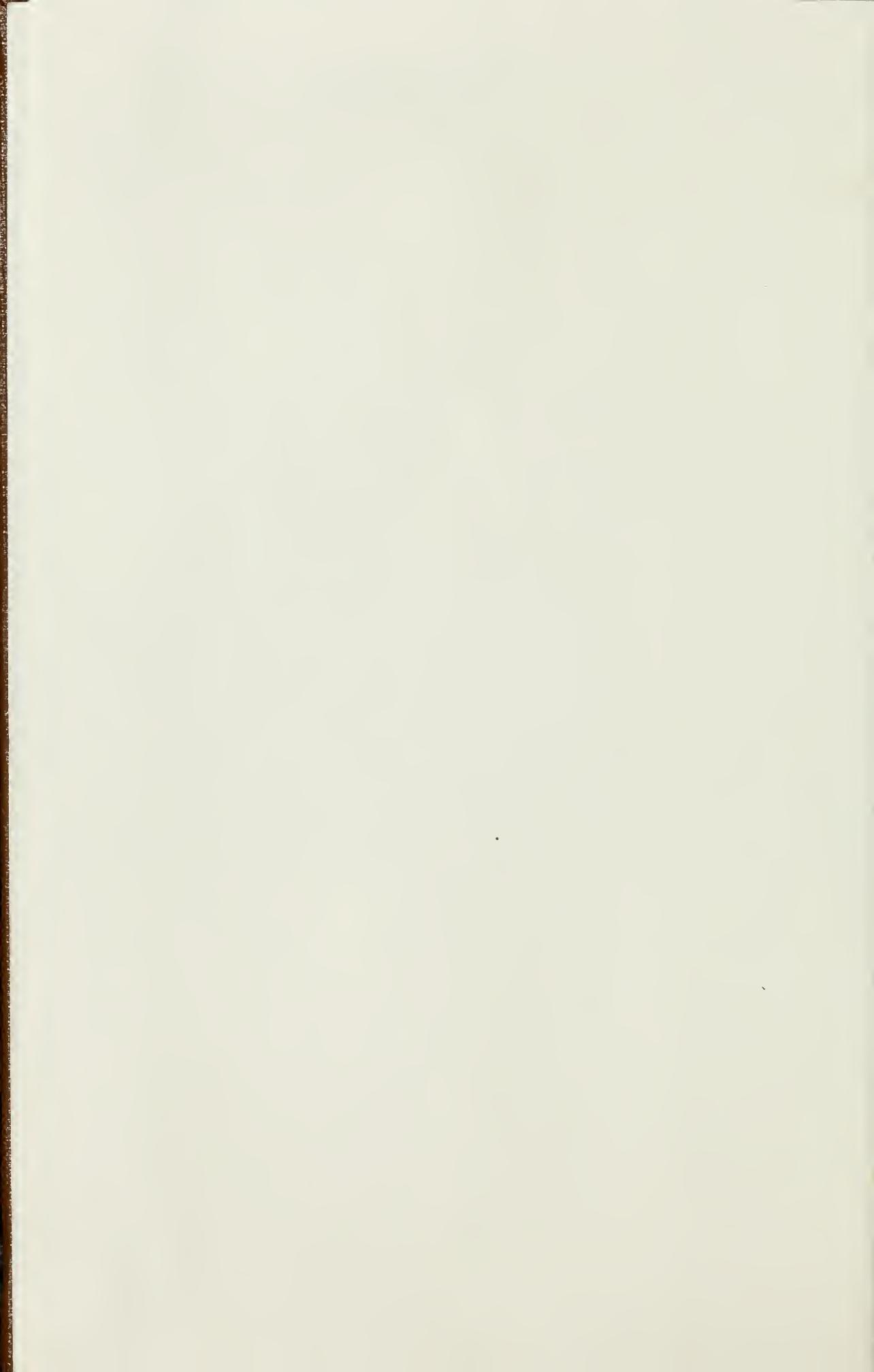




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THE NOVELS AND LETTERS OF  
**JANE AUSTEN**

Edited by

**REGINALD BRIMLEY JOHNSON**

with an Introduction by

**WILLIAM LYON PHELPS, Ph.D.**

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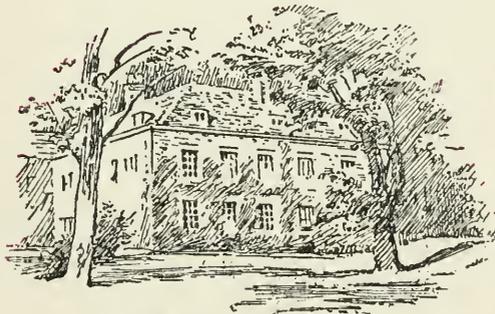
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R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON  
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PROF. WILLIAM LYON PHELPS, Ph. D.  
*Lampson Professor of English Literature,  
Yale University.*

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

**Part I**

With Colored Illustrations by  
C. E. and H. M. BROCK



The Old Manor Home of Deane.

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TO  
A. H. J.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF JANE AUSTEN

Born, December, 1775. Died, July, 1817.

*The following is a list of Miss Austen's novels, chronologically arranged, showing how many Editions of each were published in her life-time:*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Composition</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (In its present form) .	Nov. 1797-1798	1811, 1813
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, Oct.	1796-Aug. 1797,	1813 (2 edd.) 3rd ed., 1817
MANSFIELD PARK, . . . .	1811-1816,	1814, 1816
EMMA, . . . .	1811-1816,	1816
NORTHANGER ABBEY (with a Biographical Notice of the Author), . . . .	1798,	1818
PERSUASION, . . . .	1811-1816,	1818
LADY SUSAN, . . . .	1795,	1871
THE WATSONS, . . . .	1801-1805,	1871
LETTERS OF JANE AUSTEN, .	1796-1817,	1884
LETTERS OF JANE AUSTEN, .	1796-1817,	1884

In this edition the novels will be printed in the order of publication, and from the text of the

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

last editions revised by the author, in which the orthography is of course antique and not always consistent. For access to a set of first editions, and for other valuable assistance, I am indebted to the kindness of Miss Austen's grand-nephew, the Rev. A. Austen-Leigh, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, whose father wrote the memoir of her in the *Steventon* edition of her novels. My special thanks are also due to my sister, Miss Alice Johnson, for her careful revision of the introduction and helpful suggestions with regard to it.

R. B. J.

# Jane Austen



WEDNESDAY, 12 September, 1900, was a beautiful day. The sun shone brilliantly, and the air had quality. Early in the morning we said farewell to Salisbury's tall and crooked spire, and after an early lunch at high noon we visited the splendid old Norman Abbey church at Romsey. During the afternoon our bicycles carried us over an excellent road fringed with beautiful trees, and at Hursley we entered the sacred edifice where saintly John Keble held forth the Word of Life. We did homage at his grave in the churchyard, and gazed without emotion at the house of Richard Cromwell. Over the downs we pedalled merrily, and late in the afternoon, under the level rays of the September sun, we entered the ancient capital of England, the cheerful city of Winchester. Deep in the evening we saw the massive grey Cathedral glorified by the moon.

Hampshire rolled into the sunshine again on Thursday morning, and we visited the great Gothic church. The disappointment felt by most

## JANE AUSTEN

pilgrims at the rather forbidding exterior gave place to solemn rapture as we stepped within the portal. The vault of the immense nave, the forest of columns, the Norman transepts, all seen through the dim religious light, made one realise that a mediæval cathedral is the symbol of generations of human aspiration. It is a prayer in stone. We visited the tomb of Joseph Warton, who led the eighteenth century revolt against Pope Alexander, once thought to be infallible, we saw the grave of the gentle author of the *Compleat Angler*, and then we paused reverently by the last resting-place of Jane Austen—a woman of supreme genius, meek and lowly in heart. Hither she was borne on 24 July 1817, followed only by members of her family, who admired her talents, and loved her for the purity and sweetness of her character.

In the afternoon we sped northward to Steventon, the village made famous by her birth. The town is so small and otherwise insignificant as to have no railway station, and to be forgotten by mapmakers. It is indeed unknown to most Hampshire farmers, as we shortly discovered; for we dismounted and mounted our wheels many times, with enquiries that proved fruitless. We finally, however, reached the object of our quest. A small, mean, dirty village is Steventon to-day, graced only by beautiful hedgerows. The house

## JANE AUSTEN

where Jane Austen lived has long since disappeared, an instance—if any were needed—of how much more transient are the houses built with hands than those created by the imagination. Part of the site is marked by an old pump, which gives little idea of the well of inspiration used by the novelist. The present rectory is on a knoll of turf, commanding a pleasant view, but having little interest for the pilgrim; so we wended our way to the old church, where Jane heard her father preach and pray. In the autumnal twilight we pedalled on to Basingstoke, over a much better road than the Austens saw in their frequent journeys; and the Feathers being “full up,” we slept peacefully under the ægis of the Red Lion, who roared as gently as a sucking dove.

Jane Austen was born at Steventon, in the northern part of the county of Hampshire, on 16 December 1775. Her father was the Rev. George Austen, an Oxford man, who had received the neighbouring rectories of Deane and Steventon in 1764, the year of his marriage to Cassandra Leigh. Instead of bringing woe and death in her train, Cassandra brought the parson conjugal bliss and seven children, to one of whom she gave her own name, in defiance of augury. It is not true, as stated in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, that Jane was “the youngest

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