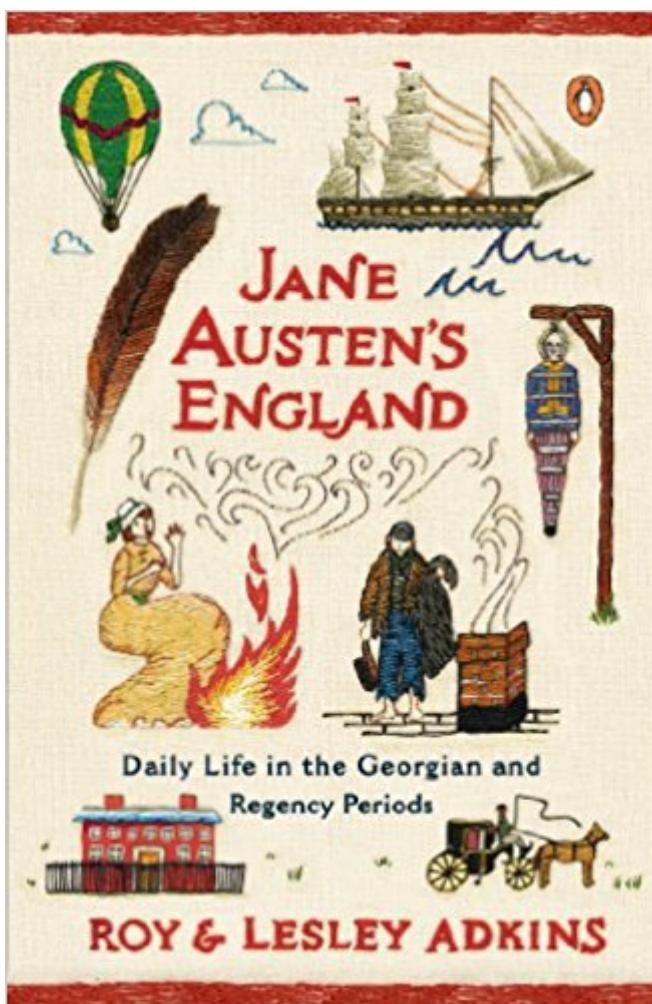


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Jane Austen's England: Daily Life In The Georgian And Regency Periods



Synopsis

An authoritative account of everyday life in Regency England, the backdrop of Austen's beloved novels. Nearly two centuries after her death, Jane Austen remains the most cherished of all novelists in the English language, incomparable in the wit, warmth, and insight with which she depicts her characters and life. Yet the milieu Austen presents is only one aspect of the England in which she lived, a time of war, unrest, and dramatic changes in the country's physical and social landscape. Jane Austen's England offers a fascinating new view of the great novelist's time, in a wide-ranging and richly detailed social history of English culture. As in their bestselling book Nelson's Trafalgar, Roy and Lesley Adkins have drawn upon a wide array of contemporary sources to chart the daily lives of both the gentry and the commoners, providing a vivid cultural snapshot of not only how people worked and played, but how they struggled to survive.

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Customer Reviews

"This is a lively and impressionistic guide to the age, enjoyable for those entirely new to the subject, but also for the better informed, who will not only discover new facts in its wealth of material, but appreciate the immediacy and flavour of its eye-witness accounts." ~Rosemary Goring, Sunday Herald

In reconstructing the lives of ordinary people in Georgian England, Roy and Lesley Adkins vividly evoke the ways in which wealth and poverty coexisted. This excellent book reminds us that Georgian England was as remote and alien to a modern sensibility as the Roman

Empire."~Nick Rennison, *Sunday Times*"A comprehensive survey of daily life in the time of Jane Austen, full of nuggets of surprising information ... a fine book for browsing."~Peter Lewis, *Daily Mail*"A fascinating read, incredibly well researched ... what stands out for me is the style in which it is written: when I had finished reading it, I kept dipping back into it!"~Sam Simmons, *Folklife Quarterly*"A brilliant chronicle of the period ... Start to finish, this is an authoritative and entertaining sketch of life during Jane Austen's time, to be savored again and again."~George Jepson, *Quarterdeck* "[An] enjoyable history."~*The New Yorker*"In the end, readers will probably do much better [in reading about Jane Austen's life] with Jane Austen's England by Roy and Lesley Adkins [a fascinating look at all sorts of social history stuff]."~George Fetherling, *The Vancouver Sun* "As this immensely useful and informative book makes clear, Regency England was no laughing matter."~Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post*"The authors provide a fascinating view of daily life in Britain during the late Georgian and Regency eras ... an excellent read, with each chapter offering a treasury of insights into the lives of Austen's contemporaries, both rich and poor."~Carmela Ciuraru, *USA Today* "Jane Austen's England paints a marvelous, comprehensive tapestry of daily life in Regency England ... a delightfully readable narrative, with many references to Austen's own life and novels that genuinely illuminate her stories. This is a wonderful companion book for anyone who fancies themselves a fan of Jane Austen or the Regency era."~Dana L. Huntley, *British Heritage* "This encyclopedic and entertaining volume will suit readers who daydream about going back in time to walk alongside literary figures such as Austen ... While familiarity with her work will surely enhance reader delight, knowledge of the primary sources isn't necessary ... readers will appreciate its exciting sweep."~*Publishers Weekly*"For fans of Austen and English history, a deeply informative picture of Regency life."~*Kirkus Reviews*"This is fascinating reading for any classical fiction or history enthusiast. And for Janeites? It's an essential guide to getting your Austenian life accurate to the last detail."~Kate Hutchings, *Huffington Post*"Here, we are at the heart of what drives Austen's characters, what preoccupies their minds and what must have preoccupied the mind of Austen and her sister Cassandra."~Katie Baker, *Daily Beast*"A fascinating insight into a long gone world."~Jad Adams, *Who Do You Think You Are?* Roy and Lesley Adkins vividly portray fascinating aspects of the daily lives of ordinary people in Georgian England. The book is eminently readable from cover to cover, or can be dipped into from time to time."~Julian Stockwin

Roy and Lesley Adkins are husband-and-wife historians and archaeologists and the bestselling

authors of Nelson's Trafalgar, Jack Tar, and The Keys of Egypt, among other books. They live in Devon, England.

I bought this book for my wife, who is a big Jane Austen fan. The book is not a novel; it has chapters about various aspects of life in England during the years of Jane Austen's life. I started reading the book myself and was captivated and surprised and much of the information--I read the entire book. The book is well written and has references to key sources to document the accuracy of the information. The book has chapters on living conditions, food, travel, health and medicine, crime, marriage, and many other topics. I learned that the characters in Jane Austen's books were wealthy and privileged, and thus they did not experience many of the challenges and hardships that most people experienced in England at that time. The book had many interesting and unexpected facts, such as: (1) people were put in jail for even minor crimes or even shipped out of the country, (2) grave robbers got body parts, such as real teeth from the dead that were then used as false teeth later for other people, (3) people did not want to travel much due to unmarked roads and robbers, and (4) even when they traveled, they did not want to stay at inns because of bed bugs (they sometimes sleep in the chairs instead of the beds because of this). Very interesting book. It helps you appreciate how some standardization of procedures and products today help us out so much.

This compelling, fascinating, and detailed book gives both Jane Austen fans and history buffs a look at what life was like outside tea rooms at Bath and dances in country manors. There are plentiful quotes from letters, diaries, and newspapers of that time to make personal the careful professional research that must have gone into writing the book. The "Some violence" rating box is checked only because the authors honestly describe the harsh living conditions of England's 18th century poor, including severe penalties for what we would think as merely a misdemeanor today and the heart-breaking, wide spread use of child labor. These facts give a firm foundation to the flights of fancy in Jane Austen's novels.

Valuable insight into daily life during the Georgian and Regency eras. Makes one very, very happy to read it. Living there is another story. No die-hard fan will wish for "simpler times" after reading the incredible adversities, poor plumbing, (read: NO plumbing) one went through- and that was the wealthy! Warning- animal lovers may want to skip many pages.

So much for the good old days! Be aware that the author doesn't sugar coat anything. Tells it like it

was and easy, interesting reading. My heart just broke when reading about the plight of the children in those days. This book will make you realize how blessed we are and thank the Lord you were born in modern times, in a first-rate nation. Excellent historical accounts.

This book is a great little history snapshot of Regency England. It answers lots of questions about the customs and lifestyle of this short and unique time in English history, and really helps to explain some quirky things in Jane Austen's novels. It can be read cover to cover, or flipped through repeatedly as a reference. I highly recommend this to any Jane Austen fan.

This is a great overview of times during Austen's life. The authors tie bits of Austen's life, letters, and books into the history of England during her life. It is not a biography of her life or a critique of her work, but of the England that she lived in. The chapters are divided into various aspects of life, which made it a fun read to me. The authors cover birth, marriage, crime, travel, medicine, etc. Interesting things like Luddites, grave robbing to supply training doctors with corpses, poor laws trapping people in their places of birth, etc, are all covered.

Observers of Jane Austen often remark about her omissions: she did not write about the political events of the period nor did she include much information about the lower classes. Instead of producing a broad picture of England at the time, her comment describing her work as "the little bit (two inches wide) of ivory on which I work with so fine a brush" indicates that these omissions were by choice. In Jane Austen's England, Roy Adkins provides this missing information. Most of his details tell of the difficult life of the lower classes. He organized the information into 12 chapters and carefully documented it with endnotes and a bibliography. This book is an excellent choice for a reader who wishes to know more about Jane Austen's world. On the other hand, I did not find that it was particularly helpful for a better understanding of Jane Austen as much of the information is not relevant to the focus of her stories of genteel young ladies overcoming impediments to finding a suitable husband. If Jane Austen had included more information about England, it would have ruined her stories. But this book does complement her work by describing the manners and customs of Englishmen who were not her characters.

This easy to read account of life in the time of Jane Austen's life is fascinating. The book covers so many facets of life and illustrates a very different experience than what Jane Austen portrayed in her

stories.

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