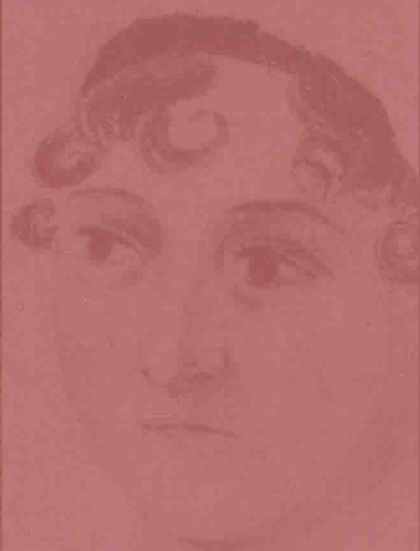


The  
Cambridge  
Edition  
of the Works of

# JANE AUSTEN

Emma

EDITED BY RICHARD CRONIN  
AND DOROTHY MCMILLAN



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## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

Jane Austen wrote to be read and reread. '[A]n artist cannot do anything slovenly,' she remarked to her sister Cassandra. Her subtle, crafted novels repay close and repeated attention to vocabulary, syntax and punctuation as much as to irony and allusion; yet the reader can take immediate and intense delight in their plots and characters. As a result Austen has a unique status among early English novelists – appreciated by the academy and the general public alike. What Henry Crawford remarks about Shakespeare in *Mansfield Park* has become equally true of its author: she 'is a part of an Englishman's constitution. [Her] thoughts and beauties are so spread abroad that one touches them every where, one is intimate with [her] by instinct.' This edition of the complete oeuvre of the published novels and manuscript works is testament to Austen's exceptional cultural and literary position. As well as attempting to establish an accurate and authoritative text, it provides a full contextual placing of the novels.

The editing of any canonical writer is a practice which has been guided by many conflicting ideologies. In the early twentieth century, editors, often working alone, largely agreed that they were producing definitive editions, although they used eclectic methods and often revised the text at will. Later in the century, fidelity to the author's creative intentions was paramount, and the emphasis switched to devising an edition that would as far as possible represent the final authorial wishes. By the 1980s, however, the pursuit of the single perfected text had given way to the recording of multiple intentions of equal interest. Authors were seen to have changed, revised or recanted, or indeed to have directed various

versions of their work towards different audiences. Consequently all states had validity and the text became a process rather than a fixed entity. With this approach came emphasis on the print culture in which the text appeared as well as on the social implications of authorship. Rather than being stages in the evolution of a single work, the various versions existed in their own right, all having something to tell.

The Cambridge edition describes fully Austen's early publishing history and provides details of composition, publication and publishers as well as printers and compositors where known. It accepts that many of the decisions concerning spelling, punctuation, capitalising, italicising and paragraphing may well have been the compositors' rather than Austen's but that others may represent the author's own chosen style. For the novels published in Jane Austen's lifetime the edition takes as its copytext the latest edition to which she might plausibly have made some contribution: that is, the first editions of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* and the second editions of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park*. Where a second edition is used, all substantive and accidental changes between editions are shown on the page so that the reader can reconstruct the first edition, and the dominance of either first or second editions is avoided. For the two novels published posthumously together, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, the copytext is the first published edition.

Our texts as printed here remain as close to the copytexts as possible: spelling and punctuation have not been modernised and inconsistencies in presentation have not been regularised. The few corrections and emendations made to the texts – beyond replacing dropped or missing letters – occur only when an error is very obvious indeed, and/or where retention might interrupt reading or understanding: for example, missing quotation marks have been supplied, run-on words have been separated and repeated words excised. All changes to the texts, substantive and accidental, have been noted in the final apparatus. Four of the six novels appeared individually in three volumes; we have kept the volume divisions and numbering. In the case of *Persuasion*, which

was first published as volumes 3 and 4 of a four-volume set including *Northanger Abbey*, the volume division has been retained but volumes 3 and 4 have been relabeled volumes 1 and 2.

For all these novels the copytext has been set against two other copies of the same edition. Where there have been any substantive differences, further copies have been examined; details of these copies are given in the initial textual notes within each volume, along with information about the printing and publishing context of this particular work. The two volumes of the edition devoted to manuscript writings divide the works between the three juvenile notebooks on the one hand and all the remaining manuscript writings on the other. The juvenile notebooks and *Lady Susan* have some resemblance to the published works, being fair copies and following some of the conventions of publishing. The other manuscript writings consist in part of fictional works in early drafts, burlesques and autograph and allograph copies of occasional verses and prayers. The possible dating of the manuscript work, as well as the method of editing, is considered in the introductions to the relevant volumes. The cancelled chapters of *Persuasion* are included in an appendix to the volume *Persuasion*; they appear both in a transliteration and in facsimile. For all the manuscript works, their features as manuscripts have been respected and all changes and erasures either reproduced or noted.

In all the volumes superscript numbers in the texts indicate end-notes. Throughout the edition we have provided full annotations to give clear and informative historical and cultural information to the modern reader while largely avoiding critical speculation; we have also indicated words which no longer have currency or have altered in meaning in some way. The introductions give information concerning the genesis and immediate public reception of the text; they also indicate the most significant stylistic and generic features. A chronology of Austen's life appears in each volume. More information about the life, Austen's reading, her relationship to publication, the print history of the novels and their critical reception through the centuries, as well as the historical, political,

intellectual and religious context in which she wrote is available in the final volume of the edition: *Jane Austen in Context*.

I would like to thank Cambridge University Library for supplying the copytexts for the six novels. I am most grateful to Linda Bree at Cambridge University Press for her constant support and unflagging enthusiasm for the edition and to Maartje Scheltens and Alison Powell for their help at every stage of production. I owe the greatest debt to my research assistant Antje Blank for her rare combination of scholarly dedication, editorial skills and critical discernment.

Janet Todd  
University of Aberdeen

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## CHRONOLOGY

DEIRDRE LE FAYE

**1764**

26 April

Marriage of Revd George Austen, rector of Steventon, and Cassandra Leigh; they go to live at Deane, Hampshire, and their first three children – James (1765), George (1766) and Edward (1767) – are born here.

**1768**

Summer

The Austen family move to Steventon, Hampshire. Five more children – Henry (1771), Cassandra (1773), Francis (1774), Jane (1775), Charles (1779) – are born here.

**1773**

23 March

Mr Austen becomes Rector of Deane as well as Steventon, and takes pupils at Steventon from now until 1796.

**1775**

16 December

Jane Austen born at Steventon.

**1781**

Winter

JA's cousin, Eliza Hancock, marries Jean-François Capot de Feuillide, in France.

**1782**

First mention of JA in family tradition, and the first of the family's amateur theatrical productions takes place.

**1783**

JA's third brother, Edward, is adopted by Mr and Mrs Thomas Knight II, and starts to spend time with them at Godmersham in Kent.

JA, with her sister Cassandra and cousin Jane Cooper, stays for some months in Oxford and then Southampton, with kinswoman Mrs Cawley.

# **1785**

Spring JA and Cassandra go to the Abbey House School in Reading.

# **1786**

Edward sets off for his Grand Tour of Europe, and does not return until autumn 1790.  
 April JA's fifth brother, Francis, enters the Royal Naval Academy in Portsmouth.  
 December JA and Cassandra have left school and are at home again in Steventon.  
 Between now and 1793 JA writes her three volumes of the *Juvenilia*.

# **1788**

Summer Mr and Mrs Austen take JA and Cassandra on a trip to Kent and London.  
 December Francis leaves the RN Academy and sails to East Indies; does not return until winter 1793.

# **1791**

July JA's sixth and youngest brother, Charles, enters the Royal Naval Academy in Portsmouth.  
 27 December Edward Austen marries Elizabeth Bridges, and they live at Rowling in Kent.

# **1792**

27 March JA's eldest brother, James, marries Anne Mathew; they live at Deane.  
 ?Winter Cassandra becomes engaged to Revd Tom Fowle.

# **1793**

23 January Edward Austen's first child, Fanny, is born at Rowling.  
 1 February Republican France declares war on Great Britain and Holland.  
 8 April JA's fourth brother, Henry, becomes a lieutenant in the Oxfordshire Militia.  
 15 April James Austen's first child, Anna, born at Deane.  
 3 June JA writes the last item of her *J*.

## Chronology

### 1794

- 22 February M de Feuilleide guillotined in Paris.  
September Charles leaves the RN Academy and goes to sea.  
?Autumn JA possibly writes the novella *Lady Susan* this year.

### 1795

- 3 May JA probably writes 'Elinor and Marianne' this year.  
James's wife Anne dies, and infant Anna is sent to live at Steventon.  
Autumn Revd Tom Fowle joins Lord Craven as his private chaplain for the West Indian campaign.  
December Tom Lefroy visits Ashe Rectory – he and JA have a flirtation over the Christmas holiday period.

### 1796

- October JA starts writing 'First Impressions'.

### 1797

- 17 January James Austen marries Mary Lloyd, and infant Anna returns to live at Deane.  
February Revd Tom Fowle dies of fever at San Domingo and is buried at sea.  
August JA finishes 'First Impressions' and Mr Austen offers it for publication to Thomas Cadell – rejected sight unseen.  
November JA starts converting 'Elinor and Marianne' into *Sense and Sensibility*. Mrs Austen takes her daughters for a visit to Bath.  
Edward Austen and his young family move from Rowling to Godmersham.  
31 December Henry Austen marries his cousin, the widowed Eliza de Feuilleide, in London.

### 1798

- JA probably starts writing 'Susan' (later to become *Northanger Abbey*).  
17 November James Austen's son James Edward born at Deane.

### 1799

- Summer JA probably finishes 'Susan' (*NA*) about now.

### 1800

- Mr Austen decides to retire and move to Bath.

## 1801

- 24 January Henry Austen resigns his commission in the Oxfordshire Militia and sets up as a banker and army agent in London.
- May The Austen family leave Steventon for Bath, and then go for a seaside holiday in the West Country. JA's traditionary West Country romance presumably occurs between now and the autumn of 1804.

## 1802

- March 25 Peace of Amiens appears to bring the war with France to a close.
- Summer Charles Austen joins his family for a seaside holiday in Wales and the West Country.
- December JA and Cassandra visit James and Mary at Steventon; while there, Harris Bigg-Wither proposes to JA and she accepts him, only to withdraw her consent the following day.
- Winter JA revises 'Susan' (*NA*).

## 1803

- Spring JA sells 'Susan' (*NA*) to Benjamin Crosby; he promises to publish it by 1804, but does not do so.
- 18 May Napoleon breaks the Peace of Amiens, and war with France recommences.
- Summer The Austens visit Ramsgate in Kent, and possibly also go to the West Country again.
- November The Austens visit Lyme Regis.

## 1804

- JA probably starts writing *The Watsons* this year, but leaves it unfinished.
- Summer The Austens visit Lyme Regis again.

## 1805

- 21 January Mr Austen dies and is buried in Bath.
- Summer Martha Lloyd joins forces with Mrs Austen and her daughters.
- 18 June James Austen's younger daughter, Caroline, born at Steventon.
- 21 October Battle of Trafalgar.

**1806**

- 2 July Mrs Austen and her daughters finally leave Bath; they visit Clifton, Adlestrop, Stoneleigh and Hamstall Ridware, before settling in Southampton in the autumn.
- 24 July Francis Austen marries Mary Gibson.

**1807**

- 19 May Charles Austen marries Fanny Palmer, in Bermuda.

**1808**

- 10 October Edward Austen's wife Elizabeth dies at Godmersham.

**1809**

- 5 April JA makes an unsuccessful attempt to secure the publication of 'Susan' (*NA*).
- 7 July Mrs Austen and her daughters, and Martha Lloyd, move to Chawton, Hants.

**1810**

- Winter *S&S* is accepted for publication by Thomas Egerton.

**1811**

- February JA starts planning *Mansfield Park*.
- 30 October *S&S* published.
- ?Winter JA starts revising 'First Impressions' into *Pride and Prejudice*.

**1812**

- 17 June America declares war on Great Britain.
- 14 October Mrs Thomas Knight II dies, and Edward Austen now officially takes surname of Knight.
- Autumn JA sells copyright of *P&P* to Egerton.

**1813**

- 28 January *P&P* published; JA half-way through *MP*.
- ?July JA finishes *MP*.
- ?November *MP* accepted for publication by Egerton about now.

**1814**

- 21 January JA commences *Emma*.
- 5 April Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba.
- 9 May *MP* published.

24 December Treaty of Ghent officially ends war with America.

## 1815

March Napoleon escapes and resumes power in France; hostilities recommence.

29 March *E* finished.

18 June Battle of Waterloo finally ends war with France.

8 August JA starts *Persuasion*.

4 October Henry Austen takes JA to London; he falls ill, and she stays longer than anticipated.

13 November JA visits Carlton House, and receives an invitation to dedicate a future work to the Prince Regent.

December *E* published by John Murray, dedicated to the Prince Regent. (title page 1816)

## 1816

Spring JA's health starts to fail. Henry Austen buys back manuscript of 'Susan' (*NA*), which JA revises and intends to offer again for publication.

18 July First draft of *P* finished.

6 August *P* finally completed.

## 1817

27 January JA starts *Sanditon*.

18 March JA now too ill to work, and has to leave *S* unfinished.

24 May Cassandra takes JA to Winchester for medical attention.

18 July JA dies in the early morning.

24 July JA buried in Winchester Cathedral.

December *NA* and *P* published together, by Murray, with a 'Biographical Notice' added by Henry Austen. (title page 1818)

## 1869

16 December JA's nephew, Revd James Edward Austen-Leigh (JEAL), publishes his *Memoir of Jane Austen*, from which all subsequent biographies have stemmed. (title page 1870)

## 1871

JEAL publishes a second and enlarged edition of his *Memoir*, including in this the novella *LS*, the

cancelled chapters of *P*, the unfinished *W*, a précis of *S*, and 'The Mystery' from the *J*.

1884

JA's great-nephew, Lord Brabourne, publishes *Letters of Jane Austen*, the first attempt to collect her surviving correspondence.

1922

*Volume the Second* of the *J* published.

1925

The manuscript of the unfinished *S* edited by R. W. Chapman and published as *Fragment of a Novel by Jane Austen*.

1932

R. W. Chapman publishes *Jane Austen's Letters to her sister Cassandra and others*, giving letters unknown to Lord Brabourne.

1933

*Volume the First* of the *J* published.

1951

*Volume the Third* of the *J* published.

1952

Second edition of R. W. Chapman's *Jane Austen's Letters* published, with additional items.

1954

R. W. Chapman publishes *Jane Austen's Minor Works*, which includes the three volumes of the *J* and other smaller items.

1980

B. C. Southam publishes *Jane Austen's 'Sir Charles Grandison'*, a small manuscript discovered in 1977.

1995

Deirdre Le Faye publishes the third (new) edition of *Jane Austen's Letters*, containing further additions to the Chapman collections.

## INTRODUCTION

### COMPOSITION AND PUBLICATION

Jane Austen arranged for the publication of *Mansfield Park* by Thomas Egerton while she was staying with her brother Henry in London in November 1813. Henry accompanied her on her return to Chawton, where she celebrated a cold Christmas – a great frost began on 27 December, and in February a frost fair was held on the frozen Thames. *Emma* was begun, according to Cassandra, on 21 January 1814. It was to be an exactly contemporaneous novel, begun just four weeks after the Christmas Eve on which Mr Elton was to make his embarrassing offer of marriage to the novel's heroine.<sup>1</sup> The novel was finally delivered to the publisher John Murray in August or September 1815. The twenty months during which Austen worked on *Emma* were crammed with momentous events. On 5 April 1814, Napoleon abdicated and was exiled to Elba. That summer the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia were in London as guests of the Prince Regent, the man to whom the novel on which Austen was working would reluctantly be dedicated. Her brother Henry astonished her by securing a ticket to the extravagant White's Club ball given in honour of the three monarchs, 'Henry at Whites! – Oh! what a Henry.'<sup>2</sup> But the London celebrations were

<sup>1</sup> Jo Modert convincingly supports the suggestion first made by Chapman that Austen used an almanac for the years 1813–14 when writing *Emma*. See Jo Modert, 'Chronology within the Novels', in J. David Grey (ed.), *The Jane Austen Handbook* (London: Athlone Press, 1986), pp. 53–9. On the precise contemporaneity of *Emma*, see Robert Miles '“A Fall in Bread”: Speculation and the Real in *Emma*', *Novel: a Forum on Fiction*, 37 (Fall 2003/Spring 2004), 1–20.

<sup>2</sup> Deirdre Le Faye (ed.), *Jane Austen's Letters*, 3rd edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), 23 June 1814, p. 264. Henceforth *L*.



remote from her fictional concerns, which were more engaged by the capacity of Harriet Smith to fall in love with Robert Martin just five weeks after she had been in love with Mr Knightley; 'Such a heart—such a Harriet!' (p. 519). By the time that the novel was complete Napoleon had made his dramatic escape and had once again been defeated, but these national events, crucial to *Persuasion*, scarcely seem touched on in *Emma*. Happenings nearer home must have been more absorbing. On 6 September 1814, her brother Charles's wife, Fanny, died, a week after giving birth on board her husband's ship to her fourth daughter, Elizabeth, and the baby herself died a fortnight later. There is perhaps a special feeling in the sentence with which one of the novel's closing chapters begins: 'Mrs. Weston's friends were all made happy by her safety; and if the satisfaction of her well-doing could be increased to Emma, it was by knowing her to be the mother of a little girl' (p. 503). There were financial anxieties too. Charles retained his command for a while, but, with the conclusion of the war, her brother Frank became a half-pay officer. More seriously, Edward was engaged in a lawsuit for the possession of his Hampshire properties. If the suit (which was not finally settled until 1818) went against him, Chawton Cottage would be lost. Austen could not have felt quite secure from the fate that in her novel threatens another single woman whose mother is the widow of a clergyman: 'She is poor; she has sunk from the comforts she was born to; and, if she live to old age, must probably sink more' (p. 408).

During the months that she worked on the novel Austen made her usual round of visits, to her brother in London, to Winchester, to her old home at Steventon. These trips were becoming increasingly necessary to her as she entered middle age and her social life narrowed. 'Dining once with the Coles – and having a ball talked of, which never took place' (p. 338): so Emma sums up the social whirl in which her brother-in-law represents her as plunging. It is, like hazel eyes, one of several points of contact between the ageing Austen and her twenty-year-old heroine in the full bloom of her youth. When Mr Knightley needs to get away from Highbury he