

SOUTHAMPTON CITY LIBRARIES CLIPPINGS FILE

CLASS	HEADING	SOURCE	DATE
BIOGRAPHY		Hampshire Independent	22.12.1917
DESCRIPTION			
AUSTEN, Jane			

**JANE AUSTEN MEMORIAL.**

**UNVEILING AT SOUTHAMPTON.**

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Art Gallery of the Central Library, under the auspices of the Literary and Philosophical Society, in connection with the unveiling of a tablet to Jane Austen, who died just 100 years ago. Councillor T. McDonnell was in the chair, and there were present also the Mayoress, Mrs. Kimber, Mr. A. W. Oke (secretary of the Tablet Committee), Dr Alex. Hill (President of the Literary and Philosophical Society), Messrs. F. J. Burnett and J. Fewings (vice-presidents Literary and Philosophical Society), Mr. H. F. Muir (secretary, Literary and Philosophical Society), Mr. G. T. and Miss Darling, Alderman F. A. and Mrs. Dunsford, Dr. A. J. Bathe, the Misses Hawkins, the Rev. G. S. S. Saunders, Mr Burrough Hill, Mr. A. H. Davis (Chief Librarian), and others.

Apologies were received from the Mayor, the Rev. E. S. Frideaux-Brune, the Rev. W. E. Ashdown, Colonel Swalm, Mr. Wm. Dale, Mr. McLeod, Dr. Milner-White, J.P., Major Knight (a relative of Jane Austen), Sir Wm. Portal, Mrs. Langstaff, Mr. Montefiore, and Mr. A. W. Douglas.

Dr. Alex. Hill, quoting the verse "Let us now remember famous men," said it was fitting that in this time of change and reconstruction we should remember our debt to the famous men and women of the past, whose names were landmarks by which we were able to trace the march of civilisation. Jane Austen's themes were commonplace; her portraits, however, were anything but commonplace, and she had the keen sense of humour which made life worth living. In Lord Rosebery's happy phrase, her characters were portrayed with "lambent irony." At the present day her admirers were more numerous than ever.

Mr. Oke read a poem, written for the occasion by Mr. Philip H. Newman, in which the following lines, perhaps, best described the celebrated novelist and her works:—

"Perfection ne'er was lessened by its scale."  
 "Alone you walked in dignity and grace."  
 "Chaste as Diana to all thoughts impure."  
 "'Tis such as you have wrought for Britain's weal."

The Mayoress (Mrs. A. W. Pearce) then unveiled the memorial tablet, which had been placed in the entrance to the Library, Dr. Hill, Mr. McDonnell, and Mr. Oke accompanying her to witness the ceremony.

The inscription is as follows:—

"Jane Austen, author of 'Pride and Prejudice,' 'Emma,' 'Persuasion,' born at Steventon, in the county of Hampshire, 16th December, 1775; died at Winchester, 18th July, 1817. Resided in Southampton from 1806 to 1809 (some time in Castle-square). Erected by the members and friends of the Literary and Philosophical Society. December 21st, 1917."

The tablet was erected by Messrs. Garrett and Haysom, Southampton.

A vote of thanks to the Mayoress, moved by Mrs. Spencer, and seconded by Mr. Burrough Hill; and another to the Chairman, on the proposition of Mr. Oke, seconded by Mr. Fewings, were carried unanimously, and duly acknowledged.



The memorial to Jane Austen, the famous Hampshire authoress, which was unveiled at Southampton on Friday last.

Southampton + District Pictorial  
26.12.1917