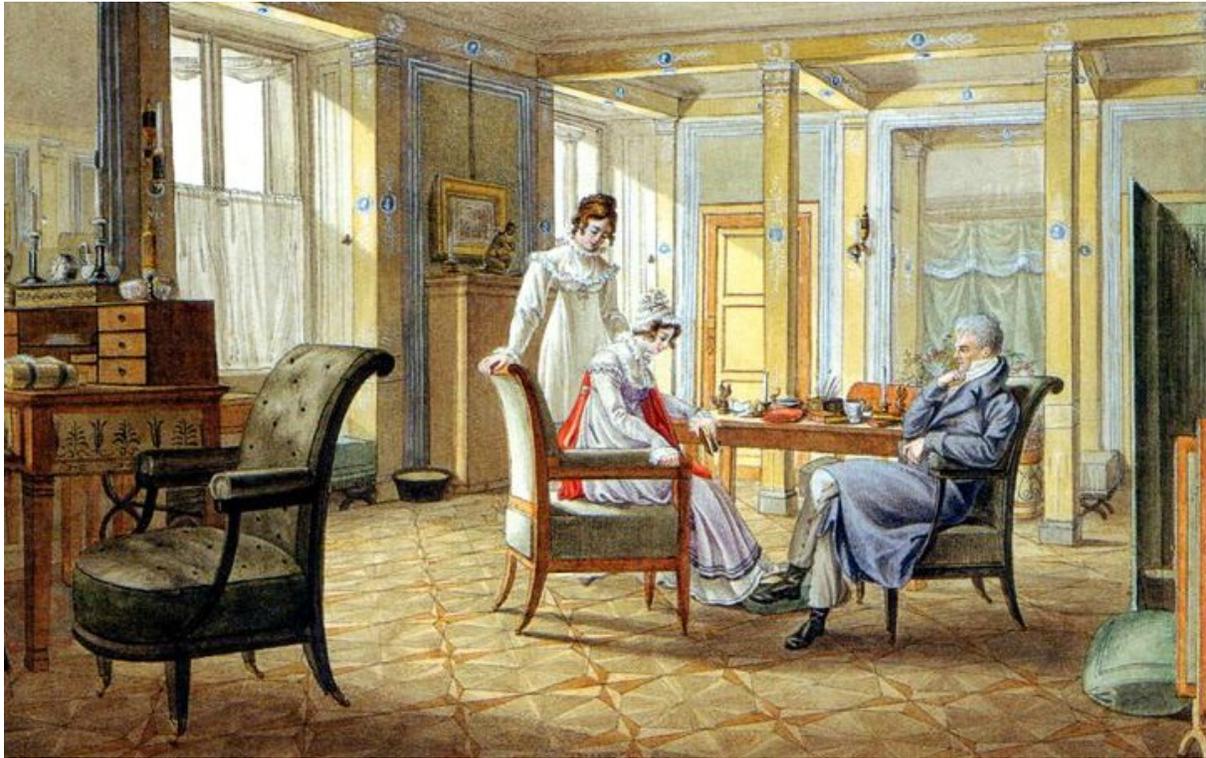




Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest January 2013 News

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**Save the Date:
Spring
Meeting P & P
in the OC
April 26 & 27**

January Calendar

Saturday, January 12 1:30pm - H.M.S. SURPRISE at the Long Beach Reading Group

"Prize-money is of essential importance to the Navy. The possibility...of making a fortune by some brilliant stroke is an unparalleled spur to the diligence, the activity, and the unremitting attention of every man afloat." The Long Beach Reading Group can express their opinions of the prize money system that gave Captain Wentworth his fortune as they discuss H.M.S. SURPRISE by Patrick O'Brian, the third in the Aubrey/Maturin series. For more information, please email coordinator Gerda Kilgore at gskmuc@verizon.net or call her at (562) 496-4452.

Sunday, January 13 5:00pm - STILL LIFE at the Santa Monica Reading Group

"Three Pines wasn't on any tourist map...Like Narnia, it was generally found unexpectedly and with a degree of surprise that such an elderly village should have been hiding in this valley all along." The Santa Monica Reading Group is introduced to Three Pines and to Inspector

2013



Andrew Davies joins us for a memorable meeting at Chapman University to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of *Pride and Prejudice*, including a two-night viewing of his iconic mini-series which introduced all of us to Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy. [Click here for a tentative schedule and housing information.](#)



[Visit Our Website](#) for more about programs, reading groups, and more.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec as they read *STILL LIFE* by Louise Penny as their annual mystery indulgence. For more information email Diana Birchall at birchalls@aol.com or call her at (310) 394-2196.

Sunday, January 20 12:30am - A VISIT TO HIGHBURY and LADY SUSAN with the Orange County Reading Group

"Mr. DeCourcy to Mrs. Vernon. Parklands. My dear Sister,--I congratulate you and Mr. Vernon on being about to receive into your family the most accomplished coquette in England." The Orange County Reading Group is introduced again to the accomplished coquette, Lady Susan, as they meet to discuss and contrast two epistolary novels, *A VISIT TO HIGHBURY* by Joan Austen Leigh and *LADY SUSAN* by Jane Austen, at the home of Maryann Pelensky in Laguna Niguel. For more information, email Maryann Pelensky at mairge@cox.net or call her at 949-363-1165.

Sunday, January 20 - VENETIA at the Pasadena Reading Group

"Venetia was the eldest of the three surviving children of a Yorkshire landowner of long lineage, comfortable fortune, and eccentric habits." The Pasadena Reading Group learns more about her as they meet to discuss *VENETIA*, and possibly *THE GRAND SOPHY*, by Georgette Heyer. For more information, email Susan Ridgeway at janeite@altrionet.com or call her at 626-357-1397.

Sunday, January 20 1:00 PM - EMMA at the San Fernando Valley Reading Group

"Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her." The San Fernando Valley Reading Group enjoys again contemplating Emma's unexpected distresses and vexations as they discuss *EMMA* by Jane Austen at their annual birthday tea at the home of Nina Nazarian, with Brittany Gash as the discussion leader. For more information, email Gina Gualtieri at gmgualtieri@yahoo.com or call her at (818)788-4383.

Archaeological Dig at Jane Austen's First House

In 2011, volunteers with Archeo Briton excavated the field where the Steventon rectory once stood and the finds are currently being cleaned and interpreted. So far, the study has confirmed that the illustration in James Austen-Leigh's memoir is the most accurate picture of the house. A detailed report on the dig is due out later in 2013, meanwhile

[click here for a summary of preliminary findings and photos from the BBC news.](#)

What's Your Favorite Austen-inspired Book of 2012?

Vote for your favorite Austen-inspired books of 2012 on Laurel Ann Nattress' Austenprose blog. The poll is open until January 31. Even if you don't want to vote, the ballot gives you a great list of new books reviewed on the site in 2012, both fiction and non-fiction, and the option to add titles that are missing. [Click here to see the whole list.](#) Spoiler alert: the current front-runner is GOODLY CREATURES by Beth Massey, with 63 votes.