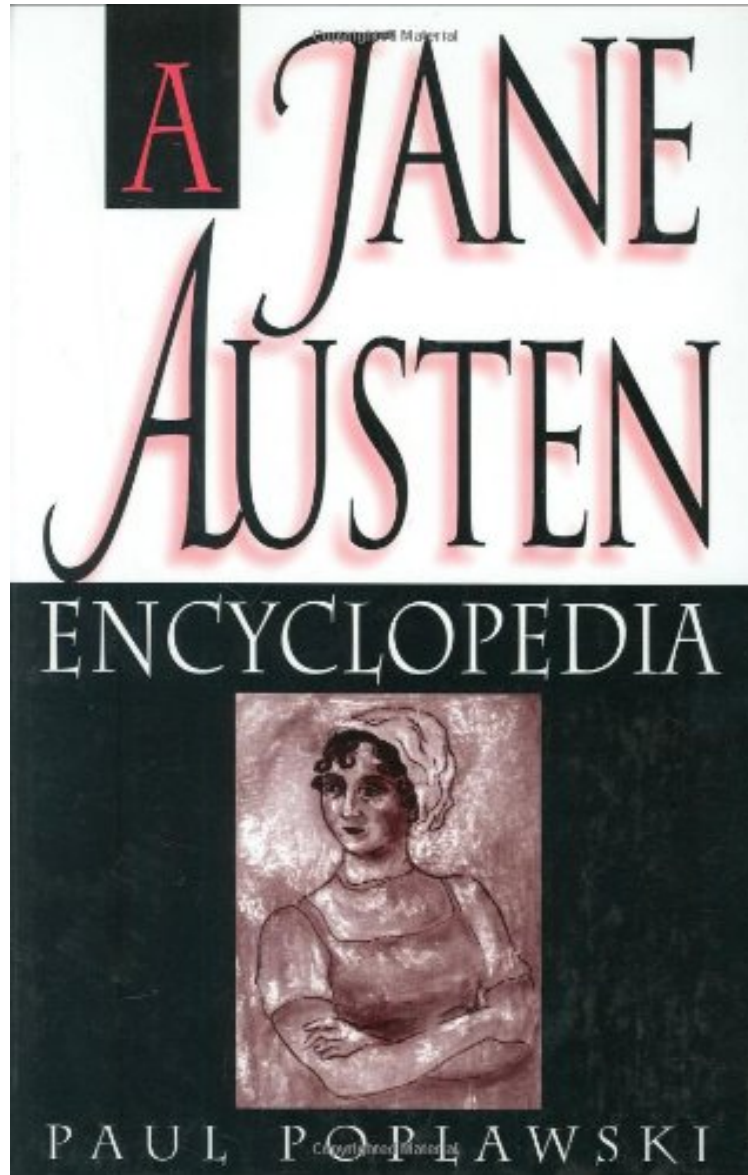


A Jane Austen Encyclopedia

Paul Poplawski

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Paul Poplawski : A Jane Austen Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Jane Austen Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good ReferenceBy Mary LouI love having this book handy when I can't think of a certain Austin character's name, or need a reminder on a plot point, for example. The alphabetical listing of all things Austen is wonderful, and the Encyclopedia contains synopses of each book along with an

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The book was in excellent condition upon arrival, and it arrived long before it was anticipated. Thank you for providing such important resources for the literary critic. I find most of my resource books from .com and this was a great bookshop to work with through that venue. Thank you.

Perhaps the first modern novelist, Jane Austen (1775-1817) has left an indelible mark on the world of letters. She is best known as the author of penetrating studies of domestic life and manners, and her novels such as *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), and *Mansfield Park* (1814) continue to be read and appreciated today. Yet Austen also wrote numerous other pieces and a substantial body of letters. While her novels have received large amounts of critical attention, scholars have also increasingly studied her other writings, and Austen scholarship continues to grow each year. This reference book is an accurate, comprehensive, and detailed guide to her life and career. A chronology outlines the principal events in her life and places her within larger literary and historical contexts. The several hundred alphabetically arranged entries that follow identify characters and family members, discuss works and themes, and synthesize the large body of criticism that has grown around her works. Every one of her texts, including all of her minor writings, has a separate entry, as have most of her fictional characters. Entries for individual works typically provide details of composition and publication, a plot summary and critical commentary, a list of characters, and bibliographical references. The volume closes with an extensive bibliography of works by and about her.

From *Library Journal*
This superb reference examines Austen's life, her work, and the body of criticism about both. The biographical sections consist of three chronological listings. They trace her life and literary development (with a map of key locations and a genealogical chart of the Austen family), the social and historical era in which Austen lived (with sketches of period costumes and methods of transportation), and the literary world in which she is embedded (including notes on books Austen read or knew). The heart of the encyclopedia is an alphabetical listing of extensive entries on her works, characters, plots, themes, and critical reception. This section addresses all of Austen's texts, be they juvenilia, minor works, or major novels. The work's final section, a three-part bibliography, lists all of Austen's works (with publication history and all scholarly editions); critical books on Austen published up to 1996 (presented in standard bibliography format and also in chronological order so that the development of Austen studies can be traced), and selected essays and articles. While there are many works on Austen and several good reference books on her work, most notably *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen* (Cambridge Univ., 1997) and David Grey's *The Jane Austen Companion* (Macmillan, 1986), this work is unique in its scope and in its integration of biographical, literary, and critical contexts. The straightforward style and wealth of information makes this work highly suitable for public libraries, but D.H. Lawrence scholar Poplawski (Trinity Coll.) has created an encyclopedia that is a boon to Austen scholars, making this an essential purchase for all academic libraries. ?Neal Wyatt, Chesterfield Cty. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From *Booklist*
As the creator of numerous memorable characters ranging from the lively and intelligent Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* to the slyly obsequious Mrs. Norris in *Mansfield Park* to the dashing but duplicitous Frank Churchill in *Emma*, Jane Austen has always had a large and devoted following that admires her scintillating wit, mastery of repartee, and sense of irony. A recent spate of film and television adaptations of her works, and the publication of three Austen biographies in 1997, have attracted scores of new readers to this beloved British writer. Thus, the time was ripe for this encyclopedia, the nucleus of which is a dictionary containing entries for Austen's works, her characters, and selected family members. Articles on Austen's major novels average 12 pages and include a detailed synopsis of the plot, publication information, a list of characters, and bibliographical references to critical sources. Character entries vary in length, but each provides a perceptive and finely honed description of the individual. Also notable are two general articles--criticism, which surveys selected critical and biographical writings on Austen, and themes and concerns, which discusses four thematic elements central to her works. Other features include chronologies that cover Austen's life and writings and outline major historical and literary events from the middle of the eighteenth century through 1820, a section of illustrations, a list of Austen's works, and extensive secondary bibliographies. The detailed index covers names and titles noted in both the chronology of Austen's life and the dictionary entries. A useful section under the heading themes and concerns, keywords provides references to mentions of topics such as dancing, health and sickness, social climbing, and theatricals. Unfortunately, these references can be misleading; for instance, the subentry wit and wittiness guides the user to the entry for Mary Bennet, who is decidedly lacking in this regard, but it does not refer to Elizabeth Bennet, one of the wittiest of Austen's characters. This compilation reflects meticulous research and a thorough knowledge of Austen's writings. However, Poplawski, a senior lecturer in English at Trinity College Carmarthen in Wales, could have increased its value by including articles on Austen's settings and associates, and on specific topics and themes; by providing a filmography of television and motion-picture productions of Austen's novels (or, at least, by mentioning film adaptations in entries for her works); and by acknowledging major Austen resources on the Internet, such as the wealth of material available through the Jane Austen Information Page at ley.com/janeinfo/janeinfo.html/. Because it

lacks these and other elements, this book is not the definitive reference work on Jane Austen. Earlier guides, such as J. David Grey's *The Jane Austen Companion with a Dictionary of Jane Austen's Life and Works* (Macmillan, 1986) and F. B. Pinion's *A Jane Austen Companion: A Critical Survey and Reference Book* (Macmillan, 1973), offer better coverage of Austen's world and her themes and settings, while George L. Apperson's *A Jane Austen Dictionary* (C. Palmer, 1932; repr. R. West, 1977) continues to be useful for identifying places, people, and titles mentioned in her writings. However, Poplawski's encyclopedia provides excellent plot summaries and character sketches, and it will be a valuable addition to high-school, public, and academic libraries. "This superb reference examines Austen's life, her work, and the body of criticism about both....this work is unique in its scope and in its integration of biographical, literary, and critical contexts. The straightforward style and wealth of information makes this work highly suitable for public libraries...Poplawski has created an encyclopedia that is a boon to Austen scholars, making this an essential purchase for all academic libraries."-Library Journal..."functions successfully as a ready-reference tool, an introduction to the work of Austen, and as a scholarly bibliography."-ARBA"Poplawski's is certain the most satisfactory work of its kind...not the least because the bibliography is as up to date as the logistics of publication could allow."-The Times Literary Supplement"[I]t offers much more than its title and structure suggest and is a rich source of information and stimulating ideas which constantly impel the reader on to the satisfactions of Jane Austen's texts."-D.H. 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