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*Remembrance of a Dear Friend Gone Too Soon,*  
*Ana-Karina Schneider*

*Motto: Rudyard Kipling, "Jane's Marriage"*

*Jane went to Paradise:  
That was only fair.  
Good Sir Walter followed her,  
And armed her up the stair.  
Henry and Tobias,  
And Miguel of Spain,  
Stood with Shakespeare at the top  
To welcome Jane—  
Then the Three Archangels  
Offered out of hand  
Anything in Heaven's gift  
That she might command.  
Azrael's eyes upon her,  
Raphael's wings above,  
Michael's sword against her heart,  
Jane said: "Love."  
Instantly the under-  
Standing Seraphim  
Laid their fingers on their lips  
And went to look for him.  
Stole across the Zodiac,  
Harnessed Charles's Wain,  
And whispered round the Nebulae  
"Who loved Jane?"  
In a private limbo  
Where none had thought to look,  
Sat a Hampshire gentleman  
Reading of a book.  
It was called *Persuasion*  
And it told the plain  
Story of the love between  
Him and Jane.  
He heard the question,  
Circle Heaven through—  
Closed the book and answered:*

*"I did—and do!"  
Quietly but speedily  
(As Captain Wentworth moved)  
Entered into Paradise  
The man Jane loved!  
Jane lies in Winchester, blessed be her shade!  
Praise the Lord for making her, and her for all she made.  
And while the stones of Winchester—or Milsom Street—remain,  
Glory, Love, and Honour unto England's Jane!*

*I met the late Ana-Karina Schneider (1975-2024), known to her friends and colleagues as Karina, when I came to teach at the (then) Department of British and American Studies at Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu (LBUS) in October 2000. Even at a tender age of 25, she struck me as a dedicated and exacting scholar/practitioner of the English language and of American and British literature as a doctoral candidate under the supervision of the late Professor Dumitru Ciocoi-Pop (1943-2019). Over the twenty-five years since, while she could always hold her own in discourse with the best international literary theorists, her soul (unlike some scholars of linguistic "texts") was always grounded in deep reading and a mission of sharing her great love for authors and books of humanistic literature, a rare quality these days. A student book reading club activity she hosted in Sibiu for many years, "The Chocolate House," attests to this fact, with its many devoted members.*

*I especially recall Karina ably organizing the unique "Infinite Londons" conference (held in October 2001 at LBUS), sponsored by the British Council office in Bucharest. She kept all of us, including senior professors, attuned to attending all of the academic sessions, a gentle disciplining that enriched us all, by causing us to focus our minds upon the high, timeless ideals of our profession and not upon enticing, lowly short-term bodily distractions that inevitably exist at such gatherings. Her own academic contribution to the international conference, "London: Please Set Your Watches!" was both insightful and enjoyable to hear (and then later read in the conference proceedings).*

*Fame and fortune did not distract Karina from her life of reading, teaching, and mentoring students. She lived simply, with a sharp, critical eye on society's foibles, in the spirit of her favourite author, Jane Austen.*

*Like Austen, Karina was an astute chronicler of the world that surrounded her, and, while open to seeing others' gifts and gaffes (and her own) she was always generous and kind in assessing others, including me. While more than adept on the international academic stage (she participated in many such worldly events), she was most at home in her cosy apartment in Sibiu, comfortable with her chocolates, teas, and beloved books.*

*As an editor, few could equal her. Karina was a founding member of the editorial team of American, British and Canadian Studies for many years, and then its editor-in-chief (from 2016) as the journal obtained SCOPUS indexing. She also co-edited East-West Cultural Passage with Alexandra Mitrea (from 2006), and the student journal, Cultures in Transit (from 2009). Her unique ability to see with the eyes of an inquisitive child had enabled her to edit Misterioșii Dinozauri (Mystery of Dinosaurs) by Norma A. Whitcomb, (translated by Simona Moldovan) in 2002. Among her other edited books of repute, I am especially thankful for two special collections she co-edited with me: A Special Issue of American, British and Canadian Studies (Volume 9, December 2007), devoted to articles on the critical reception of the works of Iris Murdoch in Romania, "For the Love of the Good: Mediations on the Mind and Manners of Iris Murdoch" (co-edited with Ana E. Lița), and The English Connection: 40 Years of English Studies at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu (co-edited with Alexandra Mitrea), Bucharest and Sibiu: UNESCO-CEPES and LBUS Press, in 2010. Karina, with her eagle eye for sense and accuracy, helped make both publications top-notch and respected by many.*

*Karina's own scholarly work was extensive and deep, as can be seen when taking a look at her CV. In addition, Karina wrote many synoptic entries on her favourite books and authors for The Literary Encyclopedia (UK), which will be invaluable for international students of literature and future scholars, such as herself. In what is a great tragedy for the profession, Karina had just recently obtained her disciplinary habilitation, and was inducted into the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School at LBUS. I had looked forward to working with her in the School; sadly, I was not even able to congratulate her on this great achievement.*

*One of my last meetings with Karina (how could I have thought it to be so?)<sup>1</sup> was in a windy and cold Venice, Italy in late 2017, for THE PARADIGMATIC CITY (III): CUSTOMS AND COSTUME conference (Ca' Foscari, Ca' Dolfin, Venice, 30 November – 2 December 2017) along with our late mentor and friend, Prof. univ. dr. Mihaela Irimia (1951-2022) – which, alas, turned out to be the last time I saw her as well. Karina was in her element, elegantly dressed (as always) in her classic Victorian style. The fin-de-siècle setting of that most-cultured venue suited her so well. We are lucky to have a fitting photograph of Karina from that (more important than any of us thought) shared time and space, now just a treasured memory.*

*I recall from Romanian folklore that if a young woman died too young, she was said “to have gone away to be married [in heaven].” Surely, our angelic Karina died much too young; I pray that, like her beloved Jane Austen, she has found her perfect love up there in the skies above. We who knew her down here on earth surely loved Karina fully and completely, albeit imperfectly.*

*Rest in peace, dearest Karina!*

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**Note:**

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<sup>1</sup> I recall attending a 1 December holiday concert in Sibiu with Karina and friends the following year, with lunch afterward at the picturesque “Pardon” café in the town’s historic center.



*Ana-Karina Schneider in Venice, 2017*