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THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION  
OF THE WORKS OF  
JANE AUSTEN  
  
MANSFIELD PARK

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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.

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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521827652](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521827652)

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First published 2005  
Reprinted 2014

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*  
Austen, Jane, 1775–1817.

Mansfield Park / edited by John Wiltshire.

p. cm. — (The Cambridge edition of the works of Jane Austen)

ISBN-13: 978-0-521-82765-2

ISBN-10: 0-521-82765-5

1. Young women — Fiction. 2. Children of the rich — Fiction. 3. Social classes —  
Fiction. 4. Country homes — Fiction. 5. Adoptees — Fiction. 6. Cousins —  
Fiction. 7. England — Fiction. 8. Uncles — Fiction. I. Wiltshire, John.

II. Title. III. Series.

PR4034.M3 2005

823'.7 — dc22 2005006336

ISBN 978-0-521-82765-2 Hardback

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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



*General Editor's preface*

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

*General Editor's preface*

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

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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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Work on this edition of *Mansfield Park* was supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant during 2003–4. I wish to thank the Council for awarding me the grant and the anonymous referees who supported my application. Research was carried out at the La Trobe University Library; the Rare Books room at Fisher Library, University of Sydney; the State Library of Victoria; the Shakespeare Memorial Trust Library, Stratford-upon-Avon; the City of Portsmouth Municipal Library; the Bodleian, Oxford; the University Library, Cambridge; the British Library, London; and at Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire. I thank the staff and librarians at these institutions for their readiness to help, and especially Peggy Cochrane and Sharon Karasmanis of the Interlibrary Loans section of La Trobe University Library.

Professor Kathryn Sutherland was generous with her time and gave me some vital clues at the beginning of the whole enterprise. I also want to thank Professor Jocelyn Harris for reassurance, advice and comradeship at this stage, as well as much later. The archivist of John Murray Ltd, Mrs Vanessa Murray, kindly sent me photocopies of documents concerning *Mansfield Park* in the Murray files. In embarking on this project, I had the benefit of advice from Professor Clive Probyn and Dr Bruce Steele.

I've always known that my work was supported by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at La Trobe. I'm lucky, too, to have worked in a friendly and encouraging department and I thank my colleagues for putting up with my endless pestering for obscure pieces of information. My friends Ann Blake, Stephen Clarke, Rachel and Denis Gibbs, Ann Newton, David Rawlinson,

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### *Acknowledgements*

Judith Richards, Bryan Reid and Carl Stanyon have also been called upon, as have Jon Spence, and David Fraser of the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. I'm especially grateful to Linda Bree, my editor at Cambridge University Press, and my colleague Iain Topliss, for their comments on my Notes, and to Brian Southam for putting me onto material I would otherwise have missed. I have found in *Jane Austen and the Navy* a valuable resource.

I reported on work in progress to the Sydney-based Jane Austen Society of Australia, and to the Jane Austen Society of Melbourne. I should like to thank Susannah Fullerton, Fay Jones and Andrea Richards, the Presidents of the two societies, for arranging these meetings, and the members for their questions, as well as their willingness to act as informal research assistants. My greatest indebtedness however is to Laura Carroll and Brian Lloyd, my research associates at La Trobe University. Laura worked on the Notes with exemplary care and perceptiveness, and contributed important new information. The note on *Lovers' Vows* in this edition is her work. Dr Lloyd was in charge of the text, and collated the variants over a long period with great good-humour. I'm grateful also to my niece, Helen Moreno, who found invaluable material in the British Library.

The latter period of work on this volume has been carried out in rather difficult circumstances, and could not have been completed at all without our children, Ruth and John, and my sisters, Marie Eddy and Roseann Moreno, as well as Judy Goldberg, helping to provide time for me. During these last stages I have read the text aloud several times over with my wife Zaiga, whose memory of her earlier readings of Jane Austen is so vivid that she has raised questions and suggested connections which have decidedly improved this edition. Our collaboration on this has been a great pleasure.

Copy-editing benefited greatly from the assistance of Laura Carroll and Daniel Vuillermin in Melbourne. I thank them, and my copy-editor in Cambridge, Caroline Howlett, for the care they took over a complex task. Laura and Daniel, together with Max Richards, formed a wonderful proofreading team in Melbourne. I should also

*Acknowledgements*

like to thank the General Editor of the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jane Austen, Professor Jan Todd, Dr Antje Blank, her research assistant, and the Press's Editor, Dr Linda Bree, for their intellectual comradeship and encouragement over the long period we have been working together.

I cannot omit a formal acknowledgement to those previous Jane Austen scholars, foremost among them R. W. Chapman, Jan Fergus, David Gilson, Deirdre Le Faye, Brian Southam and Kathryn Sutherland, without whose work this edition could most certainly not have been undertaken or completed.

## 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

Chronology

	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 <i>Juvenilia</i> .
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.



*Chronology*

**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*.

**1794**

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

**1795**

- JA probably writes 'Elinor and Marianne' this year.
- 3 May 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.

*Chronology*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 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 <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> . 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 Feuillide, in London.  |
| <b>1798</b> |  |
|             | JA probably starts writing 'Susan' (later to become <i>Northanger Abbey</i> ).   |
| 17 November | James Austen's son James Edward born at Deane.   |
| <b>1799</b> |  |
| Summer      | JA probably finishes 'Susan' ( <i>NA</i> ) about now.  |
| <b>1800</b> |  |
|             | Mr Austen decides to retire and move to Bath.  |
| <b>1801</b> |  |
| 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 traditional West Country romance presumably occurs between now and the autumn of 1804.         |
| <b>1802</b> |  |
| 25 March    | Peace of Amiens appears to bring the war with France to a close.   |

### *Chronology*

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' ( <i>NA</i> ).
<b>1803</b>	
Spring	JA sells 'Susan' ( <i>NA</i> ) 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.
<b>1804</b>	
	JA probably starts writing <i>The Watsons</i> this year, but leaves it unfinished.
Summer	The Austens visit Lyme Regis again.
<b>1805</b>	
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.

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- 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.

### *Chronology*

#### **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**

- 19 February 2nd edition of *MP* published.  
 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.

*Chronology*

- 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, the 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.

*Chronology*

**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.