

An Annotated Bibliography ~
Jane Austen

By

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SCOPE

To say the subject of Jane Austen is huge, is “universally acknowledged,” an understatement. Austen was among the first British novelists and is one of the most studied writers of all time. Austen’s popularity has been the continual result of numerous fiction works and productions based on her life as well as her novels. Because the subject of Jane Austen is so large, the focus of the information and annotated bibliography provided will be limited only to investigate the appeal of Jane Austen through: (1) introducing Jane Austen, and (2) introducing her major works which brought her such fame, and (3) exploring what the appeal of her works is that produces the phenomenon of her large popularity today.

INTRODUCING JANE AUSTEN

Early Life and Family Background

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, in a place called Steventon, Hampshire, England. She was the second daughter and the seventh of eight children born to George and Cassandra Austen. Her siblings in birth order were: James, George, Edward, Henry, Cassandra, Francis, and Charles. Austen’s father was a clergyman from a moderately well-off gentry class family. Austen’s mother, also from a more moderately well-off gentry class had ties to Oxford University. Austen’s early family home life consisted of farm life around the rectory and the closeness of a large family.

Austen’s education consisted of only a few years of formal education. At the age of seven, Austen and her sister Cassandra were sent off to boarding school. This lasted about a year until the head mistress and the girls became seriously ill with typhus fever and the girls returned home. Another short boarding school experience took place for Austen and her sister when Austen was nine, however little academics were taught. Unofficial education, however, continued under the supervision of her father who had been educated at St. Johns College at Oxford University. As minimal as her formal education was, Austen’s skill for writing combined with her grasp of the English language and usage are remarkably evident in her writing.

Early Writings

Austen's earliest known writings consisted of plays and short stories to entertain her family during evening read a-louds. Between the approximate ages of 12 and 18, Austen wrote short works of fiction as gifts to her siblings and other family members. A copy of these works and to whom they are dedicated was also kept by Austen in three journal-type notebooks which survived. The notebooks, which Austen entitled *Volume the First*, *Volume the Second*, and *Volume the Third*, have been named Austen's "Juvenilia."

Austen's Writing Career

In 1803, Austen's first completed work, *Susan*, was sold to a publisher. However, *Susan* remained unpublished. In 1811, after Austen had reworked her epistolary *Elinor and Marianne* into the novel *Sense and Sensibility*, it was published by Thomas Egerton of London with the byline "By a Lady." In 1813, *Pride and Prejudice*, also reworked from its original as *First Impressions*, was published with the byline "By the Author of *Sense and Sensibility*."

Austen finished *Mansfield Park* in June of 1813. It was published in 1814 by "the author of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*." While awaiting the release of *Mansfield Park*, Austen began writing *Emma*. *Emma* was completed in March of 1815, and Austen began writing *Persuasion* in August. In December 1815 *Emma* was published. Austen completed *Persuasion* in July 1816. However, the title Austen had originally given this work was *The Elliots*. In January 1817 Austen began writing *Sanditon*. However, Austen died prior to its completion.

Adult life and Death

While Austen's writing career had significant success, the fruit of Austen's labor was not recognized greatly in her own lifetime. Each of her publishings had been arranged on a commission basis and with her brother covering the cost initially. Each of her first novels had

also sold out and additional editions were made or requested. Along with the quiet success in her authorship, Austen lived what appeared to be a quiet life. Austen never married and lived with relatives her entire life. With the retirement of her father from the rectory, Austen's lifestyle altered slightly due to the lower income her father received.

After the death of her father in 1805, Austen had to rely on the hospitality and charity of her brothers for her living arrangements as well as her livelihood. Austen's life-long companion was her only sister, Cassandra, who had also never married. On July 18, 1817, at the age of 41, Austen died from a slow decline in health as a result of gastro-intestinal problems. Austen's symptoms have come to be thought of as Addison's Disease, which was not a known disease of her day.

Posthumous Publications

Although completed before her death, *Susan* renamed *Northanger Abbey* and *The Elliots* renamed *Persuasion* were published December 17, 1817, as a two-volume set. Austen's brother, Henry, who had changed the title names and sold them for publication, made her authorship known at that time. *Sanditon*, never completed, was published occasionally in part and often having been edited in the works about Austen by others.

Long-distance communication in Austen's day was through correspondence. Austen was known to have been an avid letter writer. Deirdre La Faye is currently considered the expert on the Jane Austen letters. There is an estimate of over 3,000 letters written by Austen over her lifetime, however most have not survived. The first known publication of surviving letters written by Austen was published in 1884 by Edward 1st Lord Brabourne. R.W. Chapman also published a two-volume set of letters entitled *Jane Austen's Letters to her Sister Cassandra and Others*. La Faye's *Jane Austen's Letters*, 3rd edition, is considered the authoritative work on Austen's letters.

Austen was also known to have written poetry or “amusing light verse.”¹ Austen’s poetry, however, receives exceedingly far less attention. Originally, some of these verses appeared in Austen’s letters. A collection of all known poems written by Austen along with poetry written by others in Austen’s family was published by Editor David Sewlyn in 1996. Another collection was published again by Sewlyn in 2003. Sewlyn is currently considered the expert on Austen’s poems.

INTRODUCING JANE AUSTEN’S MAJOR WORKS

Austen’s major works are considered the six completed novels she wrote and published. Those are: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, and *Persuasion*. All are available in print.

Pride and Prejudice

Austen is perhaps most famous for *Pride and Prejudice*. First began in the latter part of 1796 as a comedy of errors about manners and society, *Pride and Prejudice* was known as *First Impressions*. In 1797, Austen’s father offered the original manuscript to publisher Cadell and Company of London. However, the work was declined and returned. In 1811, Austen reworked *First Impressions* into the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. By 1817, it was in its 3rd edition of publication.

The opening line of the novel, one of the most restated quotes in literature, is also the ironic twist to the story line stating what would be the obvious. “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” The interworking of various forms of both pride and prejudice into the dynamics of the characters is as humorously entertaining as the opposite truth is to the opening. The fact that single women of Austen’s day were in want of a man with a good fortune is precisely why Austen’s Mrs. Bennet is out to find financially prosperous suitors for her five daughters.

¹ Republic of Pemberley, <http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/janewrit.html#lightverse>, 1.

Sense and Sensibility

After attempting to publish *Susan* and *First Impressions* without success, Austen published her first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, in 1811. *Sense and Sensibility* was written originally in epistolary style and entitled *Elinor and Marianne* around 1795. Following the sale of *Susan* for publication, Austen began to rework her previous story about the lives of two of Mr. Dashwood's three daughters, Elinor and Marianne, whose older half-brother inherits all of their father's estate leaving them to rely on him for financial support. A story Austen herself knew well, having to rely on her own brothers for her livelihood as a single woman in her day. Austen craftfully worked *Sense and Sensibility* into a romantic comedy, through finding balance in life between logic (sense) and sensibility (emotions) in her characters.

Mansfield Park

Mansfield Park marks a noticeable change in Austen's writing. There is no record of any previous storyline in Austen's earlier works making *Mansfield Park* perhaps Austen's first real work of her adulthood. Still a romance that is considered well-written and one of her more mature writings, the moral undertones within the narrative have been interpreted as offensive.² The unbecoming heroine, Fanny Price, is a poor girl raised by rich relatives who falls in love with her cousin.

Emma

Emma followed *Mansfield Park* in the order of Austen's novels written and published. *Emma* is viewed as the "most intricate, stylish, and elegant of Austen's novels."³ When preparing to write this novel, Austen herself is quoted for saying "I am going to take a heroine whom no-one but myself will like much."⁴

² Todd, Janet, *Cambridge Introduction to Jane Austen* (Cambridge, 2006), 75.

³ *Ibid.*, 94.

⁴ Quoted in James Edward Austen-Leigh, *Memoir of Jane Austen* (Oxford, 1926), 157.

Austen introduces Emma in the first sentence of the book with “Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich.” Emma is convinced she is gifted at matchmaking. However, she only manages to interfere rather than aid in the area of romance. In the end, all of the couples are happily matched by their own doing rather than Emma’s, including her own.

Northanger Abbey

Northanger Abbey, originally titled *Susan*, is perhaps the most transitory of all Austen’s works. Austen wrote *Susan* between the years 1798 and 1799. *Susan* was the first of all Austen’s novels to be sold to a publisher. After revision in 1803, Austen offered *Susan* to Crosby & Company. Purchased and advertised for publication, however, *Susan* remained unpublished. Austen reportedly wrote letters to Crosby asking for *Susan*’s publication, but was only offered to purchase the work back. In 1816, after the success of her *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen’s brother, Henry, did purchase *Susan* back for his sister. Austen also changed the name of the heroine from Susan to Catherine. Austen died before renaming the work or seeing it published. Austen’s brother, Henry, is known to have been the one to rename it *Northanger Abbey* and publish it along with *Persuasion* following Austen’s death. At this time, Austen’s identity as author of these two works as well as the previous works was made public.

Northanger Abbey is the story of a seventeen year old, Catherine Morland, who loves reading Gothic novels. She is invited to visit the estate, Northanger Abbey, which she has read about in a Gothic novel, and has fictional ideas about. As the story progresses, Catherine ends up in love with the son of the owner of Northanger Abbey.

Persuasion

Originally titled *The Elliots*, *Persuasion* was the last work Austen completed. Dated to have been written during a remission of her illness in 1816, Austen finished *The Elliots* but had

not made publication arrangements. After her death, her brother, Henry, changed the name to *Persuasion*, a more fitting title, and published it along with *Northanger Abbey*.

Including the entire family throughout, and perhaps the reason Austen originally entitled the work *The Elliots*, it is actually the romantic tale of Anne, the middle Elliot daughter. Anne is persuaded by her family and friends to break off a relationship with a naval officer they view as being beneath them. Years later, as their families intertwine; Anne and Frederick are reunited with better family approval.

AUSTEN'S POPULARITY

Austen wrote romances that questioned social identities and responsibilities often using mimicry and parody.⁵ Austen's style balanced a "formal and moral observation"⁶ with the commonplace and dialog. Austen's writing mixed "romance and comedy, satire and sentiment, and fairy tale and realism."⁷ Readers of Austen learned a great deal about the political, spiritual, and intellectual attitudes of her time while they were "kept guessing and waiting eagerly to read on."⁸ Austen was considered the first author to fully grasp the technique of using free indirect discourse or the technique in writing style that blends speech and narratorial discourse to represent the lived self in the moment of the text.⁹ This technique highly aided the reader's sense of familiarity and connectivity to the author as well as the characters and situations in the stories.

Until the late nineteenth century, Austen's works themselves were not widely read. However, Austen received much criticism for her work almost immediately, and that criticism continues today. In Austen's day, she was unfavorably compared to her contemporary women

⁵ Todd, *Cambridge*, 19.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 21.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 24.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 30.

authors as well as other English authors. By the 20th Century, critics “famed Austen for her Augustan irony and technical innovation.”¹⁰ This led her into the exclusive “canon of writers” worthy of study in newly established university departments of literature. Austen was deemed “a laconic satirist and moral teacher.”¹¹ In the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, Austen was noted as being both a Victorian and a feminist writer. Later in the 1970’s, critics began to shift their focus to the underlying political, religious and economic themes within Austen’s works. Recently, critical approaches to Austen’s works have turned from the “ideological” to an analysis of Austen’s narrative irony.¹² The debate on how to “read” Austen’s works continues to be resolved. Today, Austen’s critical reputation remains highly regarded.

As a result of her membership in the canon, Austen became a major source of literary scholarship and has been studied to great lengths. Austen is, unquestioningly, one of the most studied of all English novelists. However, the history about her life has come primarily from her family writing biographies and relinquishing letters for public and academic examination. One of the most well-known biographies is *Memoir of Jane Austen*, written by her nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh, and first published in 1870. It has been republished in 1926 by R.W. Chapman and again in 2002 by Kathryn Southerland.

In the early part of the 20th Century, a number of remaining Austen artifacts were relinquished from family to collectors or holders of collections. Around the same time, women were filling American universities for education and Austen was deemed safe study for women.¹³ Both of these two events contributed to the gain in a following of fans and admirers of Austen. Even without any new information about her having come forth in years, researchers continue to produce new works of study on Austen, her life, and her writing.

The fascination with Austen has not been limited to the study of her biography or the analysis of her literary style. Austen has been the focus behind other literary venues as well. For years, Austen herself or her works have been the subject matter behind other writer’s

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 33.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 33.

¹² *Ibid.*, 35.

¹³ Harman, Claire, *Jane’s Fame* (New York: Holt, 2010), 162.

works and behind the production of multi-media works. In 1940, The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) produced *Pride and Prejudice* as a motion picture. While successful in the box office, no further Austen novels were made into motion pictures until the 1990's. In the meantime, during the 1950's through the 1980's, television adaptations of Austen's works were made in both England and the United States.¹⁴ BBC did make and present taped versions of all six of Austen's novels.

In 1995, the motion picture, *Clueless*, an American comedy based "loosely" on *Emma* was released. This seemed to start a string of Austen novels to be produced for film in the later 1990's. These included *Persuasion*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Emma*, with *Emma* being produced almost simultaneously by two film producers. *Mansfield Park* came later at the end of 1999, but did not do well. Austen herself has also been the subject of motion pictures. Such motion pictures include *Becoming Jane* and *The Jane Austen Book Club*, both released in 2007.

Like so many motion pictures, both *Becoming Jane* and *The Jane Austen Book Club* were originally works of fictional novels. There are many portrayals, such as prequels, sequels, and other renditions, of Austen's life and novels as the subject for works of fiction. *Pemberley Shades: A Novel* written by Dorothy Alice Bonavia – Hunt in 1949, considered "the best of the early sequels to *Pride and Prejudice*", is one example.¹⁵ There are records of fictionalizations of Austen's works dating back further.

Today, there are not only individual works but also series based on Austen's works. The subject and stories of Austen are not just for the adult, either. Rewrites aimed at the young adult, for example, include the 2009's publications of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* and *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters*, the by Seth Grahame-Smith. These adaptations have also been converted into the current trend of the popular graphic novel.

¹⁴ Parrill, Sue, *Jane Austen on Film and Television* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2002), 5.

¹⁵ "Bibliography of Jane Austen Sequels: List of Sequels, etc." www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/austseql.html #17.

CONCLUSION

Jane Austen's novels are tireless and remain a continuous entertainment. Her wit and style as well as her subjects and situations have remained an intrigue even for those who have read and reread her works. To some extent, the stories have continued as the popularity of Jane Austen has produced numerous spinoffs by others penning sequels, prequels, and rewrites of her works and her life over the years. As she continues to be studied extensively at all levels of education, each generation seems to have produced its own version of Jane Austen. Whether it is due to her story or style, the length or depth of her as subject of study, the growing number of Janeites (fans of Jane Austen), or any combination of the above; it is without question, Austen has remained constant in the literary arena in such a way as no other author has.

In concluding *The Cambridge Introduction to Jane Austen*, Todd is quoted:

"There is no complete and easy answer as to why Jane Austen, a novelist who enjoyed a modicum of success during her lifetime, nowadays has such a wide appeal."¹⁶

¹⁶ Todd, *Cambridge*, 132.

SUBJECT HEADING STATEMENT

A search of the UNCG Jackson Library Card Catalog produced the more than 350 titles on the subject of Jane Austen. There are more than the following subject subheadings for Jane Austen available. However, the subject subheadings listed below are more relevant to introducing Jane Austen, her works, and examining her appeal to today's popularity:

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Adaptations--Comic books, strips, etc.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Adaptations--History and criticism.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Appreciation.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Appreciation--Fiction.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Authorship.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Bibliography.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Biography.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Biography--Family.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Characters.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Chronology.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Computer network resources.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Concordances.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Correspondence.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Criticism and interpretation.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Dictionaries.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Drama.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Emma.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Encyclopedias.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Ethics.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Examinations--Study guides.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Family.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Fiction.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Film and video adaptations.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Humor.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Influence.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Juvenile literature.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Lady Susan.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Language.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Mansfield Park.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Manuscripts.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Northanger Abbey.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Periodicals.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Persuasion.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Poetry.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Political and social views.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Pride and prejudice.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Religion.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Religion and ethics.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Sanditon--Criticism, Textual.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Sense and sensibility.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Study and teaching.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Style.

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817--Technique.

CLASSIFICATION STATEMENT

To begin browsing the shelves for material on Jane Austen, the best place to start would be in the 820's (Dewey) or the PR's (Library of Congress), the section of English Literature. Most of the material was within the PR 4036-38 or the 823 section, English Literature of the 19th Century.

Library of Congress System of Classification

PN – Literature, General

471 – Literary History - Biography

PR – English Literature

115 – Women Authors

3991-5990 – 19th Century, 1770/1800-1890/1900

Dewey Decimal System of Classification

800 – Literature

820 - English Literature

820.9 History and Criticism

823 – English Fiction

823.08 Collections, short stories

823.09 History and Criticism

RESEARCH RESOURCES

While there are thousands of resources available on or pertaining to the subject of Jane Austen, the following sub-categorized annotated sources have been selected for their content and/or usefulness in researching Jane Austen, her life, her works, and/or her influence (popularity) in the literary world. A supplemental list of additional resources is also provided at the end. These sources are available, but based on the scope of this paper, their utilization was unnecessary.

ENCYCLOPEDIA SOURCES

General Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia Britannica. 15th Edition. 2010. p. 708-710.

This encyclopedia's entry on Austen gives ample description of her life, her writing, and her novels. Although the entry describes Austen as "English writer who first gave the novel its distinctly modern character through her treatment of ordinary people in everyday life," there is nothing about her role in literature or popular culture over the last 200 years.

Encyclopedia Britannica is more detailed than many other sources in the area of encyclopedias- both general and subject. The biographical information is short yet thorough. There is a brief synopsis of each of her major works and a summary of her writing overall. This source seems to be the best place for someone who wants to know something about Jane Austen and her novels to begin.

Loofbourow, John W. "Austen, Jane." *Encyclopedia Americana International Edition*, Volume 2. 2005. p. 699-700.

Encyclopedia Americana's entry on Austen is factual but short. The entry only gives a brief paragraph description of her life, followed by two paragraphs covering her writings, and a conclusionary summation. This would be useful if someone knew extremely little and wanted a synopsis of a few sentences. The information given is not enough to much more than that.

Subject Encyclopedias

Magill, Frank N. *Cyclopedia of World Authors. Rev. 3rd Edition*. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 1997. p. 116-117.

This entry on Austen gives more detail into her life, her works, and her style. While not delving into Austen's popularity, the article does note the 1990's film adaptations. Also not providing as much information as what was found in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, this entry would be useful for someone wanting more than a paragraph description on Austen and her work.

Murphy, Bruce F. (Ed.) *Benet's Reader Encyclopedia, 5th Edition*. New York: Harper Collins, 2008. p. 67.

This brief description of Austen will give the novice a sense of who Austen is and what her major works were along with a comment or two about her writing style. Unfortunately, this entry is too brief to be useful for much else.

Schellinger, Paul. (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of the Novel, Volume 1*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998. p. 67-69.

This account of Austen focuses on Austen's writing and her novels. It discusses Austen's novels as considered classics as well as their model for the current popular "regency romance." This brief and concise explanation discusses Austen's writing as it pertains to the novels – the setting, plot, narration, and characters. It is a useful source for gaining understanding of Austen's style of writing. Further suggested readings on Austen's writing and novels are also provided.

Schlueter, Paul and June Schluter. (Eds). *Encyclopedia of British Women Writers, Revised and Expanded Edition*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1998. p. 20-22.

Austen is described here with the focus being on her works and her writing style. There is discussion of Austen's personal tastes, interests, and such and how they are reflected in her works. The entry also addresses Austen's success and the character analysis that many readers use to identify with her work. The entry closes with this: "To some she is one of the greatest ironists who ever lived. And to most she is a challenge. As Austen

herself put it, "I do not write for dull elves who cannot think for themselves."¹⁷ This description of Austen gives insight into Austen's personality as it pertains to her writing.

Subject Encyclopedias of Jane Austen

Olsen, Kirstin. *All things Austen: An Encyclopedia of Austen's Word. Volumes 1-2*. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 2005.

This two volume set is considered an "encyclopedia." It lists everyday and obscure items Austen mentions in her novels in alphabetical order with descriptions of their meaning, their use, and historical significance. Because the purpose of this encyclopedia is to explain the items listed in relationship to Austen's writing, little information about Austen herself is given. A timeline, which contains Austen's history along with major events in science, politics, culture, and religion of Austen's time, is included to compliment the entries themselves. This work would be useful to someone who wants to know more about the relationship or context within Austen's works.

Poplawski, Paul. *A Jane Austen Encyclopedia*. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1998.

This "encyclopedia" is broken down into three parts: (1) chronologies of Austen's life and her works, (2) an alphabetical descriptive list of all the characters – actual and fictitious and all known works, and (3) bibliographies of Austen and her works. This source is useful for quick and concise information about the Austen's, the characters of Austen's works, and Austen's works themselves, major and minor.

¹⁷ Pg. 21.

FACT BOOKS AND/OR MANUALS SOURCES

Ray, Joan Klingel. *Jane Austen for Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2006.

This is a very insightful book on Jane Austen, her life and works, and the story behind the story, so to speak. Not only does the author give background and story information about the novels, Ray also examines the cultural aspects of the period in which Austen lived, wrote about, and the relationship within the writings of Austen. This easy to read book is full of facts and trivia related to the subject of Jane Austen as well. Therefore, it is useful as a quick guide or as a complete read to learn about Austen.

Tyler, Natalie. *The Friendly Jane Austen*. New York: Viking Penguin, 1999.

Considered a handbook to Jane Austen, this work discusses Jane Austen's life, each of her major works, and her legacy in detail in an entirely different way. There is a quiz to determine if you are a Janeite, quotes on or about Austen as well as related factoids throughout. There is enough information that "both diehard Austen addicts and new converts to the cult will find endless revelations and witty insights."¹⁸ This is an easy and fun read that will provide more than enough information on Austen and her works to explain who she was, what she wrote, and how she has grown in popularity.

¹⁸ Inside cover flap.

BOOK (MONOGRAPH) SOURCES

About Jane Austen

Austen-Leigh, James Edward. *Memoir of Jane Austen*. 1871. Reprint, Oxford University Press, 1926.

The first biography written about Austen was written by her nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh. This is a republication of the 1871 edition with an introduction and index by R.W. Chapman. This account of Austen's life is from the perspective her brother had of her. It is apparent from the author's preface that interest in Austen's life was enough for him to publish a second edition. The second edition also included some portions of Austen's unpublished works. This is highly useful for a personal, inside look at the life of Jane Austen.

Austen-Leigh, James Edward. *A Memoir of Jane Austen and Other Family Recollections*. Edited by Kathryn Sutherland. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Austen-Leigh was not the only relative of Jane Austen who wrote biographies about her. Sutherland has taken on the task of putting the five first-hand accounts into one volume. These are the original "Biographical Notice" written by Henry Austen that was published in the two-volume set of *Persuasions and Northanger Abbey*, Henry Austen's *Memoir* of 1833, Austen-Leigh's *Memoir of Jane Austen*, and the biographies written by Austen-Leigh's sisters, Caroline Austen, and Anna LeFroy. Also included are a chronology of the Austen family tree, some family letters, and notes on the texts themselves. This is highly valuable for gaining the view of those who were present during Jane Austen's life.

About Jane Austen's Works

Baker, William. *Critical Companion to Jane Austen: A Reference to her life and works*. New York: Facts on File Infobase Publishing, 2008.

This book is a useful source on Jane Austen's life and works. A not-too-lengthy but fact-filled biography begins this source. The alphabetically listed works of Jane Austen, both major and minor, are broken down into in-depth detail including an analytical synopses

chapter by chapter. Following the analysis of her works, another alphabetized listing of people, places, themes, topics, and other information that is important to an understanding of Austen's life and works is presented. The appendixes include a chronology of Austen's life and works, a bibliography of Austen's works, and a bibliography of secondary sources.

This book is intended to be a reference source, "a research companion", to help "readers and students of Jane Austen in their endeavor to enjoy and understand her work and to make sense of the vast amount of literature on her."¹⁹ This is very useful for a thorough examination of each of Austen's works.

Parrill, Sue. *Jane Austen on Film and Television*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 2002.

This book traces the history of Austen's six major novels in their film and television adaptations. Each novel is compared to the film and television adaptations and each adaptation is also compared to each other. This book also gives an excellent bibliography of each adaptation of Austen's six major novels that includes date, producer, director, and cast.

About Jane Austen's Popularity

Harman, Claire. *Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World*. New York: Henry Holt, 2009.

"This book charts the growth of Austen's fame and the changing status of her work and what it has stood for – or made to stand for – in English culture over the past two hundred years."²⁰ While not reviewed by academic scholars, this book has been reviewed in *The New York Times* as "it presents the story of Austen's self-fashioning and later popularity in a convincing, enjoyable way."²¹ This book does present some of Austen's history, but the main theme is to address the phenomenon of Austen's popularity.

¹⁹ Introduction, p. ix.

²⁰ Preface, p. xx.

²¹ Gee, Sophie. Review of Claire Harman's *Jane's Fame*. The New York Times Book Review. Accessed Amazon.Com, http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0805082581/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books.

Lynch, Deidre. (Ed.) *Janeites: Austen's Disciples and Devotees*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000.

"Janeite" is a term coined by George Saintsbury in 1894 to identify someone who is a follower, a fan or admirer, of Jane Austen. This collection of essays delves into the history of Austen followers and their importance throughout the history of Austen's popularity. This is helpful to the understanding of Austen's popularity in that without those devoted to study as well as have an appreciation of Austen, her status would not be what it is today.

Wiltshire, John. *Recreating Jane Austen*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

"This book approaches the central question of the role Jane Austen plays in the contemporary cultural imagination."²² After the 1990's "crop" of films based on Austen's novels had such an impact on American culture, the author wrote based on his own psychoanalysis. This psychoanalysis is premised on the need to write about Austen, which in itself is actually a recreation. This book also investigates the adaptation of her novels into films and Jane Austen's rising "status within our culture."

²² Back cover.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND INDEX SOURCES

De Rose, Peter L. and S.W. McGuire. *A Concordance to the Works of Jane Austen. Volumes 1-3.* New York: Garland Publishing, 1982.

“The concordance will be helpful in the discovery and analysis of verbal patterns that deepen our appreciation of the novelist’s world. Because Jane Austen reveals in the continuum of language subtle differences of social class, differences of age, and differences of moral character, the concordance will be useful guide to her language, through which we may fully understand her meaning – that is, the precise meaning of the text and the larger meaning of the works as statements about human experience.”²³

Over 16,300 words from Austen’s main and minor works are organized into a concordance that would be useful for highly in-depth study of word usage and Austen’s style of writing. This source shows the extent researchers have gone in analyzing Austen’s works and is only valuable to those who are, in fact, doing very in-depth analysis/study of Austen’s works.

Roth, Barry. *An Annotated Bibliography of Jane Austen Studies: 1952-72.* Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1973.

_____. *An Annotated Bibliography of Jane Austen Studies: 1973-1983.* Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1985.

_____. *An Annotated Bibliography of Jane Austen Studies: 1984-1994.* Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1996.

Roth has diligently worked to produce, as comprehensive as possible, an annotated listing of all things written about Jane Austen. Each of his books covers a specific time period of studies. The first two are devoted more to books, articles, and dissertations. The third, does likewise, but also “gathers together significant mentionings” that entail “unusual, perceptive, or otherwise striking idea” of Jane Austen.²⁴ These works combined include over 3,000 entries that would be very useful for anyone wanting to do an in-depth study of Jane Austen. The limitation is that there is not a comprehensive bibliography of materials for the last 16 years in the same format.

²³ Preface, p. vii.

²⁴ Preface, p. ix.

BIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Butler, Marilyn. "Austen, Jane (1775-1817)." *Oxford National Biography, Volume 2*. Oxford University Press, 2004, p. 959-980.

Butler provides an abridged, concise look at Austen's parents and Austen's early life. The family's situations and Austen's are related throughout the text, indicating how they are included in the development of and explanations behind Austen's works. After looking at Austen's life and writings, there is an over-view of Austen's presence in the 19th Century followed by tracing Austen's reputation in the 20th Century and beyond.

The description given in this condensed biography of Austen is: "Jane Austen emerged between 1870 and 1960 as a social critic, a moralist, an incomparable artist, and latterly a popular and universal writer."²⁵ This source is well written, giving more than enough facts about Austen's life and family, the factors behind her works, and her lasting presence in the literary world.

Kelly, Gary. "Jane Austen: 16 December 1775- 18 July 1817." *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 116: British Romantic Novelists, 1789-1832*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1992. p. 3-35.

Austen is referred to as "one of the few novelists in world literature who is regarded as a classic and yet is widely read" and "the only novelist before Charles Dickens who still has a significant popular readership."²⁶

Although this account of Austen also supplies photographs and copied manuscripts, the format of the text lacks subheadings for easy reference. The information presented is easy to read, understand, and follows logical sequence, however. Bibliographic information and references are listed at the end for further readings. Unfortunately, the sources provided are not the most current.

²⁵ p. 977.

²⁶ p. 3-4.

INTERNET/WEBSITE SOURCES

Derbyshire Writer's Guild. <http://www.austen.com>

This website is the home of the "Derbyshire Writer's Guild." The purpose of this site is for posting fan fiction based on Austen's works. It was created in 1997 as an offshoot of the Republic of Pemberley website. This database is a collection of writers and their works that are based on Austen. Information on Austen's novels and other Austen-based sites is also available. This source is useful in that it shows a dedication to Austen's works through a portion of Austen's fans and their work. It is also useful for pleasure reading around Austen's work.

Jane Austen Society of North America. <http://www.JASNA.Org>

The Jane Austen Society of North America (JASA) is a nonprofit organization with approximately 4,000 members in over 60 groups regionally in the United States and Canada. Dedicated to the enjoyment and appreciation of Jane Austen, JASA was founded in 1979. Their website lists events, associational information, and information and links to other sites related to Jane Austen.

The Republic of Pemberley. <http://www.pemberley.com>

The Republic of Pemberley is "Your haven in a world programmed to misunderstand obsession with things Austen." Named after Austen's fictional estate owned by Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, this is a website full of information on Jane Austen, her works and their adaptations, discussion groups of her works, character information, information on fan fiction, and so much more.

JOURNAL SOURCES

Kaplan, Dr. Laurie. (Ed.) *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal*. Jane Austen Society of North America.

Since 1979, The Jane Austen Society of North America has published this academic/scholarly journal which focuses on Jane Austen, her family, her art and her times. There is also an on-line version, but it is published on a different time schedule. *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal* provides current views and research on Austen. Anyone interested in the currency of Austen would benefit from this journal; however the journal itself has not been reviewed.

AUDIO-VISUAL SOURCES

All six of Austen's major novels have been put into audio-book format. Austen's six major novels along with some of her minor works have been put into electronic eBook formats. They have also have been made into film adaptations. Some of the original BBC versions along with all of the newer adaptations can be readily found to purchase, check out from libraries, and/or rent from video stores. These adaptations provide a creative licensed version of Austen's work.

There are also educational documentaries on Jane Austen's life, works, and society. However, these documentaries have limited accessibility. While these may be valuable resources for someone to view, at UNCG, only the faculty, staff, and students may view these. They are not released to students to take out of the Teaching and Learning Center; therefore, they must be viewed, if one is eligible to view them, only on site. This limited accessibility does not warrant these as good sources of information due to the fact that someone other than UNCG faculty, staff, and students will not be able to utilize them.

PUBLISHERS

Jane Austen's works are outside of copyright which allows anyone to publish her works. Recently, for example, Scholastic published *Pride and Prejudice*. For publishers today that have the most authority on Jane Austen in their work, are the following:

Cambridge University Press
32 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10013-2473
Phone +212 924 3900
Fax +212 691 3239
Email newyork@cambridge.org
Web www.cambridge.org/us

Oxford University Press
Executive, Editorial and Sales Office
Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 726-6000
Email: custserv.us@oup.com
Website: <http://www.oup.com/us/?view=usa>

The Jane Austen Society of North America currently publishes *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal* and the society's newsletter, *JASNA News*.

Jane Austen Society of North America
c/o Bobbie Gay
7230 N San Blas Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704
(800) 836-3911
Email: info@jasna.org
Website: <http://www.jasna.org>

SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCES

Because the scope of this report was limited to introduce Jane Austen and her works as a subject, and explore her continued popularity, it was not necessary to examine certain reference sources. However, if more information or research on Austen is needed, the following resource types are available.

BIOGRAPHIC INDEXING

Biographic Resources that index multiple places to get information on Jane Austen:

British Writers lists Jane Austen in:

Volume III, pgs. 90, 283, 335-336, 345

Volume IV, pgs. Xi, xiv, xvii, 30, 101-124

Supplemental Volume II, pg. 384

Supplemental Volume IV, pgs. 154, 230, 233, 236, 237, 319

Contemporary Authors lists Jane Austen in:

Authors and Artists for Young Adults – Volume 19

British Writers – The Classics – Volume 1

British Writers Retrospective Supplement – Volume 2

Beachman's Guide to Literature for Young Adults – Volume 3

Concise Dictionary of British Literary Biography – 1789-1832

Discovering Authors

Discovering Authors – British Edition

Discovering Authors - Canadian Edition

Discovering Authors - Modules

Discovering Authors - Most Studied Authors

Discovering Authors - Novelists

Exploring Novels

Literature and Its Time – Volume 2

Literature and Its Time – Supplement

Literary Moments for Students

Novels for Students – Volumes 1, 14, and 18

Twayne's English Authors

World Literature Criticism

World Literature Criticism and Its Times –Volume 3

Writes for Young Adults Supplement – Volume 1

DATABASE SOURCE

The Literary Reference Center Database of UNCG's Jackson Library lists over 1,400 items related to Jane Austen. These include such subjects as Austen, her works, characters, literature history and criticism, women authors, plots, books, and authors.

Likewise, the BGMI (*Biographic and Genealogy Master Index*) lists 149 source citations for items on Jane Austen. Some of these are included in the biographic information already provided.

DISSERTATIONS/THESES

UNCG Jackson Library's Database of Dissertations and Theses lists over 650 full text dissertations and theses results on the subject of Jane Austen. There are also three dissertations written about Austen by previous UNCG students.

JOURNAL ARTICLE SOURCES

The UNCG Jackson Library Article Catalog produced over 42,000 articles on the subject of Jane Austen. These included Austen, her novels, film adaptations, criticism, and reviews of books pertaining to Austen.

OTHER SOURCES

About her letters:

La Faye, Deirdre. (Ed.). *Jane Austen's Letters*. 3rd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

About her poetry:

Sewlyn, David. (Ed.). *Collected Poems and Verse of the Austen Family*. Manchester: Carcanet, 1996.