

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

November 2012

“Duelling and the Code of Honor” Sunday, December 9, at the Golden Lamb

In celebration of Jane Austen’s 237th birthday (she was born December 16, 1775) we will have a talk by Carrie Bebris titled “Duelling and the Code of Honor in Jane Austen’s Time.”

Originally presented at the 2011 JASNA AGM in Portland, the talk comes out of research Carrie did for her fourth Mr. & Mrs. Darcy mystery, *The Matters at Mansfield. Or, The Crawford Affair*. (Given the number of enemies Henry Crawford has made by the end of *Mansfield Park*, one can imagine how he might become involved in a duel in Carrie’s novel.)

Carrie will discuss the status and culture of dueling in the early 19th century, the protocols of arranging and carrying out a duel, and references to dueling in Austen’s novels. Afterward, historical interpreter Kristopher Shultz, whom many will remember from his talk at our September, 2010 meeting, will demonstrate (in a safe manner) some dueling pistols and swords.



Speaker biographies and important information regarding the brief business portion of the meeting (a bylaws vote) appear on pages 3-4.

Mini-Emporium: Jane Austen Books will be on hand, as they were at last December’s meeting, with their delightful variety of books and other materials related to Jane Austen and the England of her time. (See additional information on page 4.) Carrie will be signing her books, and Martha will be offering her Regency note cards and the JASNA Dayton brooches for sale.

Location: The Presidential Room at the Golden Lamb, 27 South Broadway (SR 48), Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Schedule:

11:00 – 12:00	Arrive, socialize, and shop
12:00 – 12:45	Luncheon
12:45 – 1:15	Vote on bylaws, announcements, toasts to Jane
1:15 – 2:15	Carrie Bebris’s talk
2:15 – 2:30	Kristopher Schultz’s talk
2:30 – 3:30	Weapon demonstrations and Mini-Emporium

Luncheon Menu:

Red Grape and Pecan Chicken Salad Sandwich on Brioche with Fresh Fruit

or

Golden Egg Salad Sandwich on White Bread with Fresh Fruit

Beverages

Carrot Cake for Jane's Birthday

Cost: \$25 for members, \$28 for non-members.

RSVP by Monday, December 5 with a check made out to **JASNA Dayton**. Mail your check and sandwich choice to:

Meredith Stoehr
86 Carmel Court
Centerville, OH 45458.

For questions contact Meredith at 937-434-7567 or stoeha@yahoo.com.

[**Note:** Thanks to Tom Tumbusch for the unusual pictures of Jane and Carrie in this newsletter. Tom is Carrie's webmaster as well as ours, and the pictures were used in publicity for her AGM talk.]

JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

Regional Coordinator, Reading Group	Jean Long	937-287-6919	jtrnlong@aol.com
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Librarian	Toni Tumbusch	513-752-5115	victoriantoni@netzero.net
Treasurer	Martha Caprarotta		
Program	Carrie Bebris		
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

Speaker Carrie Bebris

Carrie Bebris is the author of the award-winning Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries, in which the couple become embroiled in intrigues involving their friends and other Austen characters. Reviewers praise Bebris for capturing not only the spirit of Austen's works, but also the historical details of the Regency era. Dueling figures prominently in the plot of *The Matters at Mansfield (Or, The Crawford Affair)*, a book whose extensive research ultimately led her to an open field (though not at dawn), where she learned to fire a dueling pistol (though not at Henry Crawford).

Carrie holds a master's degree in English literature from Marquette University. She currently serves as program chair of JASNA Dayton and guest speaker for other regions. Carrie's newest novel, *The Deception at Lyme (Or, The Peril of Persuasion)* sees the Darcys allying with the Wentworths to solve two mysteries—one from their present and another from the past. Research for that novel took Bebris from the top of the Cobb to the hold of an 18th-century warship. For more about Carrie see www.carriebebris.com.



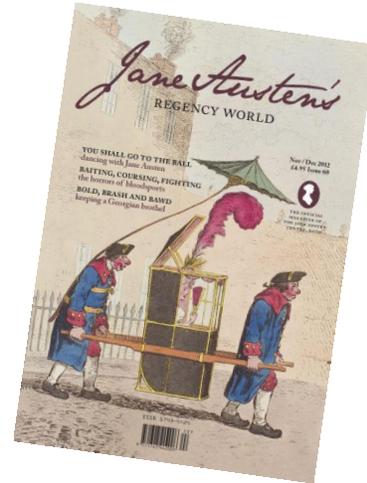
Weapons Expert Kristopher Shultz

Kristopher E. Shultz has been fascinated with history since childhood. He wrote a baccalaureate thesis on the changes of military culture and practices between Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, and his current areas of interest include 18th and 19th century social, political, military and material culture. He has become a consultant regarding arms and military tactics of those two centuries.

Kris participates in living history demonstrations and education as a member of the First Mad River Light Artillery, a multi-period artillery unit possessing a full-size replica 6 pounder cannon, and as the commander of Captain John Linigle's Company of Ohio Militia, a Federal period infantry company. (The picture shows him in his uniform, which includes a splendid bearskin hat.) Kris is also a small-arms and artillery instructor for the National Muzzle-Loading Rifle Association, and is an instructor of period infantry drill. He lives in Clark County, Ohio, with his wife, Kristin, and their three sons, and he currently serves as a Patrol Sergeant with the Clark County Sheriff's Office

Shopping with Jane Austen Books

Jane Austen Books, from the Cleveland area, has visited JASNA Dayton several times, first for the May, 2010 Gala at UD and most recently for Jane's birthday fashion show last December. They bring a delightful sampling of their wares-- a comprehensive selection of Jane Austen's own writings, writings about her, and novels based on her and her characters, as well as DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and articles of clothing with appropriate slogans. They also offer past issues of *Jane Austen's Regency World* and *Downton Abbey* DVDs. To get an idea of what they have in stock, consult their website at www.janeaustenbooks.net. You may e-mail proprietress Jennifer Weinbrecht at AustenBooks@gmail.com with any items you would like for her to bring along. Jennifer is a knowledgeable fellow Janeite, being Regional Coordinator of the Ohio North Coast JASNA Region



Member Vote on Bylaws Scheduled for December 9

Having operated for many years without bylaws, the JASNA Dayton Executive Committee has drawn up a set of them over the past several months. They will be submitted to the membership for approval at the December 9 meeting. They are posted on our website, and members have also received a copy by e-mail (or post, for those who do not use e-mail) for your perusal ahead of time.

The bylaws are based on a template furnished by the national organization. Parts taken directly from the template are in italics, and should therefore be non-controversial. Most of the bylaws concern the relationship between our Region and JASNA and the makeup of the Executive Committee—how members are selected, their duties, what happens if someone resigns, and so on.

A couple new positions are set forth in the bylaws: Publicity Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. These roles are now filled ad hoc by members of the Program Committee and by Martha Caprarotta, who has long made brooches and other items for sale and prepared press releases for major events, in addition to her other duties. It would put our organization on a much more solid footing if we could find officers dedicated to these responsibilities. Once the bylaws are passed, these and other openings on the Executive Committee, as well as other volunteer needs, will be announced. Meanwhile, please consider becoming more involved in JASNA-Dayton, and contact any officer to express your interest.

September Meeting: Ann Armstrong Reveals Much in Talk on Undergarments

Our September meeting was the first in many years held at Jay's in Dayton. Everyone there agreed that, with its handsome dining room and great cuisine, it made an excellent venue. Local speaker Ann Armstrong, with her talk on the history of undergarments since the late 18th century, was an equal success. Dressed as a Revolutionary War camp follower, her role in the regiment to which she and her husband belong, Ann imparted many interesting facts and insights. Her costume alone was a revelation to me. It consisted of several layers of skirts and petticoats, with slits in the sides, so that inner layers could be pulled out to free up the legs for heavy work. That must be where Mother Goose's puffy overskirt comes from! Pockets were separate from the dress and tied around the waist. Ann says this arrangement is extremely comfortable and convenient. One got at the pocket through the same slits in the skirts. A nicely embroidered pocket peeking out from the skirts was considered seductive evidence of a young girl's housewifely skills.

Early farm families in America just had a few outfits at a time—perhaps one for heavy work, one for lighter work, and one for dress up—so that they had no need for closets. The clothes were not only sewn by the housewife. She might well weave the cloth herself, after spinning the thread from wool or flax.

In the early 1800s dresses were put together, in large part, with straight pins. Even Ann doesn't fully understand how this worked. Pins were fairly expensive then, so that a woman might receive a paper of pins as a wedding gift. "Pin money" was a wife's allowance for the purchase of pins. Another phrase whose origin we learned from Ann is "loose woman." A loose woman was a woman who didn't bother with stays.



Reading Group to Begin *Sense and Sensibility* Sunday, November 11

Our first Reading Group of the year will meet Sunday, November 11, at 2:30, at the home of our leader Jean Long. We will be starting *Sense and Sensibility*, the only one of Jane's novels we haven't studied yet. It should be interesting to compare this early Austen work with the later novels we have taken up in the last few years, like *Persuasion* and *Emma*.



Our Reading Group sessions are set up so that each person reads a few lines and explains why he or she found them to be amusing or interesting. These readings are the starting point of many lively discussions. In preparing for the sessions, mark plenty of passages, since your first (or second, or third) selection may already be taken before your turn comes around. Jean hastens to assure us that homework is not mandatory. You may skip a turn, or just ask a question.

The schedule for this year will be:

Nov. 11, 2012	Introduction and Vol. 1 Chap. 1-3
Jan. 13, 2013	Vol. 1, Chap. 4-11
Feb. 10, 2013	Vol. 1 Chap. 12-18
Apr. 14, 2013	Vol. I, Chap. 19-22; Vol. II, 1-3 (Continuous 23-26)

Unless otherwise specified, the Reading Group meets on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 at Jean's home, 927 Far Hills (Route 48), Oakwood, 45419. The back of her condominium faces Far Hills. To enter, turn onto Park Avenue (left if you're going north on Far Hills, right if you're going south), and turn left almost immediately, just before the municipal building. The sign at the street says "City Cars Only." You'll be on an alley that leads to the parking lot of Bob and Jean's building. A sidewalk runs between 2 sections of the complex. If you are facing Far Hills, Jean's condominium is on the right. If you have questions, call Jean at 927-298-0436 or e-mail jtrnlong@aol.com.

Katie LePage Represents JASNA Dayton at New York AGM , October 5-7

JASNA Dayton member Katie LePage attended the AGM the year and represented Jean at the Regional Coordinator's meeting. She had an excellent time, as she reports below:

Approximately 750 people attended the recent AGM at the Brooklyn Bridge Marriott. I was one of them. Not only was it a major event for all Austen devotees, but it was a chance for me to get my personal New York fix by seeing two stunning Broadway shows, reconnecting with a friend, traveling on the subway amid the wonderful multicultural din that is New York City. I chose to stay in humbler digs in Chelsea, an area I knew from previous visits—an easy subway ride to and from the Brooklyn Marriott. As I was often wearing my Regency day dresses to the meetings and then transporting my dress gown for the banquet, promenade and ball, I was pleased to note that no one paid even the slightest bit of attention to my possibly unusual garb. What's not to love about a place like that? (I have heard some say that NYC is not their "cup of tea." Imagine that.)



This was my third AGM, and while all have been worthwhile, this one was uniformly excellent. Anna Quindlen, Friday's speaker, spoke on "Jane Austen is my Home Girl" (a slogan she once saw on a teenager's tee shirt) and was outstanding. No rustling papers, no heading off to get some water in that assembled group, you can believe. The break-out sessions seemed to be especially well-selected (at former AGM gatherings these sessions were often uneven in quality), and one I attended, "Austen Assizes" featured many noted JASNA participants, particularly Joan Ray as THE JUDGE. One case involved Lucy Steele Ferrars standing trial for the attempted murder of her husband, Robert. Expectedly, there was much booing, cheering, gavel-pounding during the proceedings. (You will be interested in knowing Lucy was found guilty.)

I also attended two Regional Coordinators' Meetings (one at 8:00 AM (!) Sunday, the morning after the lovely Regency Ball on Saturday night) as a substitute for Jean Long. Of course, no one can really fill in for Jean, but I took lots of notes and understood some of what was being discussed. Much had to do with financial matters—reports due when and covering what), the extra insurance coverage necessary for events covering more than one day, and how to apply for regional program grants

Next year's AGM will be in Minneapolis September 27-29, 2013. The reason for the earlier date is that the hotel could give JASNA a better deal on those dates. The theme will be "Pride and

Prejudice...Timeless.”

Teavana at the Greene

In September Teavana opened an outlet at the Greene. Teavana is a national chain that markets itself as a “tea bar and tea emporium.” Judging from the pictures on its website its atmosphere most certainly will not replace that of Basically British, but it may supply fine teas. Check it out in person or at its website www.teavana.com.

January 1 Deadline for 2012-2013 Membership Renewals

In the past, JASNA Dayton has had a very loose policy for membership renewal, with no actual deadline throughout the meeting year. In keeping with our efforts to become more organized (see page 4 article on bylaws), and in view of the cost of mailing paper newsletters to people who may or may not renew for the year, the Board has decided to set a cutoff date for membership renewals. This year it will be January 1. If you have not yet renewed, check the membership information on our website (www.jasnadayton.org) or contact Membership Chair Deb Bentley at extraone@woh.rr.com or 937-429-5123.

JASNA Membership a Requirement for Dayton JASNA Members

Deb Bentley, our Membership Chair, asks everyone to remember that membership in our national organization, JASNA, is a requirement for Regional membership. JASNA provides many benefits to the Regions, most visibly the grants for bringing in outside speakers. If you aren't yet a member, check the JASNA website (www.jasna.org) for membership information.

Upcoming Meetings

Besides the Reading Groups, two more meetings have been scheduled for the 2012-2013 program year:

Saturday, March 23, 2013: JASNA Dayton Librarian Toni Tumbusch presents “Meet Your JASNA Dayton Library” in her home. This will be a great opportunity to browse our newly expanded collection of books, DVDs, music, and other resources.

Saturday, May 4, 2013: Veena Kasbekar, a new JASNA Dayton member and an English professor at Ohio University-Chillicothe, will host a movie afternoon on *Bride and Prejudice*, bringing a particularly informed point of view to this Indian take on Austen.