



## Henry Churchyard

December 25, 1959 - March 5, 2025

Henry Churchyard, beloved son and brother passed away of natural causes in his home in Austin, TX on March 5, 2025 at the age of 65. Henry was born December 25, 1959 in Phoenix, AZ to James Churchyard and Martha Orr Churchyard.

Henry spent most of his early life in Southern California before moving to Austin, TX to attend university. He received a Ph.D in Linguistics from University of Texas at Austin in 1999. His dissertation focused on ancient Biblical Hebrew & Arabic. He was a lifelong scholar who wrote abundantly and contributed to linguistic communities and websites regarding many literary subjects, including deep research into Jane Austen.

Henry lived in Austin almost 40 years and spent many hours in its used bookstores and libraries. He collected books all year to send to family at Christmas, keeping track of everyone's interests so we know he thought about family often. Henry was highly intelligent and witty, he was passionate about literature and politics, and had an amazing ability to recall dates and the smallest details of many old memories.

Henry is preceded in death by his mother Martha Orr Churchyard. He is survived by his father James Churchyard, sisters Ruth Walker and Betsy George, a niece, a nephew, and a grand-niece, as well as many aunts,

uncles, and cousins. Henry was a private person who kept to himself, but he will be missed by those that cared about him.

# Tribute Wall

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“ Here are some places online where you can find Henry's work:  
Put your thinking cap on!

<https://roa.rutgers.edu/files/404-0800/roa-404-churchyard-1.pdf>

<https://journals.linguisticsociety.org/proceedings/index.php/BLS/article/view/1600>

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=569>

<https://pemberley.com/janeinfo/janeinfo.html>

[https://pemberley.com/?page\\_id=11874](https://pemberley.com/?page_id=11874)

[https://www.ling.upenn.edu/courses/Fall\\_2016/ling001/prescription.html](https://www.ling.upenn.edu/courses/Fall_2016/ling001/prescription.html)

*U Penn Linguistics 101 lecture - where Henry's work on the "singular use of the they/their" is cited.*

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**Ruth** - March 11, 2025 at 10:01 PM

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*From the Republic of Pemberley site:  
"Some of the pages at Pemberley do have authors or editors. If you are using the Jane Austen Information Page, you can cite Henry Churchyard as the author/editor"*

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**Ruth** - March 11, 2025 at 10:09 PM



[https://nonbinary.wiki/wiki/Singular\\_they](https://nonbinary.wiki/wiki/Singular_they)  
A most comprehensive article about the history of singular "they" is Henry Churchyard's web-page, Singular 'Their' in Jane Austen and Elsewhere

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**Ruth** - March 12, 2025 at 12:22 AM



Oh... Not having talked to him in a number of years I went looking for Henry on the web today. So sorry. He was a genius and quite a dear in his way.

I found more of his web stuff archived on the Wayback Machine.

Take care.

Amy

<https://web.archive.org/web/20111227073046/http://www.crossmyt.com/hc>

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**Amy Bellinger** - August 28, 2025 at 06:03 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Henry



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**Ruth** - March 11, 2025 at 08:57 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Henry



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**Ruth** - March 11, 2025 at 08:13 PM