

# Letter from Chicago

Spring 2009

## A Beauty-full Gala

**Saturday, May 2, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Allerton Hotel, 701 N. Michigan, Chicago, IL (valet parking)  
Continental Breakfast and Lunch

### Jane Austen and Beauty

**Debra N. Mancoff,**

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, on  
*Mrs. Richard Brinsley Sheridan:  
The Fair Syren of Bath*

**Jeff Nigro,** the Art Institute of Chicago, on  
*Austen and the Beauty of Place*

**Jeanne Steen,** Owner of *Figaro*, on  
*Fashionable Jane*

**Book Exchange:** bring books, buy books

### GALA REGISTRATION FORM

Members: \$65; Guests: \$70

Registration deadline: April 27

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### You can register by

1. Going online to [www.jasnachicago.org](http://www.jasnachicago.org) and pay using your Visa or MasterCard.
- or 2. Mailing your check—payable to JASNA-GCR—and this form to **Elsie Holzwarth, 1410 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615-5409.**

# Members

---

Martha Jameson

## Welcome New Members

**Lois Harris**

**Prudy Widlak**

**Sherry Leonchuk**

**Mark Walzer**

## Member News

On January 20, Inauguration Day, our Program Chair **Elisabeth Lenckos** gave a talk on *Love and Jane Austen* at the Evergreen Park Public Library as part of the library's "Jane-uary" celebration. The day before, the Huntley Area Public Library hosted an afternoon Austen program which **Joseph Letteri** attended and gave out our GCR flyers. On February 27, **William Phillips** spoke at the DuPage County Teachers' Institute Day at Wheaton North High School on *An Excursion into 'Evil' with Jane Austen*. On February 22, **Elsie Holzwarth** spoke, and led a forum, on *Abraham Lincoln and the Bible* in the Interreligious Center of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago.

## Gala Registration Deadline

Please note: Payment for registrations for our May 2 Gala must be **received by April 27** because we must let the hotel know the number of attendees. And we pay for them, too! This payment deadline includes both online and mail registrations. There is a cancellation fee of \$ 5.00 per person prior to the registration deadline, but no refunds can be made after the deadline.

## 2009 AGM Registration

Make haste to register when you get the registration material for the AGM in Philadelphia, October 9-11. There is a limit of 550 members and 50 guests. Judging by the overwhelming response to our AGM, registration for the Philadelphia AGM may be filled even before the early registration deadline. Don't delay in making hotel arrangements too. You wouldn't want to be disappointed.

---

## LETTER FROM CHICAGO

---

Published by the Greater Chicago Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America

Natalie Goldberg, Regional Coordinator; Elsie Holzwarth, Editor; Kathleen Burke, Designer

Natalie Goldberg

Thanks to excellent planning by our program committee, **Elisabeth Lenckos**, **William Phillips** and **Jeff Nigro**, and arrangements by our events planner **Beverly Roth**, our region continues to attract a record number of members and guests to our meetings. In December, our Birthday Tea returned to The Fortnightly of Chicago, a favorite venue. In February, the Parthenon was the setting for a lively discussion of siblings in Austen's novels. In March, members traveled to Milwaukee for a production of *Pride and Prejudice* and pre-theater dinner party.

Now we look forward to our premier event, our annual **Spring Gala** on **May 2**, with three exciting talks on *Jane Austen and Beauty*, beginning our celebration of the bicentennial of Jane's move to Chawton in July, 1809. On display will be a reproduction of Jane Austen's quilt that GCR members created for Chicago's 1988 AGM. (The original quilt is at Chawton cottage.) Our Gala includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch and a champagne toast in the beautifully restored Allerton Hotel on North Michigan Avenue. (In response to requests, all beverages at lunch will be served at the tables.)

Returning to the Gala is our popular **Book Exchange: Bring a Book/Buy a Book**. Please contribute a gently-used book. We sell all paperbacks for 50 cents and all hardcovers for \$1 to support Education Outreach grants. If you would like to help at our Book Exchange table, please email us [www.jasnagcr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.jasnagcr@sbcglobal.net). Volunteering for our book sale is a great way to meet and greet fellow Janeites!

Summer brings yet another event to enjoy: a **Jane Austen Garden Party** with tour, tea, and readings at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe on **June 27**. [For directions, see [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org).] Enjoy picturesque landscapes that Jane Austen herself would have found familiar. At 1 pm, we meet at the

English Gardens for a guided tour. At 2 pm high tea will be served in the Garden View Room—with platters of assorted finger sandwiches and pastries and individual pots of tea. **William Phillips** is arranging readings on *Austen's Characters in the Out of Doors*. Later, you may hike the 385 acres of exquisite landscape, or, for a nominal fee, take one of the narrated Grand Tram tours circling the perimeter. In summer, the Gardens are open 7 am to 9 pm. Strolling through gardens in June will prepare us for **Kim Wilson's** talk, *Jane Austen in the Garden*, at our free **September 12** meeting at Evanston Public Library.

Finally, I want to remind everyone who plans to attend the 2009 AGM in Philadelphia: register early. Brochures are scheduled for distribution in May. Once the booklets are in the mail, you may also register on the AGM website at [www.jasna.org](http://www.jasna.org).

## Gala Menu

### Continental Breakfast

*Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice*  
*Freshly Baked Miniature Danishes, Sweet Butter*  
*Gourmet Blend Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and*  
*Assorted Herbal Teas*

### Lunch Buffet

*Mixed Greens Salad with Red Wine Vinaigrette and*  
*Creamy Blue Cheese Dressing*  
*Asparagus, Heart of Palm, Artichoke and*  
*Forest Mushroom Salad*  
*Tarragon Vinaigrette*  
*Sautéed Burgundy Chicken Breast*  
*with Petite Mirepoix*  
*Grilled Salmon with Raspberry Beurre Blanc*  
*over Wilted Field Greens*  
*Roasted Butter Parsley Baby Red Potatoes*  
*Steamed Carrots and Green Beans with Pimento*  
*Old Fashioned Chocolate Cream Pie and*  
*Assorted Cookies*  
*Iced Tea, Gourmet Blend Coffee, Decaffeinated*  
*Coffee and Assorted Herbal Teas*

## Tea on Austen's Birthday: A Tale of Four Elizabeths

In December 2008, my husband and I traveled to London to visit the sites associated with Austen's life and novels. Rather than the Westend, we chose a hotel in the City dating from the 18th century, close to the Gracechurch Street home of the Gardiners in *Pride and Prejudice*. With the weather sunny and clement, we explored the areas around St. Paul, Lincoln's Inn, and Brunswick Square featured in Austen's world and her writing. We strolled around the same streets where Jane and **Elizabeth Bennet** might have walked when staying with their beloved aunt, and we happily partook of the British holiday spirit by enjoying the festive atmosphere of London's streets, pubs, and markets, which were decked out in bright lights and colorful decorations, offering delicacies and gifts for eager Londoners to purchase for their celebrations, very much as they would have in Austen's time. And we went to the British Library to see the manuscripts of Austen's novels, as well as her writing desk, the destination of many pilgrimages in the past.

However, the highlight of our trip took place on 16 December, Austen's birthday. Unusual for us, we bypassed the author's portrait in the National Portrait Gallery, since we were on our way to the top-floor restaurant, where I was going to have High Tea with an Austen icon: **Elizabeth Garvie**, the lovely, talented actor whose portrayal of Elizabeth Bennet in the 1980 BBC production of *Pride and Prejudice* many Austenites consider as groundbreaking. Ms. Garvie and I were meeting because she has graciously accepted **Elizabeth Steele's** invitation to be the Curtain Raiser for the 2009 Philadelphia AGM when she and I will be "in conversation" and we were using this occasion to get to know one another better. As her admirers know, Ms. Garvie's debut as the leading lady

in the second TV version of Austen's beloved novel was a seminal event for connoisseurs of *Pride and Prejudice*;

and she has enjoyed a distinguished career on stage and television since. In fact, since I teach literature using film, I "see" Ms. Garvie regularly in three fabulous roles: sparkling Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, tragic Nancy in *The Good Soldier*, and elegant Lady Montford in *The House of Eliott*.

Ms. Garvie recently agreed to become Patron of the Jane Austen House Museum in Chawton. Her passion for Austen, as well as for the people and places promoting the author, prompts her visit to this year's AGM. As I found out over two large pots of Earl Grey, Ms. Garvie is knowledgeable about Jane Austen, her books and her world, and excited to share her erudition and enthusiasm with fellow Austenites. She told me that she is fascinated by the 2009 AGM topic: siblings in Austen's stories. This is not surprising, since the scenes between Elizabeth and Jane represent some of the highlights of the wonderful 1980 *Pride and Prejudice*. Indubitably, Elizabeth Garvie is a fine performer; she is also a vivacious, amusing, fascinating partner in discourse.

Thus, I hope that JASNA members will set aside Thursday evening, October 8, 2009 at the Philadelphia AGM to attend "Elizabeth Garvie in Conversation with **Elisabeth Lenckos**." We will celebrate Austen, the sibling relationships in her novels, and the loveliest Austen sister: Elizabeth Bennet as portrayed by Elizabeth Garvie.



Elizabeth Garvie with Elisabeth Lenckos

## Jane Austen and Beauty

Ever since Darcy declared that Elizabeth Bennet was not “handsome enough to tempt [him],” we know that beauty plays a pivotal role in Austen’s novels, although it is more often beauty of spirit than a mere pleasing exterior that Austen’s heroes and heroines value. On **Saturday, May 2**, we hold our annual Gala at the Allerton Hotel to celebrate *Jane Austen and Beauty*. We will enjoy continental breakfast, lunch, and three outstanding speakers who will enlighten and entertain us on the subject of feminine beauty, beautiful landscape, and fashionable enhancement of one’s good looks. Since it is the month of May, ours will be a beautiful celebration: think of it as a day at the “Jane Austen Spa.”

**9:00 am** Registration, Continental Breakfast and Book Exchange

**10:00 am Debra N. Mancoff**, Adjunct Professor of Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Scholar in Residence at the Newberry Library, speaks on *Mrs. Richard Brinsley Sheridan: The Fair Syren of Bath*. Elizabeth Linley, an iconic beauty of Austen’s era who was painted by Thomas Gainsborough, scandalized Bath in 1772 by eloping with the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. As Dr. Mancoff illuminates, Mrs. Sheridan’s story has every element of Romantic fiction and the myth of her beauty has lived on long after her death. The lecture previews a chapter in the book she is at present working on, *Icons of Beauty in World Art*. She is also the author of *Monet’s Garden in Art*, *Burne-Jones*, *Jane Morris: The Pre-Raphaelite Model of Beauty*, among others.

**11:15 am Jeffrey Nigro**, our own brilliant JASNA-GCR Academic Liaison and Director of Adult Programs in the Department of Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago, speaks on *Austen and the Beauty of Place*. Jeff will begin his talk

with Elizabeth Bennet’s half-joking comment that she fell in love with Darcy after “seeing his beautiful grounds at Pemberley.” He suggests that some recent Austen adaptations seem to have followed suit, glorying in the sumptuous “heritage” details of grand country houses; but, says Jeff, Austen also found beauty in nature and the unpretentious pleasures of a country cottage. Jeff examines Austen’s novels and their artistic and cinematic adaptations and looks beyond the stately homes to the beauties of town and country, from the architecture of Bath to the cottages at Barton and Chawton. Thus, his presentation will help us ring in the bicentennial celebration of Austen’s move to Chawton in 1809.

**12:15 pm** Cash Bar, Lunch, and Champagne Toast

**1:30 pm Jeanne Steen**, owner of *Figaro*, speaks on *Fashionable Jane*. One of our newest members, and a former Associate Publisher/Vice President of Publishing at Elle Magazine, Jeanne comes to us straight from the world of fashion and glamour. She became interested in Austen’s fashionable world after immersing herself in Austen’s novels at the University of Chicago’s Graham School. Her talk will feature the journal of a “lovely, young lady of Austen’s time, lively yet elegant, fashion-conscious, but not foolish” who is preparing for a ball at which she expects to encounter two possible suitors, brothers: one the first-born son and heir to a great fortune who has just come back from his Grand Tour, the other a naval officer returning from his military expedition with prize money and gifts. It is their family who sponsors the ball welcoming back the young men, and everyone wonders whom our heroine will choose and, more importantly, what she will *wear*. Please attend the gala to discover this young lady’s beauty secrets!

**Book Exchange:** bring books, buy books.

## Sibling Relationships in Austen

On February 7 **Marissa Love**, Associate Director of the Humanities Program at the University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies, led a lively discussion of sibling relationships in Austen's novels. "Sparks fly when three groups of siblings get together, especially when they have different outlooks."

Start with *Mansfield Park* and consider the Prices, Crawfords and Bertrams, all very different sets of siblings. When they start interacting, the plot gets going. The Prices are like a couple, as are the Crawfords. The Prices are "sunnier", they want "to fit in"; the Crawfords are "darker and alluring", they want "to disrupt." These two groups represent the rural and urban points of view, respectively.

Siblings are also different. The Bennet, Elliot and Dashwood sisters all differ from one another. Elizabeth is not embarrassed by her younger sisters until Darcy and the Bingleys show up, and then she sees her family "through the eyes of strangers." Elizabeth and Jane "have an intense relationship because they have no other choice." Sibling relationships take priority over the outside world and provide much of human society for the sisters. In contrast to the Bennet sisters, the Elliot sisters "endure, rather than love, each other." If Jane and Elizabeth had not married they "would still be close and loving." Anne and her sisters "would have continued to wither." Anne grows, and needs to be, beyond her siblings.

Elinor and Marianne "have different approaches to love" but, in the end, they are still very close. Elinor is "deeply feeling" but "she relies on Marianne to be the one to express emotion." Then Elinor can "shake her finger at it." Elinor has the

control; Marianne has the hysteria; and Elinor can feel superior to her. "Somebody has to be emotional and reactive." They have an interdependence and rely on each other "to hold up their roles" with "each getting something out of the relationship."

Elinor can be in a room with the Steele sisters and can "navigate around un-talkative Anne and pushy Lucy." But the Steele sisters "are playing with the only strengths they have." What would their life be if one of them didn't get one of the Ferrars brothers? This is their legitimate social goal. Sibling relationships can take on social ramifications, and social slips can be dangerous. Lydia's behavior affects her sisters' marriage ability. Maria Bertram harms her family's social standing.

What accounts for people raised in the same family turning out to be very different people? One can look at birth order and "the roles assigned to different siblings in a family." One can look at the part the parents, or parental figures, play. Although "some of the best parents in Austen's novels are dead," the Crawfords' parents are "non-existent." Lady Russell, neither a parent nor a sibling, is an influence on Anne Elliot. Mrs. Norris spoiled her nieces, the Bertram sisters. Good parental role models might be the Gardiners and the elder Musgroves, and the Morlands in *Northanger Abbey* seem to be two functioning parents. Darcy takes the role of parent when he pulls his sister Georgiana out of the situation with Wickham.

What comes forward when we look at siblings and lovers? "Lovers come and go; siblings are forever!"



# Photos



Marissa Love and Elisabeth Lenckos



Muriel Smock and Elaine Fishman



Pat Wieber and William Phillips



Natalie Goldberg and Lynda Rahal



Felicia, Dyani, Kaleb and Calettha Keelen



Gwen Jaeger and Jeanne Liedtka



Dolores Henning and Claire Pearse



Winnette Willis and Melinda Erickson

## John Updike

On the death of John Updike **Charles McGrath** wrote in *The New York Times*: “Though a brilliant man, he was not a novelist of ideas. . . Nor did Mr. Updike have a reformer’s zeal or a dreamer’s vision. His gifts were his eye and his sensibility, which enabled him to describe, with an exactitude bordering on love, how the world looked and what it felt like to make your way in it. He was the great chronicler of middle-class America, and hundreds of years from now, if people still read, they will read the . . . books to learn what that perplexing age, the 20th century, was really like.” McGrath described Updike’s prose as “that amazing instrument, like a jeweler’s loupe; so precise, exquisitely attentive and seemingly effortless. If there were a pill you could take to write like that, who wouldn’t swallow a handful? . . . He was an old-fashioned realist, with an unswerving belief in the power of words to faithfully record experience and to enhance it.”

Could not one recognize Austen, too, in this encomium? And, instead of middle-class America and the 20th century, we might simply refer to the English gentry and that perplexing age, the Napoleonic era.

## Cents and Sensibility

Believe it or not, this was the headline for an article in *Red Eye*, published by the *Chicago Tribune*, announcing a “face-lift” for the penny. Actually, the face of Lincoln will remain on the “heads” side. The reverse, “tails” side, will have four different designs to “highlight four phases of Abraham Lincoln’s life.” They are: birth and early childhood in Kentucky (1809–1816), formative years in Indiana

(1816–1830), professional life in Illinois (1830–1861), and Presidency in Washington (1861–1865).

**Abraham Lincoln** and **Charles Darwin** were born on the same day, February 12, 1809. In a previous *Letter from Chicago* we printed an article about Darwin’s familiarity with Austen. So far we haven’t discovered whether, or what, Lincoln knew of her. We do know, however, that Lincoln liked melancholy poetry, and even wrote some himself. In *Lincoln: Biography of a Writer* **Fred Kaplan** writes that Lincoln liked Charles Wolfe’s poem *The Burial of Sir John Moore* (the British general who died 200 years ago in the Battle of Corunna). This is a poem **P.D. James** recited as a schoolgirl, as she relates in her *Time to Be in Earnest: A Fragment of Autobiography*. Here is a portion of it:

Not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note  
As his corpse to the rampart we hurried;  
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot  
O’er the grave where our hero we buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,  
The sods with our bayonets turning;  
By the struggling moon beam’s misty light  
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,  
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we wound him;  
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,  
With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,  
And we spoke not a word of sorrow;  
But we steadfastly gaz’d on the face of the dead,  
And we bitterly thought of the morrow,

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,  
From the field of his fame fresh and gory;  
We carved not a line, and we raised not a stone,  
But we left him alone with his glory.

What does all this have to do with Austen?  
Read on, please.



## Austen, Moore and Stanhope

This year is the bicentenary of Austen's move to Chawton. In her January 10–11, 1809 letter to Cassandra, (Letter 64 in *Jane Austen's Letters*, **Deirdre Le Faye**, ed.) Austen wrote, "the very day of our leaving Southampton is fixed." The letter is also noteworthy as one of three Austen letters relating to British general Sir John Moore, the bicentenary of whose death is also commemorated this year.

In this letter she writes, "The St. Albans perhaps may soon be off to help bring home what may remain by this time of our poor Army, whose state seems dreadfully critical." Francis Austen was captain of the 74-gun ship that had escorted British troops to and from Portugal the previous summer. In October, 1808 Sir John Moore's army marched into Spain to join with Spanish forces who, however, proved no match for Napoleon. "The *Grande Armée* continued its inexorable advance, and entered Madrid on December 4. . . with an army of 80,000 men intent on destroying him [Moore]," writes **Gregory Fremont-Barnes** in *The Peninsular War: 1807-1814*. "With Napoleon in pursuit Moore began a desperate winter retreat to Corunna" [on the sea at the northwest corner of Spain].

On November 30 Moore wrote to Lady Hester Stanhope, "We are in a scrape, but I hope we shall have the spirit to get out of it. You must, however, be prepared to hear very bad news. . . Farewell, my dear Lady Hester. If I extricate myself, and those with me, from our present difficulties, I can return to you with satisfaction; but if not, it will be better that I should never quit Spain."

Moore reached Corunna the day Austen wrote her letter. Some days later British ships (but not the St. Albans) arrived to rescue Moore's army. On January 16 the Battle of Corunna took place "in the course

of which Moore, at the cost of his own life, first repulsed and then drove back his assailants [now under French Marshal Soult] several miles. By dusk the fighting was over, with 800 British casualties, including the much-loved Sir John, whom his men interred in the ramparts of the city." [See poem on the previous page.] The embarkation duly continued and was completed on the 19th, when the remnants of the army sailed for England," writes Fremont-Barnes. (Francis Austen supervised the disembarkation at Portsmouth.)

On January 29, 1809 Austen wrote to Cassandra, "This is grievous news from Spain—It is well that Dr. Moore was spared the knowledge of such a Son's death." (Letter 66). The next day she wrote, "I am sorry to find that Sir J. Moore has a Mother living, but tho' a very Heroick son, he might not be a very necessary one to her happiness . . . I wish Sir John had united something of the Christian with the Hero in his death.—Thank Heaven! We have had no one to care for particularly among the Troops—no one in fact nearer to us than Sir John himself." (Letter 67)

It's hard to say what Austen meant. Moore's parents were acquainted with the Cookes of Bookham, Samuel and his wife Cassandra, Mrs. Austen's first cousin, whom the Austens planned to visit after leaving Southampton on the way to Godmersham (Letter 64). What of Austen's comment about uniting the Christian with the Hero; does it relate to a lack of religious sentiment in Moore's deathbed utterances? One of his last statements was



Sir John Moore

to Lady Hester Stanhope's brother James, "Stanhope, remember me to your sister." James had recently arrived, thanks to Hester's entreaty on his behalf. "I can refuse you nothing," Moore had written her. Brother Charles Stanhope was killed in battle the same day.



Lady Hester Stanhope

The Stanhopes had grown up at Chevening Park, Kent, near Sevenoaks where Austen's great uncle Francis was a solicitor. According to **Kirsten Ellis**, in *Star of the Morning: The Extraordinary Life of Lady Hester*

*Stanhope*, in 1788 Austen visited Uncle Francis who "was introduced to Hester's grandparents, and is thought to have taken his grand-niece along to tea or dinner." **John Halperin**, in *The Life of Jane Austen*, notes that Austen "did some visiting in Kent in 1796 while she was writing 'First Impressions.'" (This she later revised as *Pride and Prejudice*.) In January, 1796 Hester's youngest sister Lucy, not quite 16 and pregnant, eloped with Sevenoaks apothecary Thomas Taylor. According to Ellis, Hester "turned to [Uncle William] Pitt, who was only too aware of the lasting shame the elopement could bring upon the family, and after his intervention, Lucy returned with her suitor and meekly asked for her father's permission to marry." (A model for Lydia?)

Halperin further comments that "Lady Catherine de Bourgh, both physically and temperamentally, bears many resemblances to the Dowager Lady Stanhope [Hester's grandmother]. Contemporaries describe Lady Stanhope as a very 'determined' woman who

dominated her husband while he was alive and his descendants when he was dead." Her mother-in-law, whose portrait hung in the Chevening Great House, was Catherine Burghill.

Chevening Park, Ellis writes, "is widely thought to be a model for Rosings Park in *Pride and Prejudice*." She describes Hester's ancestor Lucy Pitt "planting a row of trees and coaxing them to form an arch, nicknamed the Keyhole," thereby creating a vista from the road in which Chevening "is perfectly framed." Austen writes, "But of all the views. . . which the country, or the kingdom could boast, none were to be compared with the prospect of Rosings, afforded by an opening in the trees that bordered the park . . ."

Lady Hester, however, was not to enjoy views of Chevening Park in later life. Devastated by the deaths of her beloved Moore and brother Charles, short on funds, she left England in 1810. She spent the rest of her life in the Middle East where she died in 1839. Throughout her travels she held onto Moore's bloody glove, even in a shipwreck, and told stories of her early life to her doctor, **Charles Meryon**. He compiled them into *Memoirs of The Lady Hester Stanhope* (an excerpt is on the next page).

On one occasion she related a dispute between her brothers, comparing the good looks of Moore with another fellow. Charles, an aide to Moore, "turned to me, and asked with great earnestness if I did not think General Moore was the better made man of the two. I answered, 'He is certainly very handsome.'—'Oh! but,' said Charles, 'Hester, if you were only to see him when he is bathing, his body is as perfect as his face.' I never even smiled, although inwardly I could not help smiling—at his naiveté."

## Travel Travails

An excerpt from *Memoirs of The Lady Hester Stanhope, as related by Herself in Conversations with her Physician; comprising her Opinions and Anecdotes of some of the most remarkable Persons of her Time* (written by Dr. Charles Meryon):

The reasons which Lady Hester assigned for leaving England [in 1810] were grounded chiefly on the narrowness of her income. Mr. Pitt's written request, on his death-bed, that she might have £1500 a year, had been complied with only in part, owing to the ill office of certain persons at that time in the privy-council, and she got clear, after deductions for the property-tax were made, no more than £1200. At first, after Mr. Pitt's death, she established herself in Montague Square, with her two brothers, and she there continued to see much company.

"But," she would say, "a poor gentlewoman, doctor, is the worst thing in the world. Not being able to keep a carriage, how was I to go out? If I used a hackney-coach, some spiteful person would be sure to mention it:—'Who do you think I saw yesterday in a hackney-coach? I wonder where she could be driving alone, down those narrow streets.' If I walked with a footman behind me, there are so many women of the town now who flaunt about with a smart footman, that I ran the hazard of being taken for one of them; and, if I went alone, either there would be some good-natured friend who would hint that Lady Hester did not walk out alone for nothing; or else I should be met in the street by some gentleman of my acquaintance, who would say, 'God bless me, Lady Hester! where are you going alone?—do let me accompany you!' and then it would be said, 'Did you see Lady Hester crossing Hanover Square with such a one? He looked monstrous foolish: I wonder where they had been.' So that, from one thing to another, I was obliged to stop at home entirely: and this it

was that hurt my health so much, until Lord Temple, at last, remarked it. For he said to me one day, 'How comes it that a person like you, who used to be always on horseback, never rides out?'—'Because I have no horse.'—'Oh! if that is all, you shall have one to-morrow.'—'Thank you, my lord; but, if I have a horse, I must have two; and, if I have two, I must have a groom; and, as I do not choose to borrow, if you please, we will say no more about it.'—'Oh! but I will send my horses, and come and ride out with you every day.' However, I told him no: for how could a man who goes to the House every day, and attends committees in a morning, be able to be riding every day with me? And I know what it is to lend and borrow horses and carriages. When I used to desire my carriage to go and fetch any friend, my coachman was sure to say, 'My lady, the horses want shoeing;' or the footman would come in with a long face, 'My lady, John would like to go and see his sister today, if you please.' There was always some excuse. All this considered, I made up my mind to remain at home."



### Travel & Transportation in the Time of Jane Austen

is the theme of the New York City

Region's May 15-17 weekend to take place at Port Jefferson, NY, on Long Island.

Among the speakers will be **Sandy Lerner**, who made possible the Chawton House Library. There will be a visit to a local carriage museum with "the finest collection of horse-drawn carriages in the United States."

**The 2nd Annual Jane Austen Festival** of the Greater Louisville, Ky. Region will be held July 18-19 at Historic Locust Grove. **Margaret Sullivan**, blogger and author of *The Jane Austen Handbook* will speak.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO  
JASNA-GCR  
Elsie G. Holzwarth  
1410 East 55th Street  
Chicago, IL 60615-5409

**Saturday, May 2**  
**Annual GALA**

# Calendar

---

- May 2** Annual GALA, Allerton Hotel, 701 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, 9:00 am–3:00 pm Continental Breakfast and Lunch Buffet, *Jane Austen and Beauty*
- June 27** English Garden Tour, Tea and Readings on *Austen's Characters in the Out of Doors*, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL, 1:00 pm–3:30 pm
- September 12** Evanston Public Library, Evanston, IL. Kim Wilson, *In the Garden with Jane Austen*, 1:00 pm–3:30 pm
- October 9–11** Annual General Meeting, Philadelphia, PA  
*Jane Austen's Brothers and Sisters in the City of Brotherly Love*

Our website is [www.jasnachicago.org](http://www.jasnachicago.org)