Spring Valley Road, Centerville, Ohio 45458. We will meet in the Community Room from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Cards and refreshments will be provided (tea and scones, of course).

There is no fee, but registration is required due to space limitations. Call the library at (937) 433-8091 or register online at www.wclibrary.info. This program is open to JASNA members, as well as the general public, so make your reservations early.

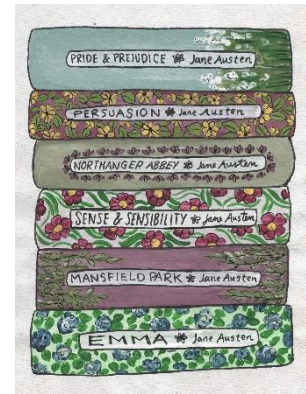
Already familiar with these card games? Please come. A mix of veterans and beginners will provide a good experience for all. Printed instructions for Whist, Commerce, Loo, and Vingt-un will be available.

Parking in the library lot is free, and Regency dress is welcome but not required. Please join us for an amiable afternoon.

Reading Group Update

by Wilson Palmer

The JASNA Dayton Reading group is halfway through reading and discussing Jane Austen's *Emma*. We plan to continue with the next of the final four sessions on October 10, 2021. But in the summer, we often do something "lighter." On July 11, 2021 we met in Cincinnati for the first "in-person" Reading Group session since the pandemic started. Nine of us met and, oh, it was so delightful to be with old and new friends again. Five people also joined us via Zoom. We discussed Jane Austen's uncompleted extract, *The Watsons*. During the second half of the discussion we also heard from those who read one of the completions to this extract done by other authors.



A number of our attendees had never read *The Watsons* before. What a delight, after all these years, to discover a "new" piece of Austen's writings. I think most agreed that even though this was an early draft, the main and minor characters seemed finely drawn. And Austen's ironic sense of humor was well represented here. Whether she meant to finish this or not, we and scholars have noticed characters and events here that are recycled into her finished novels. Emma Watson's spontaneity and naïve honesty remind us of Catherine Morland. Emma's kind rescue of young Charles Blake had the unintentional effect of bringing her to the attention of the Osborne castle crowd, and therefore the entire assembly. And this scene is reprised when Mr. Knightley rescues Harriet Smith at a ball. But only in *The Watsons* does Austen delight us with a fleshed-out view of a child this young (10). Jane Austen gives us a delightful scene where Lord Osborne visits Emma Watson in the much-reduced circumstances of her current home. Having experienced both plenty and poverty, Emma is not awed in the presence of a Lord but is aware and embarrassed by her shabby surroundings, while her sister Elizabeth is only humbled by having a great man in her house. This episode is reprised with Fanny Price in Portsmouth with Henry Crawford, but Austen captures the sense of *The Watsons* encounter with more clarity and fewer words. Kay pointed out Austen's remarkable ability to sum up characters' dispositions with only two words: Mrs. Robert Watson eyed Emma with "triumphant compassion;" her husband was "carelessly kind."

Michael tackled reading an 1850 completion by Jane Austen's niece, the daughter of Sir Francis Austen. Her name was Catherine Hubback and she titled it *The Younger Sister*. This is a large 43-chapter book, originally published in three volumes and it is still printed as three books, if you can find it at all. Michael is taking notes as he reads, so perhaps he will have another *Persuasions* article for us. He has one in *Persuasions On-Line* #35, No. 1. Michael's article is called "A Distracted Seminarian: The Unsuccessful Reformation of Edmund Bertram." I have read it and I am impressed. Judy and Zoe read Joan Aiken's completion called *Emma Watson*. We were entertained as they tried to reconstruct the convoluted plot for us, but it sounded so silly to me, I don't think I'm interested in reading that one, either. The John Coates version that I read is out of print, of which I was informed by a potential reader, after I used a whole email talking

about a book that could not easily be found. One person was able to get a library copy to read. Amy shared a synopsis of a 2020 on-line completion at the Gutenberg Project by L. Oulton. This is perhaps the best of the bunch.

We learned how different English country dancing was in those times compared to what we see in the movies or experience in our own Twelfth Night Ball. There was more standing idle back then so dancers could have long conversations, and Tom Musgrove and Lord Osborne could loiter near the dancers and converse with them. This happens in other novels, too, with Sir William Lucas and John Thorpe. In the discussion of Lord Osborne's personality, which put us in mind of Mr. Darcy, Lisa noted that people who are on the Autistic spectrum recognize aspects of Mr. Darcy's personality and his response to the stimuli and situations in which he finds himself. Lisa pointed me toward two great YouTube videos about dancing and Autism by "Tea with Cassiane." With Cassiane, Dr. Octavia Cox, and others, one could have 'Reading Group all the time' on the computer, but I think JASNA Dayton book discussions are more fun.

Upcoming Reading Group Dates (see website for more details):

Oct. 10 at Eilanna Price's home

Nov. 14 in Cincinnati

Feb 13 at Judy McCoy's home

April 10 at Kay Berg's home

Jane Austen Mini Reviews

by Mariah Busher



Hello Janeites! This is your webmaster, Mariah. We are getting ready to do a little something fun on the JASNA Dayton Facebook Page. There are so many great Austen-inspired retellings out there right now, as well as some great Regency-style Romances, and we want to let you know about some of them. So, in the coming weeks and months, I will be posting short reviews and recommendations for some of these books on our Facebook Page. These books will feature a variety of retellings, as well as some great Romance novels that I think will appeal to Austen lovers. I will include some basic content listings to give you a quick glance at what is in the book, such as what diversity might be included, as well as content warnings for anything that might be triggering for some readers. All opinions will be my own. We would love to have you comment and let us know about what you think of these books, too, if you read them, and what recommendations you might have yourself. Just head over to <https://www.facebook.com/jasnadayton> and like and follow our Page if you haven't already and keep your eyes peeled for the first Review!

JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Lynn Slowden	rc@jasnadayton.org
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Appointed Positions

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