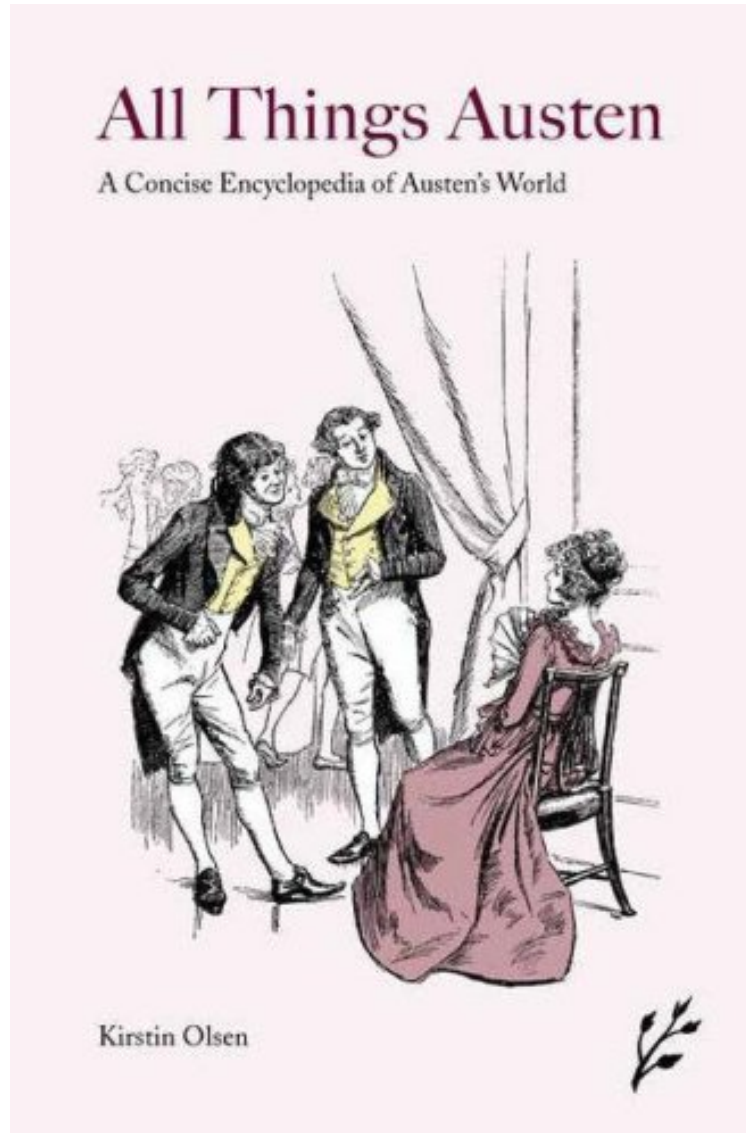


[Download] All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World

## All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World

*Kirstin Olsen*

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**Kirstin Olsen : All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A great resource into Austen's cultural, political and physical worldBy Laurel AnnDid you know that a phaeton was one of the most dangerous carriages used in the Georgian and Regency period? Its tall design and overall lightness made it vulnerable to tipping, and may be one of the reasons why

Jane Austen chose to use it in the carriage accident scene in her early novel *Love and Friendship*. Knowing this fact sheds a whole new light when we see one used again in *Pride and Prejudice* by the heiress Anne de Bourgh. Is Austen sending us another message by her selection of carriage? Unless the reader knows the difference between a phaeton, barouche or gig and their safety, they are missing out on important character analysis. *All Things Austen: A Concise Encyclopedia of Austen's World* can clarify the puzzling bits about the Georgian and Regency world. Offering modern readers a great resource into Austen's cultural, political and physical environments, this concise volume is arranged alphabetically by topic and cross referenced to actual passages in the third edition of the *Oxford Illustrated Novels of Jane Austen*. Readers can identify items or subjects mentioned in her text and discover their use or meanings in context to the times. With well over 70 topics ranging from social titles and rank, life in the military or taking the waters in Bath, each well researched and expertly described entry will give Jane Austen students and devotees a wealth of historical and cultural information. This new volume is actually a condensed version of *All Things Austen: An Encyclopedia of Austen's World*, an extensive two volume set published in 2005. Author Kirstin Olsen has paired down her full encyclopedia by selecting key topics still supplying more than enough information to keep you well informed and reading for hours. Her meticulous research is written in a style accessible to the average reader, yet offering enough detail to intrigue the serious student. A perfect reference for Austen students, enthusiasts or Regency era writers, my only disappointment was in the quality and quantity of illustrations. She does offer reference call numbers to images viewable online at the Lewis Walpole Library to explore them in color and greater detail. Considering that this is a condensed edition, this is an excellent additional resource to readers with Internet access. Please do not be put off by the blatant error in the first line of the liner notes associating Willoughby with the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. Ms. Olsen obviously did not write them, and considering her monumental effort, this editing oversight should not disqualify this book's greater benefits.

Willoughby (*Sense and Sensibility*) drives a curricle not a gig - what does this say about him? Captain Wentworth (*Persuasion*) and Fanny's brother William (*Mansfield Park*) follow the 'King's Service' at sea - what sort of life did they find there? Lady Catherine de Bourgh (*Pride and Prejudice*) is called Lady Catherine, not Lady de Bourgh - what does this very important distinction signify? Abridged from the critically acclaimed *All Things Austen* (Greenwood, 2005), this similarly formatted encyclopedia takes readers from the works of Jane Austen into her universe. More than 70 alphabetically arranged entries provide rich and fascinating historical details on the form and function of everyday and obscure objects that are mentioned in her novels. A selection of illustrations accompany the lively and often humorous entries that bring her fiction to life. Jane Austen's first readers would have needed no help in understanding references to their everyday lives. But early nineteenth-century card games, dining habits, social etiquette, occupations and dozens of other topics are not immediately clear to her readers nearly two hundred years later. In this encyclopedia, students and devotees of Jane Austen will become familiar with what her characters ate, wore and did for recreation. Impeccably researched information is presented about domestic items, the social scene, the workplace, the church, special events and rituals, and everyday customs that constituted life in Jane Austen's England. Readers can find citations of specific works by Austen, or they can look up terms or concepts. A bibliography arranged according to broad subjects lists major works for further reading.

About the Author **KIRSTIN OLSEN** is an independent scholar and the author of several Greenwood reference works, including *All Things Shakespeare: An Encyclopedia of Shakespeare's World* (2002).