



Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury

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In the minds of fans and scholars alike, Jane Austen has never grown old. Now more than ever, Jane Austen is a presence in pop culture—a major accomplishment for someone who published her books anonymously all her life. Who was Jane Austen? We have only a couple of sketches and letters to tell us about her, but from this slim thread hangs a library's worth of speculation, including countless Hollywood interpretations of her life and her books.

Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury takes you inside the author's world—the hardships she faced, the loves she lost, and the keen sense of irony that kept her going. Fully illustrated with Regency-era artwork, the book also explains key aspects of life in Austen's time.

This treasury also contains removable reproductions of many important documents, including a handwritten letter from Jane to her sister Cassandra, pages from the rough draft of *Persuasion*, and a quirky "History of England" written by Jane as a schoolgirl and illustrated by her sister. These special features, combined with the insightful narrative and evocative images, make *Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury* an intimate and unique experience for anyone who appreciates the timeless significance of her work.

Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury Details

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Author : Rebecca Dickson

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From Reader Review Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury for online ebook

Tamra says

My darling daughter gave me this book for Christmas and I enjoyed every minute of it! I savored each page and loved the observations made by the author about each of Austen's books. I loved hearing about what was going on in Jane Austen's life during the time she was writing each particular novel. The little envelopes containing copies of Jane Austen artifacts were a lot of fun to look at and made the book more intimate. I'm thrilled to add this to my collection!

Laurel says

My number one choice of Jane Austen inspired books of 2008

Has Jane Austen risen to a major pop-culture presence? Author Rebecca Dickson confidently thinks so, and her thoughtfully researched and beautifully illustrated new edition *Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury* is quite a persuasive testament. Any doubting Thomas' will be hard pressed to argue against the evidence skillfully presented in this volume. Not only are the carefully chosen Regency era images complementary to her expertly written text, the overall friendly and visually appealing design and its incredible value place it as my number one choice of Jane Austen inspired books of 2008.

Surprisingly, this volume is not just a fluffy image gallery packed with pretty pictures. Rebecca Dickson is an Austen scholar and instructor of writing and literature at the University of Colorado at Boulder with a doctorate in English Literature with a specialty in eighteenth-century writers. A professed Austen enthusiast since reading *Pride and Prejudice* in High School, Dickson has written an inspiring tribute to her favorite author geared to the everyman reader. Her style is open and engaging and I never once felt the scholarly mantle descend to befuddle the text. The opening introduction and short biography are followed by six chapters devoted to each of Jane Austen's major novels: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*. Within each novel chapter, Dickson not only discusses the novel's plot, characters, highlights and impact on classic literature, but places it in context to Jane Austen's life and her times. In the chapter on *Pride and Prejudice* for instance, she has included its publishing evolution from first draft in 1797 as *First Impressions*, to Austen's father's failed attempt at publication, to its final acceptance and publication sixteen years later in 1813, interweaving the changes in Austen's life and her financial situation adding impact and interest. Interspersed throughout the chapter are quotes from the text acting like 'fact bites' emphasizing important points. The images selected stunningly present illustrations from Austen's novels by the late Victorian artists Hugh Thomson, C.E. and H.M. Brock, vintage paintings and contemporary movie stills. The surprise bonus is removable reproductions of actual documents ranging from copies of handwritten letters by Jane Austen to a page of the rough draft of *Persuasion*.

My one disappointment (and it is a trifle) is in the cover design which is adequately pretty, but has nothing to do with Jane Austen, nor adds any Regency era feel or interest to entice buyers to open, explore and purchase this book. Given the length of thoughtful research and numerous images included in this glorious edition, one hopes that buyers will truly not judge its value by its cover. Highly giftable as an introduction to Jane Austen or as a tribute to the indoctrinated Janeite, reading this lovely volume will leave few in doubt of Jane

Austen's position as pop-culture icon and literary genius.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Bookworm says

This is a wonderful book for any Austen fan to add to their collection.

There are six chapters, one for each Austen novel. Each chapter discusses the specified novel as well as giving details about Austen herself and the time period she was living and writing in. You can tell author Rebecca Dickson did plenty of research for this book.

This hardcover book has Regency era illustrations throughout as well as photos from film and tv adaptations. I love that this book features removable memorabilia for Janeites to savor, complete with replicas of Austen's private letters.

Overall, a fantastic collectible for any Austen fan.

see my full review here

<http://thebookworm07.blogspot.com/201...>

Marilyn says

A collection of comments and explanations of Jane Austen's culture. So many of her books involve inheritances. Only the first son inherited property, so younger sons had to marry well or go into military or the clergy. All women were helpless financially, unless they could marry well, so both men and women were determined to "make a good match."

In Jane Austen's time, it was a chilly climate for women writers, yet she was compelled to tell the story of vulnerable women, being one herself. This book gives very good critiques of all six of her novels. It made me want to re-read some of them.

Nikki says

This is an absolutely beautiful book with all its period artwork, and it is surprisingly informative too, even to someone who has already read Jane Austen's letters and a handful of biographies about her. Best of all, it made me want to read through all of Jane Austen's novels yet again.

Bianca says

This is the perfect gift for a Jane Austen fan. It's filled with great illustrations and little envelopes containing reproductions of letters and snippets from Austen's own hand. The book is divided into chapters focusing on Austen's more major works and does a wonderful job of breaking down the story and drawing parallels with Austen's own life. The author includes explanations about the social norms of the time to put certain aspects

of the novels in to context. Yes, we all know that women were not in line to inherit, but do we know all the reasons? Are we aware of this fact when we read Emma? Do we properly understand how scandalous the Crawfords really were for their time?

What I appreciated the most about this was how the author acknowledges the opinions of people who hate Austen. Yes, there will always be people who absolutely hate her writing, but there are many more who have read her words without understanding fantastic, sarcastic, and somewhat cynical, observations she makes. Her books can be read as simple fluff, or they can be properly appreciated as the ironic statements on society that they were.

Judy says

It's been years since I read the classics by Jane Austen, and I don't know much about her or her family. So for me, the introductory chapter, which provides background info about the family, the time period, and the Austens' place in society, was very helpful. Austen was born in 1775, the year that the Colonies rebelled and the American Revolution began. That's a fact I should remember. Dickson describes the expectations of women living in England in the late 1700s and early 1800s. She then analyzes each of Austen's books in terms of the times.

This quote refers to the relationship between Jane Austen and her mother:

Mrs. Austen appears not to have understood her youngest daughter ... It is compelling to note that Austen portrayed the mothers in her books as silly, ineffectual, hysterical, absent, vain, or just plain dead.

There are six chapters, one for each of her famous novels. I read the first two chapters about Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice because I remember both of those books quite clearly. The third chapter focuses on Mansfield Park. I don't remember that story very well, so I will read it before I continue with this book.

Something tells me that I'll be re-reading many of my Austen books over the next few months, and I'll probably read more about Jane Austen.

I don't agree with everything Dickson says, but that's okay. It feels like a good book club discussion.

As for the "removable memorabilia," they didn't have to be removable (but they are fun diversions). They could have been reproduced as illustrations in the text.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

This book is simply wonderful! I found it at Barnes and Nobles in the bargain rack for \$20, I can't imagine how much it usually cost, but it looks like amazon is out of stock of it too.

This book is a collection of art work, copied manuscripts and letters by Jane Austen, and the author's commentaries on her works and life. It is a fantastic find, the copied manuscripts and letters come in these little envelopes that are removable and look so authentic! The book is about 150 pages long and it is loaded with information. I learned so much about Jane Austen and now understand her work in a new way. (And I

have read about her life and watched documentaries about her!!) The illustrations include pictures of Jane, pictures of her homes, early illustrations from her novels, and famous pictures that were made around her lifetime that illustrate scenes of life during Regency England.

The author is very knowledgeable and has done her research well. She has an introduction about Jane and then breaks down each novel comparing it to the world at that time and comparing it to our world we live in now. She mentions some movie adaptions and other authors' and scholars' thoughts about Jane as well. I didn't know that Charlotte Bronte had a strong dislike for Jane Austen's work "Jane Austen was a complete and most sensible lady, but a very incomplete, and rather insensible (not senseless) woman, if this is heresy-I cannot help it." Imagine her saying that Jane does not show enough feeling or passion in her work. In addition, the author displays what people thought of the book when it was first written. How readers believed Elinor did not behave wrongly and did not learn a lesson back then(women were supposed to be quiet and proper). However, now our society sees that Austen was telling us to not wear are hearts on our sleeves (Marianne) or to hold everything inside either (Elinor).

I highly recommend this book, it was wonderful to analyze the work of Jane Austen, I love looking at all the illustrations, and I will "treasure" all the little memorabilia! I now have a new appreciation for Jane Austen and her works and want to go read them all again with this new knowledge!! Definitely worth buying!

Kat says

This gem of a coffee-table book was sitting amongst the bargain books at Barnes & Noble when I spotted it. It's like opening up a treasure chest and finding some of Jane Austen's handwritten letters and drafts tucked neatly inside.

The book offers an introduction to Jane Austen and discusses the recent rise in her popularity (from the numerous screen adaptations of her novels to various biographies and fictional accounts of her life). The author also dives a bit into each of her six main novels, providing background on each work and making mention of the film/TV versions of those works.

The best parts of this book are the envelopes interspersed throughout that contain mini replicas of some of Jane Austen's writing, including a sample from her funny *History of England* parody, a letter she wrote to her sister Cassandra, and an edited draft of a chapter from *Persuasion*. It was chiefly for this reason that I purchased this book, but the other contents are worthwhile as well.

I know there are a lot of Jane Austen biographies out there, and this one doesn't hold a candle to some of the better, more detailed ones. But *Jane Austen: An Illustrated Treasury* is good for people who don't want to read just a straight text book about the author's life, and instead want to immerse themselves in her world (thanks to the scrapbook-style layout and various illustrations included). I highly recommend this book for any ardent Jane Austen fan who wants to add a different kind of Austen book to his/her collection.

Becca says

A good read for fans of Jane Austen that takes you inside Austen's world, with explanations of her writing, her life, and including documents such as handwritten letters, part of the rough draft of Persuasion, and illustrations.

Grace says

The author of this book has a different view on society than I do. It was very interesting to look at Jane Austen's works through another person eyes. Definitely a good read for anyone who enjoys Austen's works.

Jen says

This book is beautifully put together, and the various pull-outs and reproductions are fun. The tone is informal and approachable, and the content is a good balance of book summaries, historical background, literary analysis, and cultural influence.

Kristin says

Great book for Austen fans. I love the removable reproductions of letters, sketches, etc. inside. Also love the gorgeous, full page, Regency era art scattered throughout. There's a lot of basic information about Regency life, inheritance, titles, etc. I really enjoyed it, and it made me anxious to reread her novels again. :)

Connie says

A beautiful book so many little hidden treasures.

Eyebright says

Mostly I enjoyed this book, and I especially liked the little pieces that came out of the pockets. However, there was a little bit of totally unnecessary crude humor, and, in my mind, mistaken thoughts about Jane Austen and her characters. One of the biggest things that bothered me was that the author pretty much said that not many people like Fanny Price from Mansfield Park, because she is too good. Um, that's exactly why I like Fanny!
