Cambridge University Press and the General Editor Janet Todd wish to express their gratitude to the University of Glasgow and the University of Aberdeen for providing funding towards the creation of this edition. Their generosity made possible the employment of Antje Blank as research assistant throughout the project.
Watercolour drawing of Jane Austen by her sister Cassandra, dated 1804.
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For *Northanger Abbey*, probably the first book she prepared for publication, Jane Austen provided an 'Advertisement' by the 'Authoress', pointing out the quotidian nature of the background and details of her fiction. She was readying the work for publication in 1816 just after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, during the last year of her life, but she had, she declared, completed it in 1803, having actually conceived it even earlier. She wrote:

some observation is necessary upon those parts of the work which thirteen years have made comparatively obsolete. The public are entreated to bear in mind that thirteen years have passed since it was finished, many more since it was begun, and that during that period, places, manners, books, and opinions have undergone considerable changes.

Attuned as she was to 'places, manners, books, and opinions', she knew that fashions and hairstyles had altered in thirteen years and that the muslins in style in 1803 were no longer desired in 1816. (Jane Austen, although not keen on shopping, showed herself in her letters intensely interested in clothes.) She knew that the political and literary scene varied from year to year and that, when the naive and fiction-obsessed Catherine Morland suggests that 'something very shocking indeed will soon come out in London', it is quite reasonable for her to be thinking of Gothic fiction and for her more serious friend Eleanor Tilney to assume that she means riots in London, such as were happening in the 1790s. Praising Jane Austen for subordinating her material 'to principles of Economy and Selection' and declaring 'nothing is dragged in, nothing is superfluous', George Henry Lewes also noted in her books an 'easiness of nature, which looks so like the ordinary life of everyday'.

The appearance is in part given by the careful, sparse use of material objects and literary and political allusions.
Preface

This volume of entries on aspects of Jane Austen’s life, works and historical context necessarily speaks to the interests of the twenty-first century: it treats nationalism and empire as well as transport and the professions, print culture along with dress and manners, the agricultural background of her life as well as the literary. In David Lodge’s *Changing Places* Professor Morris Zapp of Euphoric State University intended to make his academic name by saying everything there was to be said on Jane Austen. There is no such hubristic claim for this volume, which simply aims to suggest ways of looking at the novels through this moment’s version of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century history and culture. In the entries on Jane Austen’s life and times it hopes to indicate how her biography subtly interacts with her novels and in the histories of criticism to show how the criticism has responded to literary movements and fashions.

The volume is divided into three parts, with each section of topics in alphabetic order. A bibliography at the end indicates some of the main works used by the contributors and suggests further reading.

I am grateful to the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen for their support of this volume. I should also like to thank the contributors for their co-operation and patience through the editing process and Linda Bree of Cambridge University Press for her gracious encouragement at each stage in the preparation. With her detailed knowledge of Jane Austen’s life, Deirdre Le Faye has been an invaluable and generous resource. Most of all I owe gratitude to Antje Blank not only for her tireless editorial work and insistent high standards but also for her unflagging and contagious enthusiasm for the novels of Jane Austen.

Janet Todd
University of Aberdeen 2005

Note

ABBREVIATIONS

E: Emma
L: Jane Austen’s Letters, ed. Deirdre Le Faye, new edition
    (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995)
LF: ‘Love and Freindship’
LS: Lady Susan
MP: Mansfield Park
NA: Northanger Abbey
OED: Oxford English Dictionary
P: Persuasion
P&P: Pride and Prejudice
S: Sanditon
S&S: Sense and Sensibility
W: The Watsons

Quotations from Jane Austen’s novels are sourced to volume and chapter and given in brackets, e.g. (S&S, 2:3). Quotations from single-volume works are sourced to chapters or letters, e.g. (S, 4). References to Jane Austen’s letters are sourced to dates and given in brackets after the quotation.
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.
Chronology

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
April Edward sets off for Grand Tour of Europe, and does not return until autumn 1790.
December JA’s fifth brother, Francis, enters the Royal Naval Academy in Portsmouth.

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 Juvenilia.

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**Chronology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>M de Feuillide guillotined in Paris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Charles leaves the RN Academy and goes to sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? Autumn</td>
<td>JA possibly writes the novella <em>Lady Susan</em> this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>JA probably writes ‘Elinor and Marianne’ this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>James’s wife Anne dies, and infant Anna is sent to live at Steventon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Revd Tom Fowle joins Lord Craven as his private chaplain for the West Indian campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Tom Lefroy visits Ashe Rectory – he and JA have a flirtation over the Christmas holiday period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>JA starts writing ‘First Impressions’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1797</td>
<td>JA probably starts writing ‘Susan’ (later to become <em>Northanger Abbey</em>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 January</td>
<td>James Austen marries Mary Lloyd, and infant Anna returns to live at Deane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Revd Tom Fowle dies of fever at San Domingo and is buried at sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>JA finishes ‘First Impressions’ and Mr Austen offers it for publication to Thomas Cadell – rejected sight unseen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>JA starts converting ‘Elinor and Marianne’ into <em>Sense and Sensibility</em>. Mrs Austen takes her daughters for a visit to Bath. Edward Austen and his young family move from Rowling to Godmersham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>Henry Austen marries his cousin, the widowed Eliza de Feuillide, in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>JA probably starts writing ‘Susan’ (later to become <em>Northanger Abbey</em>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>James Austen’s son James Edward born at Deane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>JA probably finishes ‘Susan’ (<em>Northanger Abbey</em>) about now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mr Austen decides to retire and move to Bath.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1800
### Chronology

**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**
- **25 March**: 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’ (*Northanger Abbey*).

**1803**
- **Spring**: JA sells ‘Susan’ (*Northanger Abbey*) 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**
- **Spring**: 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.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1806</td>
<td>2 July</td>
<td>Mrs Austen and her daughters finally leave Bath; they visit Clifton, Adlestrop, Stoneleigh and Hamstall Ridware, before settling in Southampton in the autumn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>Francis Austen marries Mary Gibson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1807</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Charles Austen marries Fanny Palmer, in Bermuda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>Edward Austen's wife Elizabeth dies at Godmersham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>JA makes an unsuccessful attempt to secure the publication of 'Susan' (Northanger Abbey).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>Mrs Austen and her daughters, and Martha Lloyd, move to Chawton, Hants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Sense and Sensibility is accepted for publication by Thomas Egerton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>JA starts planning Mansfield Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 October</td>
<td>Sense and Sensibility published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>?Winter</td>
<td>JA starts revising 'First Impressions' into Pride and Prejudice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>America declares war on Great Britain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>Mrs Thomas Knight II dies, and Edward Austen now officially takes surname of Knight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>JA sells copyright of Pride and Prejudice to Egerton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>Pride and Prejudice published; JA half-way through Mansfield Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>?July</td>
<td>JA finishes Mansfield Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>?November</td>
<td>Mansfield Park accepted for publication by Egerton about now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1814</td>
<td>21 January</td>
<td>JA commences Emma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronology

9 May  
*Manvers Park* published.

24 December  
Treaty of Ghent officially ends war with America.

1815

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

29 March  
*Emma* 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  
*Emma* 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’ (*Northanger Abbey*), which JA revises and intends to offer again for publication.

18 July  
First draft of *Persuasion* finished.

6 August  
*Persuasion* finally completed.

1817

27 January  
JA starts *Sanditon*.

18 March  
JA now too ill to work, and has to leave *Sanditon* 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  
*Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* 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).
Chronology

1871
JEAL publishes a second and enlarged edition of his Memoir, including in this the novella Lady Susan, the cancelled chapters of Persuasion, the unfinished The Watsons, a précis of Sanditon, and ‘The Mystery’ from the Juvenilia.

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 Juvenilia published.

1925
The manuscript of the unfinished Sanditon 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 Juvenilia published.

1951
Volume the Third of the Juvenilia published.

1952

1954
R. W. Chapman publishes Jane Austen’s Minor Works, which includes the three volumes of the Juvenilia 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.

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