

JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA--GREATER CHICAGO REGION

# Letter from Chicago

SPRING 2018

## Annual JASNA-GCRGala

*Saturday, May 5, 2018*  
*11:30 am to 4:30 pm*

*Celebrating Persuasion*



JASNA-GCR GALA-MAY 5, 2018

Featuring our usual mix of thought-provoking presentations and other diversions...

Devoney Looser, "The Afterlife of *Persuasion*"



Sheila Johnson Kindred, "Discovering Fanny Palmer Austen, Jane Austen's  
Transatlantic Sister"

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William Phillips' Diabolical Quiz

\*

Gala Emporium

**The Drawing Room,  
Woman's Athletic Club of Chicago  
626 North Michigan Avenue**

The Gala includes a luncheon with your choice of Braised Short Ribs, Poached Sole, or  
Eggplant Schnitzel along with Baby Greens Salad and Trio Dessert Sampler.

Coffee and hot or iced tea included.

**Tickets are \$90 per person**

Register online, <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=hbzxx>

Tickets are limited to 85 seats, please sign up early.

**Registration deadline is April 26**

Valet parking is available at The WAC. Cash only.

To register by mail, please use the form below.

**JASNA-GCR Gala Pay-by-Mail Registration Form**

**Tickets: \$90 per person**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

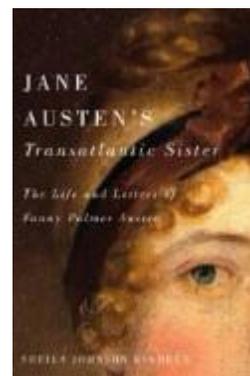
Entree Choice \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to **JASNA-GCR**. Mail form and check to: **JASNA-GCR c/o Elizabeth Schraft; 175 N. Harbor Dr. Apt. 2506; Chicago, IL 60601***



**DEVONEY LOOSER** is the author of *The Making of Jane Austen* and Professor of English at Arizona State University. She writes and teaches on the history of the novel and literature by women. A Minnesota native, Looser traded in her ice skates for roller skates in middle age and has played roller derby under the name Stone Cold Jane Austen. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with her husband, professor and Austen scholar George Justice, and their tween-teen sons.

**SHEILA JOHNSON KINDRED** is the author of *Jane Austen's Transatlantic Sister: The Life and Letters of Fanny Palmer Austen*. Ms. Johnson Kindred taught in the Department of Philosophy at Saint Mary's University. As a member of the Nova Scotia chapter of JASNA and the Kent branch of JAS, she has lectured and published on Jane Austen in both North America and England. She writes about Austen's fiction and family, and lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



### Gala Emporium Merchants

**Matti's Millinery and Costumes**—Fine Historical Costumes and Accessories.

**Janine Fron**—Unique Cooperative Games

**Jane Austen Books**—Books, Gifts, Audio and Movies

**Jeanne Steen/Figaro Chicago**—Gifts, Accessories and Vintage Fashion Prints

**Maureen Collins/Jane's Jewelry**

**JASNA-GCR Book Table**



### Spring Cleaning to Support JASNA

Donate your unwanted books at the May 5th GCR Gala for the Book Sale Table. Proceeds will benefit JASNA-GCR Educational Outreach. Any books will be accepted and need not be Austen-related.

## Help Wanted

**Event Reviewer:** We seek to fill the position of press attache to review the JASNA-GCR Annual Gala.

**Event Photographer:** Individual with artistic eye and attention to detail sought to capture the day in images. No portfolio necessary.

**Nominating Committee:** Members needed to help secure nominees for this fall's JASNA-GCR board elections.

Inquiries about any of the above should be addressed to Ms. Laura Whitlock at [llwhitlock@yahoo.com](mailto:llwhitlock@yahoo.com)




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## Upcoming GCR Events

**Summer Program and Fall Meeting:** To Be Announced

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*From the*

## **Regional Coordinator**

*Debra Ann Miller*

There are few things, in our wonderfully diverse greater Chicago area that we can all agree on, but I propose that one nearly all of us celebrate, or at least welcome, is Spring. To the baseball fan the call for pitchers and catchers to report for training is every bit as rapturous a sound as the first robin of the season to a bird watcher, the appearance of the first snowdrops to the gardener, or the email announcing the opening of registration for the JASNA Annual General Meeting.

To this I would add our own Spring Gala. Our most highly attended event of the year, the GCR Spring Gala showcases the best of the best; both from our own ranks as well as presenters from across the globe. This year will be no different. Our Program Director, Jeff Nigro has secured a stellar program of speakers for our entertainment, and of course the return of our quiz will provide bedeviling delights as well.

In keeping with the theme of this year's AGM, JASNA-GCR celebrates *Persuasion*, my favorite of Austen's novels, so I will be sure to register early for the Gala. I encourage you to do the same, as we will be limited in the number of attendees this year.

We will hold our Spring Gala on Saturday May 5th, and you will find all the information

here in the newsletter, where you can revisit the details at your leisure- like Sir Walter Elliot with his precious copy of the Baronetage.

The beauty of the Woman's Athletic Club and the tempting treasures of our vendors rival the grandeur and quality of any Assembly Hall or shop that Bath can offer, so this is no time to retrench.

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*From the*  
**Program Director**  
*Jeffrey Nigro*



**Spring Gala: Celebrating Persuasion**

JASNA-GCR will continue our celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Persuasion* with our Spring Gala on May 5. We all love Jane Austen's last completed masterpiece for its story of romantic second chances, its sensitivity and its wisdom. *Persuasion* also transports us from the glittering (and not so glittering) society of Bath to the bracing view of the sea from Lyme Regis. Anne Elliot, whom Austen implied was "almost too good" for her, and that dashing model of integrity, Captain Frederick Wentworth, are among their creator's best-loved characters, and Austen's stirring salute to the Royal Navy can inspire even the least military-minded among us.

Once again, the Gala will take place at the historic and magnificent Woman's Athletic Club in downtown Chicago. This year, we will be in the supremely elegant Drawing Room on the Club's second floor. With its exquisite Regency style details and air of cozy but sophisticated splendor, the Drawing Room is the perfect venue for a Jane Austen Society event, as close to Bath as you are likely to get this side of the Atlantic.

This year, we are trying a slightly later start time to our spring event: please note that the Gala will begin at 11:30 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. This change should give everyone plenty of time to get downtown, as well as giving attendees the opportunity to enjoy an evening in the city, if they so choose.

The Gala program features two outstanding speakers. **Sheila Johnson Kindred**, author of *Jane Austen's Transatlantic Sister: The Life and Letters of Fanny Palmer Austen*, published just last year by McGill University Press, will be coming in from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Bermuda-born Fanny Palmer became the wife of Jane Austen's youngest brother Captain (and future Rear Admiral) Charles Austen. Ms. Kindred's meticulously researched and beautifully written book will inspire her Gala presentation, exploring the adventurous, romantic life of this Austen sister-in-law.

It has been far too long since **Devoney Looser** has spoken to our region, and it will be a

pleasure to welcome her back to Chicago. Dr. Looser is Professor of English at Arizona State University, and a distinguished Austen scholar whose most recent book, *The Making of Jane Austen*, was published last year by Johns Hopkins University Press. Her Plenary Session at the 2017 JASNA AGM in Huntington Beach was rapturously received, and her talk at our Gala will cap our celebration with a discussion of “The Afterlife of **Persuasion**”.

The Gala Emporium will feature the return of such favorite vendors as Jane Austen Books and Matti’s Millinery and Costumes, beautiful wares from Jeanne Steen, Janine Fron’s delightful puzzles and games, and more, as well as the JASNA-GCR Used Book Sale Table. Whether you are a bookish Anne Elliot, or a fashion-conscious Sir Walter, you will find much to delight and tempt you at the Emporium. Add a sumptuous three-course lunch, and another of William Phillips’s patented “diabolical” Quizzes, and you have the makings of a truly wonderful day.

So many people have told me that *Persuasion* is their favorite Austen novel, and we hope that our Gala celebration will do justice to Austen’s beloved masterpiece. Space will be limited, so make your reservations now!

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## Winter Meeting Review

William Phillips

### “Men on Men in Austen”

Our winter meeting this year was held at Lloyd's Restaurant on South Wacker in downtown Chicago. The program comprised a panel of three accomplished male readers of Jane Austen. The program was particularly interesting to me since JASNA is a majority female organization, and most JASNA members first read Austen in their early teens. As a male reader who didn't really engage with Austen until mid-life, I wanted to know when our speakers encountered Austen and what her works/characters meant to them. I have to say that I think the program was right up there in the top tier of the many delightful GCR presentations I have attended—including those I participated in. Our three panelists represented a range of personal and professional pursuits as well as a range of interests in Austen.

Don Evans is a novelist and short story writer who is deeply engaged in Chicago’s literary scene. A founding editor of the *Chicago Literary Hall of Fame*, and editor of *Great Lakes Review*, Don is connected to several of the area’s literary awards. He first read Austen in high school as a self-proclaimed “unsophisticated reader.” Later in his 20s he became intrigued by both Austen and Dickens—particularly the opportunity to “root for” justice to prevail and in Austen the focus on character traits he admired: wit, frankness, and judging others on merit.

Keith Green is academically trained in English Literature and History and teaches British cultural heritage at the post-secondary level. Given my late discovery of Austen, I was

pleased that Keith didn't really encounter Austen until sometime after his undergraduate years. However, he has been "happily reading and studying" Austen's life and works ever since.

Carl Johnson is a Trainer and Social Worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Carl first read Austen at age 23 in the context of therapeutic discussions of books about "growing up." He says he "has been hooked ever since." Carl joined the GCR Board in our last elections.

Keith's first Austen novel was *Sense and Sensibility*. Like many JASNA members, *Pride and Prejudice* was the first Austen experience for both Don and Carl. I was intrigued that Don claimed Mr. Bennet as his favorite Austen character for mostly the same reasons that he likes Austen's characters in general. Mr. Bennet has been the target of quite a bit of criticism in recent years, but I agree that there is a lot to appreciate in Mr. Bennet. While Keith didn't find great strength in the male characters of his first novel (*S&S*), all three of the panelists found their favorite of Austen's male characters to be honest, genuine, and decent. All agreed on the authenticity of the cads in Austen as well. These ideas came out strongly in the discussion period following the panel.

The discussion period was extremely active with many probing questions and observations. Much of the discussion focused on both the depth and breadth of Austen's male characters. Briefly, the men we like in Austen are much like the men we like in contemporary life—not perfect, but a good foil to those who prove to be other than likeable. Several questions and comments pointed to the fact that with few exceptions (like Sir Walter), even Austen's cads and unpleasant characters have attributes that attract us to them. Quite a few questions and comments brought about discussion of Mr. G. Knightley from *Emma*. I must confess that he gets my vote for the most complex of Austen's male characters.

From my observation and conversation with those who attended, I concluded that the good crowd was both thoroughly engaged and quite pleased by the program—not to mention that everyone I spoke to approved of the venue, the food, and the service. I know that I enjoyed catching up with several GCR chums I hadn't seen for a while as well as interacting with people I didn't know so well. Kudos to Jeff, Deb, Georgia, and the program planners; to the active participation by members; and particularly to the stellar panel.

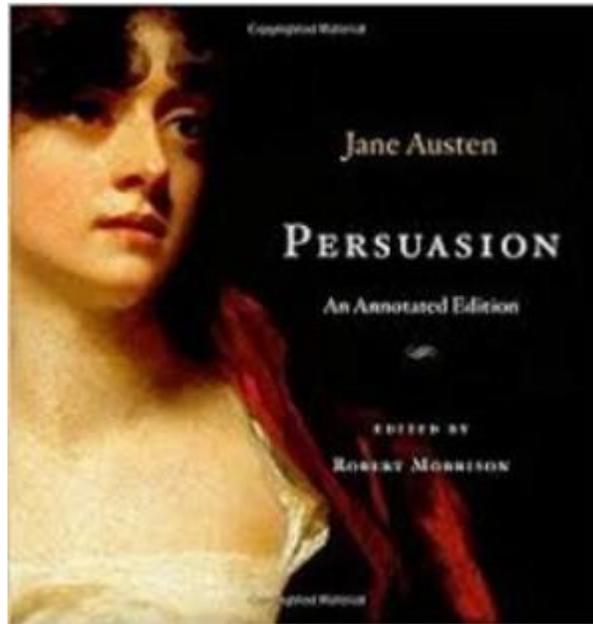
## Winter Meeting Highlights



From top: RC Debra Miller with "Men Who Love Austen" Panelists, Keith Green, Donald G. Evans and Carl Johnson; tablescapes; meeting attendees chatting; framed Jane Austen £10 note for the NAFCHL fundraiser.

**North American Friends of Chawton House Library  
Fundraiser**

*Don Skoog was the winner of the framed Jane Austen £10 note, donated by JASNA- GCR member Jane Hunt. \$390 in proceeds was collected, which will be matched by JASNA-GCR and donated to NAFCHL. For more information, visit, <https://janegreathouse.org/>*



## Book Review

Carl Johnson

Jane Austen. ***Persuasion: An Annotated Edition***. Edited by Robert Morrison. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England, 2011.

For the past few years, my condo book group has indulged my passion for Jane Austen by agreeing to read Austen's novels as they turned 200 years old. This year we read *Persuasion*. Everyone arrived to the meeting with their copy of the novel, ready to discuss and debate (it is a very lively group!). The copy that one of our members brought with her caught everyone's attention. It was an annotated, illustrated, and oversized edition of *Persuasion*. The book measures 9 x 9 1/2 inches and weighs 2 pounds, 8 ounces. It is warmly and beautifully illustrated throughout with a generous size font and wide margins. This edition of *Persuasion* is a part of a series of annotated Jane Austen novels published by Harvard University Press that includes *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*.

Everything about this *Persuasion* is all that is delightful and educational, from the evocative oil painting reproduction on the cover, to the Appendixes and suggested reading in the back. In between, the reader is treated to a thoughtful and literate Introduction by the book's editor, Robert Morrison. Mr. Morrison also gives a running commentary in the margins of the novel, alongside the text, wherein he provides explanations of unfamiliar

words and customs. He also speculates on such things as what may have been the inspiration for Kellynch Hall (Haldon Hall, near Exeter) and who may have served as the model for the character of Sir Walter Elliot (the Prince Regent). In addition, Mr. Morrison outlines some of the current events that were taking place during the time when the novel was written, thus enabling the reader to have a more well-rounded understanding of the characters and events in the novel.

If you have already read *Persuasion*, the many details in the book may deepen your appreciation of this great novel. If you have not read *Persuasion*, then the numerous explanations and illustrations could prove to be a distraction and make for a fragmented and disjointed reading experience. That aside, the book is a treasure and is sure to provide many hours of happy reading and reflection.

This annotated *Persuasion* is as physically handsome as the novel is beautifully written. It is a must for anyone who calls themselves a Janeite. Let it grace the coffee table in your living room and prepare to be highly gratified at the exclamations of admiration of your friends and family.



## Austen in the Media

Laura Whitlock

**"Life seems but a quick succession of busy nothings."**

### **Austen-related Phone Apps**

I begin with the acknowledgement that staring at one's smart phone can be rude. I am aware that we have all been with someone who has callously chosen to interact with their phone rather than the human being in their presence. In line at the grocery store. Sitting in a coffee shop. In a class we were teaching.

Ahem.

That being said, our phones can be, at appropriate times, not only a method for keeping in contact with the world, but a pleasant diversion. And who doesn't need to be diverted

occasionally? Excessively diverted.

While the vast majority of phone apps consists of silly games, a few developers have chosen to create phone-based entertainment with Janeites in mind. You'll find these in the App Store located on your device.

**The Jane Austen Centre Quote of the Day--The Jane Austen Centre** developed this app to deliver a witty quote from your favorite author to your device daily. Other features include easy links to the Austen Centre's visitor information, online magazine and gift shop. Free, available for Apple iOS and Android.

**What Would Jane Austen Say?--Marisa Marquez** designed this app, which provides Jane Austen quotes as amusing alternatives in awkward text message situations. For example, respond to your coworker's mindless overuse of "LOL" with, "*Laugh as much as you choose*, but you will not laugh me out of my opinion." \$0.99, for Apple devices with iOS 10.2 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

**The Jane Austen Quiz--Developer James Topham** created this diversion which promises, "...quality trivia questions about Jane Austen's work and life in high-pressure, timed rounds." I have difficulty imagining that this would outmatch The William Phillips Diabolical Quiz, but it could prove entertaining. \$0.99, For Apple devices with iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch, available in a wide range of languages.

**QuizUp by Glu Games Inc.--**This quiz app claims to be, "The biggest trivia game in the world." While that may be difficult to quantify, it certainly provides hours of entertainment with hundreds of quiz topics, including many of interest to Janeites. Search the app to find light & breezy quizzes (nothing like the aforementioned WPDQ), or challenge your friends on topics including, "Jane Austen," "Pride and Prejudice," "19<sup>th</sup> Century Music," and "Colin Firth." Free. Available on Apple iOS and Android in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

**Regency Love, by Tea for Three Studios--**This role playing game offers an immersive experience as a young Regency noblewoman. It appears to be a choose-your-own-adventure situation, with options including, "Would you dance, practise the piano, or perhaps embroider a handkerchief? Take tea with your mother, visit an old friend, or ask after a new acquaintance, who just so happens to own a rather fetching waistcoat? Walk in the woods with a dashing companion, or discuss poetry with a reserved gentleman friend?" I can't think of a better distraction whilst waiting on the L platform. \$4.99, for Apple iOS 8.0 or later, compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

You'll notice I haven't included e-reader versions of Jane Austen's novels in this list. There are several, including lovely, annotated versions with loads of additional content, such as **Six Lasting Legacy of Jane Austen by I Think Solutions** (\$6.99 available for Apple iOS, Kindle Reader and Android.) While many will find this an acceptable way to get one's "Jane fix" on the go, I really don't. For the novels themselves, I've just got to have paper.

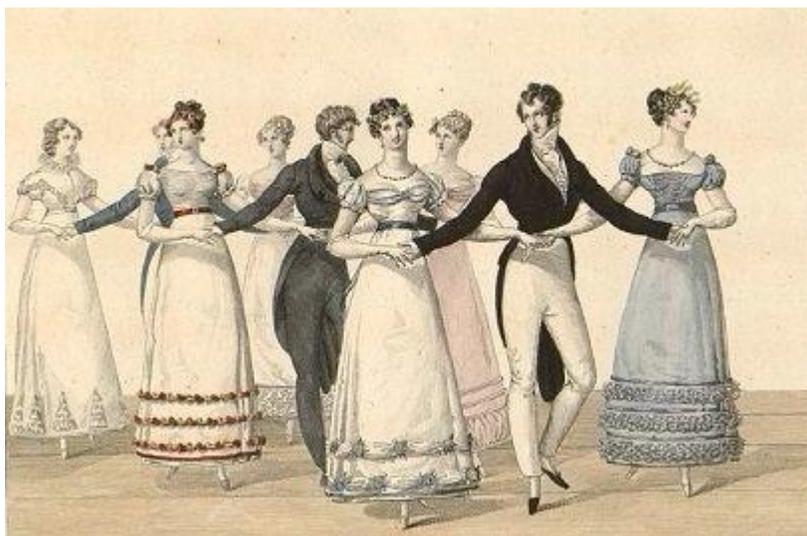
# Calls for Papers

## ***JASNA Student Essay Contest***

JASNA seeks papers for an annual student essay contest to foster the study and appreciation of Jane Austen's work. The contest is open to students world-wide in three divisions: High School, College/University and Graduate School. This year's topic commemorates the bicentenary of the publication of *Persuasion*. **Submission deadline is May 20, 2018.** For more information and specific guidelines, please visit <http://www.jasna.org/programs/essay-contest/>

## **JASNA AGM 2019**

The Southeastern Virginia Region eagerly invites proposals for AGM breakout sessions related to our theme, “200 Years of *Northanger Abbey*: ‘Real, Solemn History.’” Both traditional lecture formats and more unusual ones such as debates or multi-media presentations are encouraged. Submission deadline is October 8, 2018. For more information and specific guidelines, please visit <http://www.jasna.org/agms/williamsburg/call-for-papers.html>



# Upcoming Events

## **Jane Austen Speaks**

April 8th, 3pm

Norris Cultural Arts Center

1040 Dunham Rd, St Charles, IL 60174

## **Jane Austen Festival**

June 6th online registration opens at

**5:00pm(EST)**

<http://jasnalouisville.com/2018-festival>

<http://norrisculturalarts.com/event/jane-austen-speaks/>

**-And-**

April 12th, 6:30pm EDT

Petersburg - Barrett Memorial Library

1104 E Main St, Petersburg, IN 47567

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1213145615484917>

**JASNA-WI Spring Luncheon**

April 28, 11:00 am

Maple Bluff Country Club, 500 Kensington

Dr, Madison, WI

<http://www.jasnawi.org/events>

Social hour at 11:00, lunch served at noon, followed by a presentation on Regency fashion accessories by author Candice Hern. Using detailed images from her collection of fashion prints, Candice will provide an overview of fashion accessories from the Regency. A thorough examination of bonnets will describe the different types, and will trace their rather dramatic evolution during the period. Other accessories discussed will include shoes, shawls, gloves, parasols, muffs, reticules, and jewelry.

**JASNA AGM Registration**

**Opens**

May 9th online registration begins at 12:00 noon (EST)

<http://www.jasna.org/agms/kansascity/registration.html>

Event September 28-30, Kansas City

Event: July 13-15,

Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

**Jane Austen Speaks**

June 12th, 7:00 pm

Oswego Public Library

32 West Jefferson

Oswego, IL 60543

<http://bit.ly/2pok1UE>

**Sixth Annual Jane Austen Summer Program**

June 14-17, 2018

Hampton Inn-Carrboro/Chapel Hill

370 E Main St #100, Carrboro, NC 27510

<https://form.jotform.com/73334616629158>

**Jane Austen Speaks**

June 15th, 6:30pm

Huntley Area Public Library

11000 Ruth Rd, Huntley, IL 60142

<https://www.facebook.com/events/960564610786084>

**Society in Jane Austen's World: England's Regency Period**

Road Scholar 5 Day Seminar

June 17-22, 2018

Geneva Bay Retreat Center at Covenant

Harbor

1724 W Main St, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

<http://bit.ly/2rieoKH>

### JASNA Indiana Box Hill Picnic

June 2nd

Details to come

<http://www.jasnaindiana.org/index.php/calendar/>

### Hat in a Day Workshop

Saturday, July 28 9am-4pm

Judith M Studio, Lagrange, IN

Laura Whitlock will guide this class in working with Jinsin, which can be used to make a lovely Regency turban.

[https://www.judithm.com/catalog/workshop\\_-schedule-judith-m-studio](https://www.judithm.com/catalog/workshop_-schedule-judith-m-studio)

#### Artwork Credits

Gala composite left to right: Anonymous. *Lyme Regis*, 19th century. Private collection; René-Théodore Berthon (1776-1859). *Lady Morgan*, ca. 1818. National Gallery of Ireland; G.F. St. John (original painting), Thomas Goldsworthy Dutton (1820-1891) (engraver). *HMS Pomone*, 1820. Published in *Sailing Ships of War, 1800-1860*, Sir Alan Moore, 1926. (London: Halton & Truscott Smith); Book sale listing: Attributed to Adam Buck (1759-1833), early 19th century. Upcoming Events: Cornu, Hortense (1809-1875). from *Étrennes à Terpsichore*, 1821.

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### Letter from Chicago

Published by the Greater Chicago Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America Debra Ann Miller, Regional Director; Laura Whitlock, Designer/Editor; Lori Mahoney, Editorial Consultant

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 To join JASNA, or to renew your membership, visit <http://www.jasna.org/>



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