

Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts

Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts. <http://www.janeausten.ac.uk/index.html> (Last Accessed: 2017-01-03). Reviewed by

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Abstract

Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts Digital Edition (JAFM), edited by Kathryn Sutherland, provides high-resolution page images and diplomatic transcriptions for all of Austen's surviving fiction manuscripts (totalling approximately 1100 manuscript pages), all unpublished in her lifetime. It assesses the site's editorial principles, functionality, and contribution to Austen studies, digital scholarship, and textual editing. As a site that offers diplomatic transcriptions not reading texts — what Elena Pierrazo (the Technical Research Associate) has termed 'Digital Documentary Editions' — JAFM offers an excellent opportunity to investigate the ways in which the print paradigm for textual editing is being reimagined and reshaped for digital editions.

Introduction

Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts Digital Edition (JAFM) offers digital facsimiles and transcriptions of the approximately 1100 surviving pages of fiction written in Jane Austen's own hand. The 'Introduction to the Edition' notes that the collection offers a virtual reunification of Austen's manuscripts, most of which were dispersed after her death and subsequently sold to libraries and private collections in the UK and the US. The manuscripts offer a unique glimpse into Austen's career, for, '[u]nlike the famous printed novels, all published in a short span between 1811 and 1818, these manuscripts trace Jane Austen's development as a writer from childhood to the year of her death; that is, from 1787 (aged 11 or 12) to 1817 (aged 41).'

The Project Director and Principal Investigator of *JAFM* is Kathryn Sutherland, Professor of Bibliography & Textual Criticism at St. Anne's College, Oxford University. A leading Austen scholar and textual editor, Sutherland was joined by Technical Director, Dr. Marilyn Deegan, and Technical Research Associate, Dr. Elena Pierazzo (professors at King's College, London and Université Grenoble Alpes, respectively), as well as a large project team of technical and research associates from the Centre of Computing for the Humanities, King's College London; and Oxford University. Many private individuals and institutions contributed to the project through the rights to reproduce the page images, and the project was supported by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Resource Enhancement Scheme.

The main features of the edition are:

- Editorial Introduction, including technical introduction;
- High quality full-colour digital scans, taken for this edition, of all extant fiction manuscripts in Austen's hand;

- Full diplomatic transcriptions of all manuscript texts, produced and marked up using XML TEI, including metadata for each manuscript;
- Detailed descriptions of the physical manuscripts and conservation reports for each.

The site is easily accessible through several menus, with well-defined sub-menus. Personal contact information is provided for Kathryn Sutherland and Elena Pierazzo, and the website has its own general email ('austen-project@kcl.ac.uk').

Scope and Rationale of the Edition

JAFM confines itself to Austen's fiction manuscripts. While some of these manuscripts have been digitized elsewhere, they exist isolated on various institutional webpages such as the British Library. Often what is reproduced are selections from a manuscript (e.g. The British Library's version of Austen's 'History of England,' which is contained within a larger manuscript notebook known as 'Volume the Second.'). All of these manuscripts have been transcribed and printed in modern editions of Austen's works, but print facsimiles are often expensive or out of print, and no single book contains all of the facsimiles of the fiction manuscripts. The most recent student edition, *The Manuscript Works of Jane Austen* (Broadview 2012; ed. Linda Bree, Peter Sabor, Janet Todd), provides reading texts of select juvenile pieces from her three manuscript compilations ('Volume the First,' 'Volume the Second,' and 'Volume the Third'), and *Lady Susan*, *The Watsons*, and *Sanditon*, but not the cancelled chapters of *Persuasion*, which are included in the Broadview's edition of that novel (again as idealized reading texts). *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jane Austen* includes her manuscript works over three volumes: *Juvenilia* (2006; ed. Peter Sabor) includes reading texts with insertions and deletions included in footnotes, and a photographic facsimile of *History of England*, which was illustrated by Cassandra Austen; *Persuasion* (2006; ed. Janet Todd and Antje Blank) includes a facsimile of the cancelled chapters 10 and 11, and a reading text of the same (278-325); and *Later Manuscripts* (2008; ed. Janet Todd and Linda Bree), includes reading texts and diplomatic transcriptions for *The Watsons* and *Sanditon*, the two later manuscripts that are in draft form. Thus currently no print edition brings together all the manuscript material, and, in most accessible modern editions, facsimiles are not provided and transcriptions are not diplomatic, preventing access to the rich textual history of revisions contained within the manuscripts.

Although not all of Jane Austen's manuscripts are included (her letters, and some poetry, for example), *JAFM* fulfills its mandate to reproduce all the surviving fiction manuscripts, and understandably these are the documents that are of most relevance to scholars, being directly related to her fictional project and extremely difficult to access in by any other means, including in-person examination, as many of the documents are fragile. By supplying accurate diplomatic transcriptions of all manuscript documents, *JAFM* provides scholars, students and the general public with the ability to delve into Austen's processes of fictional composition. *JAFM* offers unprecedented access to high-quality digital surrogates and transcriptions of Austen's fiction manuscripts, opening up a range of opportunities for student engagement with issues ranging from Austen's material practices of writing to her development as a writer, from the nature of literary archives to the principles of scholarly digital editing (see Levy, 'Teaching'). An examination of *JAFM* can also engage students in questions about what is gained and lost in terms of the representation of original documents through the process of digital remediation.

JAFM offers a clear statement of its aims:

The focus of the present digital edition is three-fold: the virtual reunification of this significant collection of fiction manuscripts by means of high-quality digital photographic images; the linking of these images to fully encoded and searchable diplomatic transcriptions; and the creation of as complete a record as possible of the conservation history and current physical state of these frail objects.

JAFM, Introduction

There is also documentation of the project's methods of scanning. The encoding model is also provided in the 'Technical Introduction.'

This SDE contributes to wide public and scholarly interest in Jane Austen, supporting several forms of research inquiry. The detailed information provided about the material support of the handwritten documents — many are very small handmade booklets prepared by Austen herself — offers insight into her working methods. The provision of transcriptions of all of Austen's revisions — her cancellations, additions, some of which are very significant, as in the case of the final chapters of *Persuasion* — allow an unparalleled opportunity to witness the process of fictional creation. *JAFM* supports inquiry into the nature of her satire, the use of self-censorship, and the struggle to conclude her narratives, and allows us to see continuities as well as shifts in her practices and preoccupations across her career. By providing digital access to Austen's fiction manuscripts, *JAFM* also ensures the conservation of the physical manuscripts themselves, as scholars will, in most cases, no longer need to consult the originals.

Content of the Edition

Selection and Organization of Documents

■ Plan of a Novel, according to hints from | various quarters, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - [Text](#) - [Head Note](#) - [Facsimile](#)

Accession Number: MS. MA 1034.1

Content: miscellaneous

Type of Manuscript: Draft

Type of Support: Homemade booklet

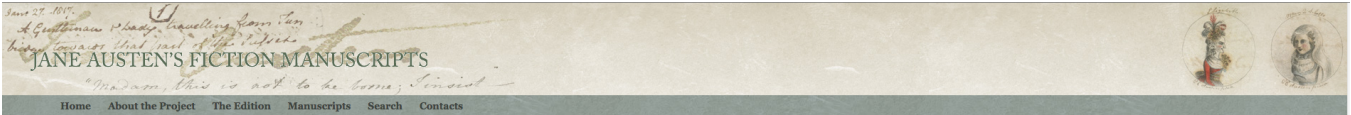
Metadata for Austen's 'Plan of a Novel'.

JAFM organizes itself by physical manuscript, which is appropriate given its materialistic understanding of textuality. We are provided with basic metadata for each manuscript, found by clicking the 'show all data' button on the Manuscripts index. The metadata for Austen's 'Plan of a Novel' is shown in Fig. 1.

Additional information about the physical manuscript is displayed in two other sources: in Head Notes and Conservation Reports. The 'Head Note' (see Fig. 2), linked through the Manuscripts index, offers information about

the structure and contents of each manuscript, according to the following criteria: a summary general description; an account of the provenance and history of its ownership; a physical description of the manuscript as a document or object and a technical analysis or collation of its structures; a description of the manuscript's contents.

JAFM, Headnotes



THE EDITION

Introduction

Editorial Principles

Acknowledgements

Abbreviations

Citation and Copyright

Manuscript Head Notes

Volume the First

Volume the Second

Volume the Third

Lady Susan

Susan

The Watsons

Persuasion

Sanditon

Opinions of Mansfield Park

Opinions of Emma

Plan of a Novel

Profita of my Novels

Conservation Reports

Technical Introduction

Plan of a Novel, according to hints from various quarters

MS. MA 1034.1, Morgan Library & Museum, New York
- See diplomatic display

Plan of a Novel was first printed, in selected form, in James Edward Austen-Leigh's *Memoir of Jane Austen* (1870), where he omits Jane Austen's original marginal notes with names of friends and correspondents responsible for the 'hints', thus weakening the flavour and sharpness of its comedy.¹ Having arranged the sale in 1925 of a family collection of several Austen manuscripts, R. W. Chapman prepared a transcription and facsimile edition of the major items: *Plan of a novel according to hints from various quarters, by Jane Austen; with opinions on Mansfield Park and Emma, collected and transcribed by her, and other documents printed from the original* (ed. R. W. Chapman) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1926). Only 350 copies were printed and the volume remains rare.²

Provenance

The manuscript descended from Cassandra Austen to the family of her younger brother, Charles Austen (1779-1852). Charles's daughter, Cassandra Esten Austen (1808-97), owned it and made it available when her cousin, Austen-Leigh, was preparing the *Memoir*. It remained in the family, eventually descending to the daughters of Charles Austen's son Charles John. Three of these daughters – Jane, Emma Florence, and Blanche Frederica Austen – offered for sale in 1925 a small collection of Austen manuscripts and memorabilia (among them some letters, verses, *Opinions of Mansfield Park*, *Opinions of Emma*, *Plan of a Novel*). The collection was brokered by R. W. Chapman, and divided chiefly between the British Museum and J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr. He acquired, among other items, *Plan of a Novel* for the Morgan Library.³

Physical structure

The manuscript, titled in the author's hand '*Plan of a Novel, according to hints from | various quarters.*' consists of a single piece of paper folded once to produce four pages. The piece of paper is one half of a sheet which has a 'Post' watermark and the date '1813'. This was folded to produce a quarto format, each page measuring 235 x 185 mm. The edges though cut, are slightly irregular, trimmed by hand, possibly by Jane Austen herself. Guides for left hand margins on each of the pages seem to have been produced by folding the edge over by 30-46 mm as Austen wrote.

The manuscript

The manuscript is unpaginated and written in black-brown iron-gall ink, with few corrections in a neat flowing hand. It clearly dates from the period of Austen's correspondence with James Stanier Clarke (1767-1834), Domestic Chaplain and Librarian to the Prince Regent. They were corresponding between November 1815 and April 1816.

Pagination and physical structures as they are recorded in the digital edition: [p. 1]-[p. 4]

See also the - conservation report.

Footnotes

¹ See *A Memoir of Jane Austen*, ed. Kathryn Sutherland (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 97-99 and accompanying notes. Back to context...

² Gillian Fy. Gileon notes that 'all facsimiles in Fy are of the exact size of the original'. Back to context...

³ R. W. Chapman 'A Jane Austen Collection', *Times Literary Supplement*, 14 January 1926, p. 27; Christine Nelson, 'Jane Austen in the Morgan Library: History of a Collection', unpublished paper presented to the New York chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America, 21 January 1995 (updated 2003) (unpaginated). It seems that through Morgan's generosity several items remained in Britain. See *Bodleian Quarterly Record*, 4 (1953), 279; and Gillian Fy. A detailed catalogue record for *Plan of a Novel* can be found on Corsair, the Morgan's online catalogue ><http://corsair.morganlib.org/> Back to context...

Head Note for Austen's 'Plan of a Novel'.

The detailed descriptions serve ‘as an aid to the reconstruction of the physical objects and to strengthen our view of their importance to the texts inscribed upon them.’ With size, paper, folding, and other elements of descriptive bibliography, readers can imaginatively reconstruct the originals. This detailed information can also help address the problem of two-dimensionality and resizing for screen viewing, which can distort manuscript viewing online.

Plan of a Novel

(Andrew Honey)

Morgan Library & Museum, New York, MA 1034

Two leaves of laid writing paper folded from a piece of paper to form a portrait-format bifolium of four pages (leaf size 233 x 186 mm.). Written and corrected throughout in iron-gall ink. Now hinged with Japanese paper to backing sheets (258 x 212 mm.) by the Morgan Library and kept within a folder with other similarly hinged items.

The two leaves were folded from a half sheet (233 x 374 mm.) of off-white handmade laid paper formed on a double-faced mould. The chain lines are horizontal to the page and the paper has a crowned post watermark over the date 1813 (watermark 162 x 58 mm.). The watermark was centred vertically on one half of the sheet of paper and now runs horizontally across the two leaves with the top of the watermark to pages 1-2. The watermark reads correctly from the felt side of the paper (pages 1 & 4). The trimmed size of the half sheet is 233 x 374 mm, which allowing for a modest trim implies a sheet size of approximately 476 x 384 mm. or *post*. The head, fore-edge and tail edges of the folded paper have all been trimmed and are slightly irregular. They were not trimmed against a straight edge or with a stationer's plough and would seem to have been trimmed after folding. The cut edges are not coloured or gilded.

A guide for a left-hand margin on each of the pages was produced by folding the left hand edge of each leaf in sequence by 30-46 mm. First the spine edge of the folded bifolium was folded once to give a margin to pages 1 and 3. Page 1 was then written, the leaf was turned and its left edge folded to produce the guide for page 2. Pages 1 and 3 were then written (page 3 has the same margin as page 1), finally the second leaf was turned and its edge folded to produce the guide for page 4.

The two leaves have the impression of a further valley fold, centred and running vertically through both leaves, probably from early storage. There is an adhesive residue to the spine edge of page four probably from earlier mounting. The spine fold is entirely split and both leaves have small tears to their tail edge. All of these have been repaired with Japanese paper by the Morgan Library.

Conservation Report for 'Austen's Plan of a Novel'.

The Head Note provides a link to the 'Conservation Report' (see Fig. 3), prepared by Andrew Honey, Conservator, Bodleian Library, Oxford, for some of the manuscripts. It might be useful to consider combining the Head Note and Conservation Report, as some information is duplicated. In some instances, the technical language in these sections could benefit from further explanation.

Editorial Principles and Aims

Each document is transcribed according to clearly articulated 'Editorial Principles.' The transcriptions aim

DOI: 10.18716/ride.a.5.1

Page 4

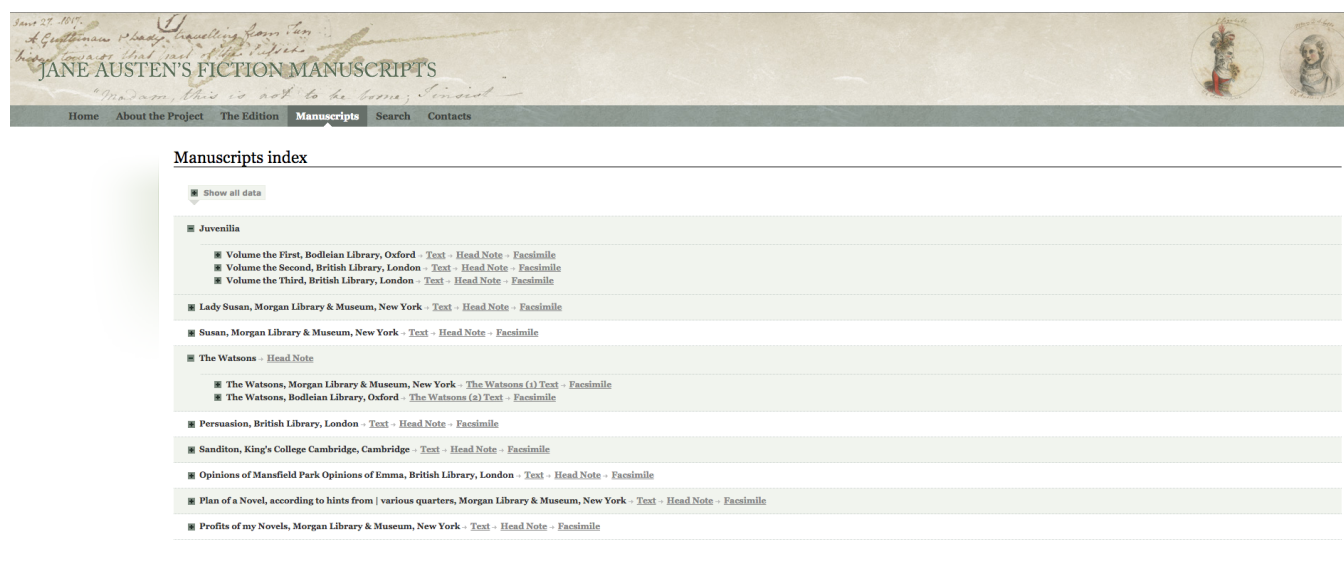
to be faithful to Austen's spelling, paragraphing, and punctuation; to her abbreviations and other distinctive features of her writing hand: her long 's' (ſ) and ampersand (&) are preserved, as is her use of underlining. Line and page breaks are carefully followed; all signs of revision and correction are transcribed as they occur in the body of the text.

JAFM, Editorial Principles

No reading/ideal texts are represented. It is not known whether XSLT transformations could have been used to render a reading text from the underlying XML markup, however, given the layers of emendation to some of the manuscripts (particularly *The Watsons*, *Persuasion*, and *Sanditon*) this may have presented challenges. In any event, as discussed above, all printed versions of the manuscript writing include reading texts, usually exclusively. The editors of *JAFM* thus supplement the existing scholarly record by emphasizing the physical manuscripts and, with diplomatic transcriptions alone, the instantiations of the texts they represent.

Traditional textual criticism of the manuscripts, provided in most print editions, is absent from *JAFM*. According to the editors, *JAFM* plans to release a print edition of the digital edition that will be 'enhanced by richer annotation, discursive essays on the genesis and composition of the manuscript works, and consideration of their relationship to Austen's printed fiction.' (*JAFM*, Output) However, what a print edition will gain in terms of editorial commentary and analysis, it will almost certainly lose in terms of functionality. The facsimile of the cancelled *Persuasion* chapters, included in the printed Cambridge Edition, offers a case in point: reproduced in grayscale, the manuscript pages are illegible in places due to fading and overwriting. These problems are overcome in high-resolution digital reproductions, which can even, in some cases, improve upon the original (O'Driscoll and Pierazzo, 5). Each manuscript is encoded within a separate XML file using *JAFM*'s encoding guidelines; and each file is transformed into the diplomatic transcriptions using an XLSX style sheet.

Presentation

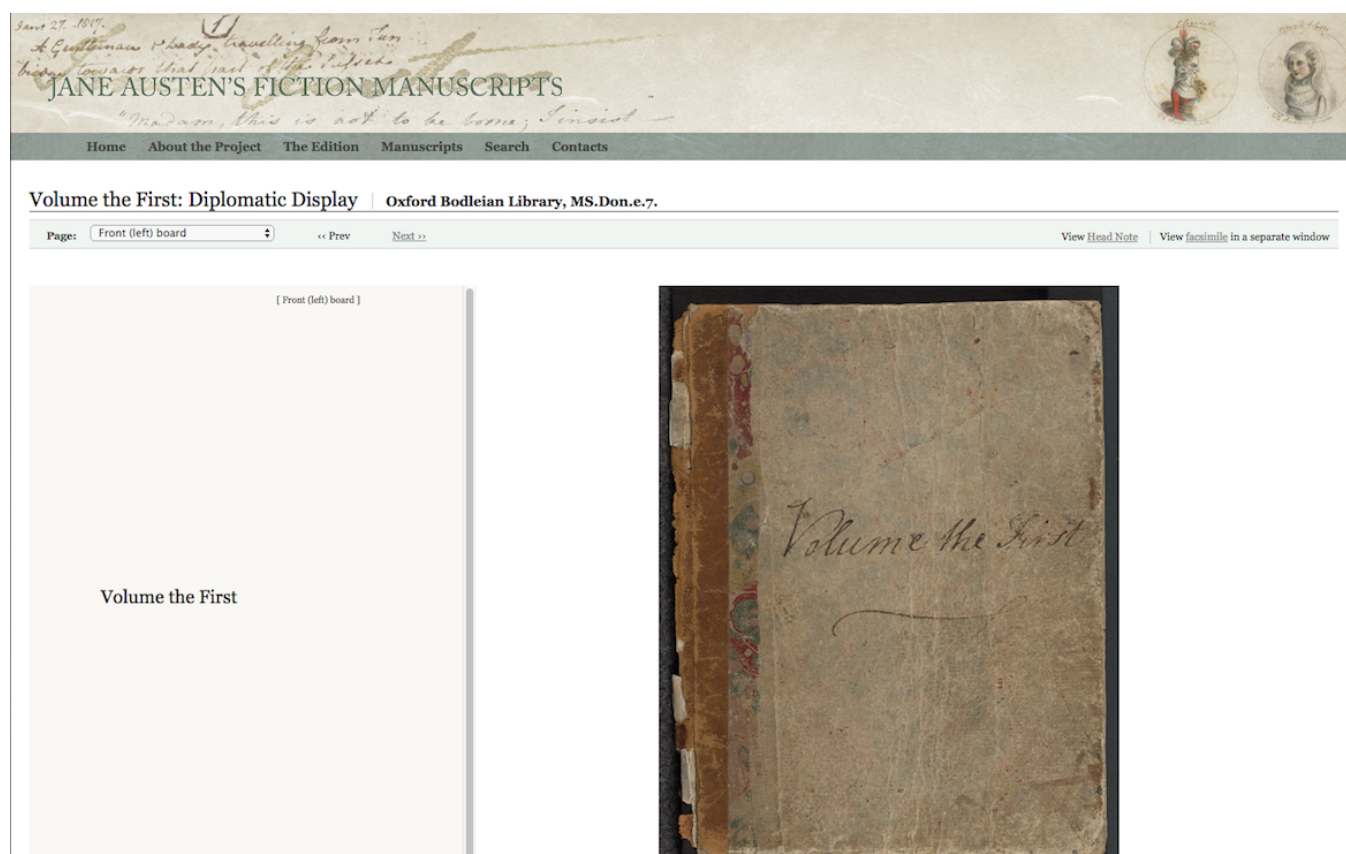


Manuscripts index

- ☐ Show all data
- Juvenilia**
 - Volume the First, Bodleian Library, Oxford - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
 - Volume the Second, British Library, London - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
 - Volume the Third, British Library, London - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Lady Susan, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Susan, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- The Watsons - Head Note**
 - The Watsons, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - The Watsons (1) Text - Facsimile
 - The Watsons, Bodleian Library, Oxford - The Watsons (2) Text - Facsimile
- Persuasion, British Library, London - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Sanditon, King's College Cambridge, Cambridge - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Opinions of Mansfield Park Opinions of Emma, British Library, London - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Plan of a Novel, according to hints from | various quarters, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - Text - Head Note - Facsimile
- Profits of my Novels, Morgan Library & Museum, New York - Text - Head Note - Facsimile

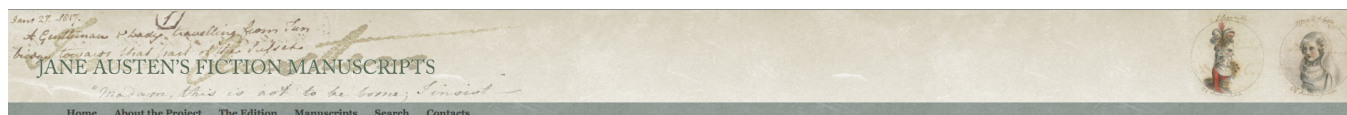
Browsing from Manuscripts index.

The Manuscripts index (Fig. 4) is the portal to the main data in the site, though it is not readily obvious, from the options given, of 'text,' 'headnote,' and 'facsimile' that the first ('text') brings a user to the diplomatic display, with the transcription on the left, facsimile on the right, and dropdown menu to navigate to different page images [e.g. 'b1-front cover,' 'b1-1,' etc.] (Fig. 5); the second ('headnote') to the description of the physical manuscript (Fig. 6); and the third ('facsimile') to thumbnails of all page images, which can be expanded to view each page image separately (Fig. 7). One small complaint is that it is not easy to access the individual pieces within the three juvenilia volumes, 'Volume the First,' 'Volume the Second,' and 'Volume the Third': a submenu would be extremely helpful, to allow users to navigate directly to the desired text.



Diplomatic Display of 'Volume the First'.

Once one understands the different modes of display, navigating and interacting with the manuscripts becomes easier within JAFM. Common visual patterns are utilized through the site (menus as sidebars, headers, in expected places); and drop-down and expandable menus, and links, are also intuitive. The user is usually aware of her place in the site, and of the content being displayed. Consider the diplomatic transcription and page image from *Sanditon* (Fig. 8). Here, information is visible in the header (name of manuscript, 'Sanditon'; type of display, 'diplomatic'; location of physical MS, 'King's College...'); the drop-down menu in the upper left indicates which page is currently being displayed (b1-1), with links to move forward and backwards; the links in the upper right allow navigation to view the Head Note of the facsimile view; and the overarching header menu is always visible.



THE EDITION
Introduction
Editorial Principles
Acknowledgements
Abbreviations
Citation and Copyright
Manuscript Head Notes
• Volume the First
• Volume the Second
• Volume the Third
• Lady Susan
• Susan
• The Watsons
• Persuasion
• Sanditon
• Options of Mansfield Park
• Options of Emma
• Plan of a Novel
• Profits of my Novels
Conservation Reports
Technical Introduction

Volume the First

MS. Don. e. 7, Bodleian Library, Oxford

– See diplomatic display

The manuscript takes its name from the inscription on its upper cover. It is a fair copy, written out in Jane Austen's own hand as a compilation of sixteen of her early short works in a variety of genres (stories, playlets, verses, moral fragments). Austen used a ready-made bound blank stationer's notebook and, according to a final inscription, completed the transcription on 3 June 1793. The youthful form of the hand in its opening sections and the circumstantial detail, later recalled in conversation with her 12 year old niece Caroline (that she had begun writing far too young),¹ suggest that Austen was composing the earliest pieces around the time she left the Abbey School in Reading – that is, aged 11 or 12. (She left school in 1786 and would have been 12 in December 1787). Each of the three juvenile notebooks contains internal details that date some of its pieces. These dates, together with the evidence of changes in Austen's hand, make it clear that *Volume the First* contains both the earliest *and* the latest items collected within the three juvenile notebooks.² Her nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh, included one item, the playlet 'The Mystery', from *Volume the First* in the second edition of his *Memoir of Jane Austen* (1871), perhaps transcribed from a copy made for him of selected extracts from various Austen holograph manuscripts.³ The manuscript was first published in 1933 in an edition uniform with his earlier transcriptions of the mature fiction manuscripts, by R. W. Chapman, and was bought for the Bodleian Library in the same year.

Provenance

Jane Austen died in July 1817 and, by the terms of her will, her sister Cassandra (1773-1845) inherited her manuscripts. In compliance with the annotation to the notebook's front pastedown,⁴ *Volume the First* went at Cassandra's death to their youngest brother Charles (1779-1852), and it remained in his family, descending to his eldest daughter, Cassandra Esten (1808-1897), and then to Cassandra Esten's nieces, the daughters of his son Charles John Austen. Three of these daughters – Jane, Emma Florence, and Blanche Frederica Austen – all impoverished spinsters, sold various Jane Austen manuscripts in the 1920s, though *Volume the First* does not appear listed among them.⁵ There is some uncertainty surrounding its ownership when Chapman tracked it down in November 1932 and arranged its purchase by the Friends of the Bodleian Library, for £75. The sale was completed in January 1933 but Chapman retained possession of the notebook for several months, during which time he transcribed and edited the contents for the Clarendon Press (pp. ix, 140, 5 shillings).

The notebook

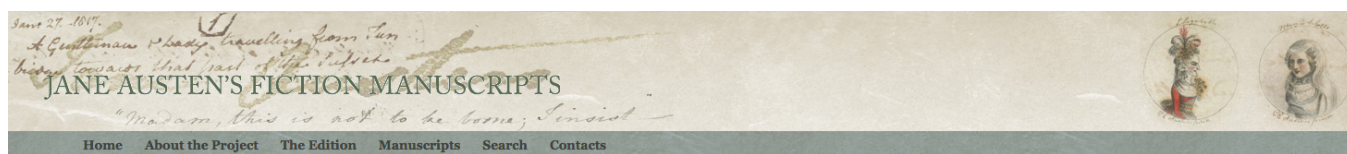
The manuscript is written into a shop bought late eighteenth-century quarto stationer's notebook impossible to date precisely. It is bound with quarter tanned sheep over boards sided with marbled paper. The edges of the leaves are plain cut and sprinkled red. The text-block comprises six quires of 16 leaves each. Quire 5, with 18 leaves, has an extra bifolium which may be a binder's mistake. The three outermost leaves of both the first and sixth quires are used as pastedowns. The paper used is laid and of a single stock with an undated watermark and countermark (figure of Britannia and the royal cipher 'GR' surmounted by a crown).⁶

Dimensions: 204 x 161 x 20 mm. (Text-block 199 x 160 x 16 mm.)

Foliation: iv + 180 pages.

Headnote Display of Austen's 'Volume the First'.

Accessing some of the technical and editorial content offers some challenges. The 'Methodology' section in 'About this edition' recapitulates some of the more detailed content in the 'Editorial Principles' and 'Technical Introduction' submenus under 'Edition.' As with the 'Head Note' and 'Conservation Report,' merging of some of this information would be optimal.



Volume the First: Facsimile Display | Oxford Bodleian Library, MS.Don.e.7.

PAGES 1 - 20 OF 193

<< First < Prev 1 2 3 ... 6 Next > Last >>



Front_(left)_board



Front (left) pastedown



Front (left) pastedown (reverse)



A



Av



i



ii



iii



iv



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

<< First < Prev 1 2 3 ... 6 Next > Last >>

Facsimile Display of Austen's 'Volume the First'.

The search function is simple to use, although it is somewhat limited (to keyword searches) and it is not immediately self-evident what is searchable. A drop down menu indicates, however, that what is searchable are the transcriptions of the manuscript texts themselves; and it is possible to facet the search by selecting

various manuscripts. It appears that the metadata and editorial content are not searchable. With the encoding that has been done, it seems like a richer search interface might be possible; to search for cancellations, for example.

High quality digital images are central to the edition. The editors are mindful, however, that digital images are always imperfect remediations of the original. Thus,

great care has been taken to limit certain kinds of enhancement (cropping, scale distortion, erasure of blemishes, flattening) all too frequent (and all too ignored) in the substitution of digital facsimile for original. At the same time, other enhancements are positively embraced: notably the capacity to magnify difficult words or passages and to focus upon manuscript's graphic values. As a result, an edition incorporating facsimile images makes greater interpretative demands on compilers and users: fidelity to an original is always under critical scrutiny.

JAFM, Introduction

The material focus of the edition informs the decision to represent, via diplomatic transcription, all lexical features of the text, and likely also explains the decision to allow diplomatic transcriptions to be viewed only beside facsimile image (not independently). Given what we are learning about screen reading, having the opportunity to download — and print — complete transcripts would be very helpful, particularly given that many of the texts are long, and clicking through each page takes some time. Facsimile images *can* be viewed independently of the transcriptions, allowing them to be magnified for better examination.



Sanditon: Diplomatic Display | Cambridge King's College Cambridge, No Accession Number

Page: b1-1 | << Prev | Next >> | View Head Note | View facsimile in a separate window

Jan: 27. -1817. [1]

A Gentleman & Lady travelling from Tun-
bridge towards that part of the Sussex
Coast which lies between Hastings &
E. Bourne, were, on quitting the high
road, & toiling up a very rough Lane
were
through a rough Lane, overturned in
half rock, half sand.
toiling up its' long ascent - The accident



Diplomatic Display of Austen's Sanditon.

The transcriptions are themselves meticulous, with every attempt having been made to represent all legible elements. Any points of uncertainty respecting the transcriptions have been noted. The edition also notes changes in hands (a quill pen signifies in the transcription where someone else (other than Austen) has contributed to the manuscript, and hovering over this pen will tell the user whose hand it is; this makes the

feature unobtrusive). In Fig. 9, we see how the edition signals the hand shift, with the quill, and the hover popup indicating that it was James Edward Austen who made these additions at the end of 'Catherine, or the Bower,' a story in 'Volume the Third.'

Page: 124

<< Prev

Next >>

View Head Note

View facsimile in a separate window

such a Manner, but for a Motive like this

unanswerable." Satisfied, beyond the power

of Change, of this, she went in high spirits

to her Aunt's apartment, without

giving a Moment's recollection on the vanity

of Young Women, or the unaccountable

conduct of Young Men.——

¹⁴ Kitty continued in this state of satisfaction

during the remainder of the Stanley's visit —

Who took their leave with many pressing

invitations to visit them in London, when

as Camilla said, she might have an

Footnotes

Quill signifying change in hands.

The citation/use guidelines for the website are clearly articulated; the complete citation is given at the beginning of this review. The edition is freely available, and copyrighted with a no derivatives licence. Copyright for all images is vested in the libraries and owners of the manuscripts, and, understandably, their permission must be sought for any reproductions. Regrettably, none of the data on the site can be harvested or downloaded, with neither the XML nor the metadata being publicly accessible. Access to the XML could be useful for those interested in data mining Austen's manuscript works, and for experimenting with other transformations, such as genetic models. Furthermore, it would be helpful to understand the editors' interpretation of the manuscripts themselves as it is embedded in the encoding; providing access to the XML files would also help to answer the call Digital Humanities scholars have made to recognize the interpretative labour of markup.

JAFM has not been integrated into other systems, such as NINES, which 'aims to gather the best scholarly resources in the field and make them fully searchable and interoperable.' (NINES, About) Nor does the edition have any social media links. The information pages are somewhat optimized for mobile, but the manuscript pages remain in desktop orientation (i.e. not optimized).

Conclusion

Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts may be classified as a Scholarly Digital Edition (SDE), as defined by the IDE and Sahle 2016. It provides a clear editorial rationale for its decisions, and follows through with accuracy and thoroughness. Through her work on JAFM, Elena Pierazzo has developed an account of the nature and importance of what she terms 'Digital Documentary Editions.' Pierazzo defines these as 'the recording of as many features of the original document as are considered meaningful by the editors, displayed in all the

ways the editors consider useful for the readers, including all the tools necessary to achieve such a purpose.' (Pierazzo 2011) *JAFM* satisfies these conditions, with its commitment to bring Austen's manuscripts, and with it her words and practices, alive to both the expert and general reader.

Through Pierazzo's and Sutherland's scholarship in *JAFM* and other publications, we have an example of how the development of SDEs can impact editorial theory and digital scholarship. The editorial principles articulate the special features of *JAFM* and suggest its wider contribution:

A particular feature of this edition is the evidence provided for the relationship between the manuscripts as linguistic structures (as words, phrases, punctuation) and as the physical documents that support those structures (quires of paper, folded into homemade booklets or bought already bound into blank notebooks). It is an edition of a series of objects as well as of their texts. This more than any function of the digital medium sets it apart from previous Austen manuscript editions, changing its relationship to its materials. Information (under 'the notebook' or 'physical structure') in the Head Note attached to each manuscript is offered as an aid to the reconstruction of the physical objects and to strengthen our view of their importance to the texts inscribed upon them.

JAFM, Editorial Principles

According to Patrick Sahle, '[a] *scholarly edition is the critical representation of historic documents*.' (Sahle 2016) In *JAFM*, this critical element is provided through the detailed documentation of the materiality of Austen's manuscripts. Ranging from the handmade booklets in which she drafted her fiction to the store-bought notebooks into which she copied her juvenile writing, *JAFM*'s editorial commentary and digital editing protocols enable users to think about Austen's writing processes in uniquely valuable ways.

In a recent article, Laura Estill and I have argued that the digital remediation of women's manuscripts is of great importance to 'the ongoing recovery and theorization of women's engagement with literary culture.' At the same time we believe that attention to manuscripts can challenge 'the traditional distinctions and hierarchies between script and print, amateur and professional, non-literary and literary.' (Estill and Levy 2016) Austen's manuscripts are a case in point, as they reveal a writer who was at once a playful amateur and a working professional writer, who moved between different modes of writing, for different audiences, throughout her career, dissolving many accepted categories within literary history.

JAFM could benefit from updates and enhancements, some of them suggested in this review. Supplementing the edition with additional images and videos of scholars and curators handling the manuscripts (some of which have already been made with Sutherland's involvement, see references below) would help to inform readers about the scale and construction of Austen's drafting surfaces. If it is possible at some point in the future to integrate the contextual editorial work as promised for the print edition, *JAFM* would combine the best qualities of print and digital editions. Access to the XML markup would also serve the interests of using the edition as a tool for teaching the encoding of complex and dynamic manuscript objects, and would empower users to utilize the markup language to work with different textual outputs.

These suggestions are made with full knowledge of the expense and resources needed to keep the site functioning in a steady state. One of the challenges digital editions impose is the need for ongoing maintenance, improvements are often beyond consideration. The print paradigm which has supported editorial scholarly output must be rethought in order to sustain existing scholarly digital resources and to support their ongoing development.

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Figures

Metadata for Austen's 'Plan of a Novel'.

Head Note for Austen's 'Plan of a Novel'.

Conservation Report for 'Austen's Plan of a Novel'.

Browsing from Manuscripts index.

Diplomatic Display of 'Volume the First'.

Headnote Display of Austen's 'Volume the First'.

Facsimile Display of Austen's 'Volume the First'.

Diplomatic Display of Austen's Sanditon.

Quill signifying change in hands.

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