



All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World

Kirstin Olsen

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Willoughby (*Sense and Sensibility*) drives a curricle not a gig - what does this say about him? Captain Wentworth (*Persuasion*) and Fanny's brother William (*Mansfield Park*) follow the 'King's Service' at sea - what sort of life did they find there? Lady Catherine de Bourgh (*Pride and Prejudice*) is called Lady Catherine, not Lady de Bourgh - what does this very important distinction signify? Abridged from the critically acclaimed *All Things Austen* (Greenwood, 2005), this similarly formatted encyclopedia takes readers from the works of Jane Austen into her universe. More than 70 alphabetically arranged entries provide rich and fascinating historical details on the form and function of everyday and obscure objects that are mentioned in her novels. A selection of illustrations accompany the lively and often humorous entries that bring her fiction to life.

Jane Austen's first readers would have needed no help in understanding references to their everyday lives. But early nineteenth-century card games, dining habits, social etiquette, occupations and dozens of other topics are not immediately clear to her readers nearly two hundred years later. In this encyclopedia, students and devotees of Jane Austen will become familiar with what her characters ate, wore and did for recreation. Impeccably researched information is presented about domestic items, the social scene, the workplace, the church, special events and rituals, and everyday customs that constituted life in Jane Austen's England.

Readers can find citations of specific works by Austen, or they can look up terms or concepts. A bibliography arranged according to broad subjects lists major works for further reading.

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