

A DELIGHT FOR THE MENTAL OR ACTUAL TRAVELER

Jane Austen's England: A Travel Guide

By Karin Quint

Translation from the Dutch by Karen Holt

ACC Art Books Ltd. (2019), 320 pages

180 color photographs + 17 maps

Paperback, \$19.95

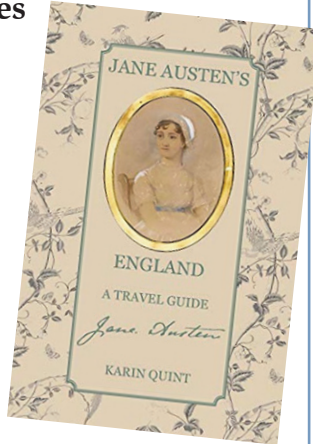
Review by Victoria Hinshaw

What could charm a Janeite more than a volume devoted to pictures and details on places Jane Austen knew, places her family knew, and even places used as settings for Austen movies and video projects? *Jane Austen's England: A Travel Guide* by Karin Quint is such a book. Whether the reader is dreaming of a visit to some of the sites or recalling past experiences on tour, the book is a delight.

Throughout, the reader discovers properties both familiar and unanticipated, certainly enough to make even the most experienced Austen tourists add to the list for their next trip. While this is a great asset of the book, the reader must be careful to distinguish between the places Austen visited, sites appearing in her novels and letters, and settings chosen by filmmakers for movie and television versions of Austenalia. Though we know many places she visited from her own and her family's letters, we also know that many "black holes" in our knowledge of Austen's life and travels persist. But who can predict when another note or fragment might turn up in an old chest or the pocket of a long-ago-discarded garment?

The volume begins with a brief summary of Austen's life followed by a sketch of relevant information on the time period in which she lived and wrote. We begin our travels in Hampshire, where Austen spent most of her life, from Steventon to Chawton to her burial place in Winchester Cathedral. The remainder of the nicely illustrated book is divided among London, Bath, and those areas of England in which she traveled, even places where she *might* have traveled.

Many years ago in Bakewell, near Chatsworth in Derbyshire, I stayed in the Rutland Arms Hotel. At the time, the hotel boasted about a room in which Austen stayed in 1811. According to Quint, the present owners no longer claim the author visited but will show you the chamber if asked. No confirmation of Austen's being in Bakewell or at Chatsworth has ever been verified, neither in her letters nor in the writing of her family and acquaintances.



Nevertheless, it is widely agreed that she knew of Chatsworth and probably used the estate as her model for Pemberley in *Pride and Prejudice*. Don't you love mysteries?

Should a book reviewer consider her subject a superior volume if she starts reading, gets lost in the subject, and totally forgets she should be a critic? This is precisely what happened to me and I hope you will be as fortunate.

Victoria Hinshaw is a JASNA Life Member. A graduate of Northwestern University (BS) and American University (MA), she is the author of numerous novels set in the English Regency and a frequent speaker on topics such as British stately homes and the works of Jane Austen.

KALEIDOSCOPE OF REGENCY LIFE

The Regency Years: During Which Jane Austen Writes, Napoleon Fights, Byron Makes Love, and Britain Becomes Modern

By Robert Morrison

W. W. Norton (2019), xv + 366 pages

45 b/w illustrations

Hardcover, \$29.95

Review by Janine Barchas

In his kaleidoscopic look at British life from 1811 to 1820, Robert Morrison presents the movers and shakers of the Regency as heralds of modernity. Rejecting the orthodox view that modern culture and consumerism were birthed by the Victorians, Morrison argues that the era of Jane Austen, not that of Anthony Trollope, ushered in the way we live now.

Austen, Burney, Byron, Carlyle, Keats, Scott, and both Shelleys make frequent appearances in this busy and accessible history, because, Morrison suggests, the pangs and triumphs of their writings reflect our fledgling selves.

Echoing historian Simon Schama's approach to the Dutch Golden Age, Morrison surveys the