

Margie Burns

Publishing Northanger Abbey

Jane Austen and the Writing Profession

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

About the author

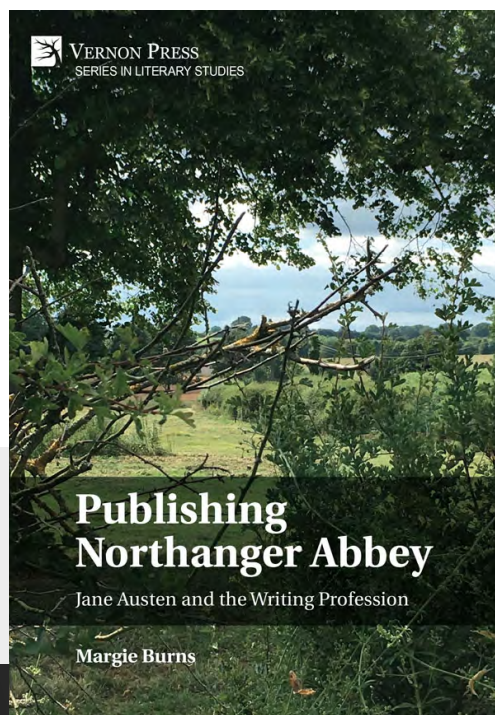
Margie Burns, Ph.D., is a Shakespearean by training, overpowered by interdisciplinary interests. A lifelong fan of Jane Austen, she has published articles on Austen in *Persuasions*, *Persuasions Online*, and *Notes & Queries*, and is a life member of the Jane Austen Society of North America. Publications include scholarly and general-interest articles, print and online journalism, and three nonfiction books. She obtained the B.A. and doctoral degrees at Rice University and currently lectures in English part-time at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Like “Northanger Abbey”, Margie Burns’s “Publishing Northanger Abbey: Jane Austen and the Writing Profession” has two parts. First, with impressive archival research and closely-reasoned forensic analysis, Burns examines why Austen chose to submit her novel “Susan” to Crosby and why Crosby chose not to publish it, painting a detailed picture of the late Georgian publishing industry and drawing plausible inferences about Austen’s strategy as a writer as she composed and revised her novel. Burns then uses her conclusions to illuminate our understanding not only of “Northanger Abbey,” which she defends against the common charge of having structural flaws, but also “Mansfield Park,” which she reads as Austen’s remaking of the earlier work. This lively, accessible study will interest both scholars and lay readers of Jane Austen.

Dr Elaine Bander
President of JASNA (CANADA)

Summary

Jane Austen was not born a global icon. It took years for her to break into print. Her first publication came after almost a decade of ups and downs, and her first novel out was not the first she sent to a publisher. Up to a point, lovers of Jane Austen probably know the publication history of *Northanger Abbey*—written first, published last. Austen wrote and revised the novel early, tried to get it published, then wrote all her other novels and ended up having *Northanger Abbey* come out with *Persuasion*, her last finished work. What we don’t know would fill a book—this book. The objective is to make her early publishing history clear, bringing to light information and original sources not drawn upon before. Beyond her lifetime, clarifying her publishing history also sheds light on an under-regarded novel. The early novel first titled *Susan*, then *Catherine*, then *Northanger Abbey* has sometimes been dismissed by critics, but it was never unimportant to Jane Austen herself. *Publishing “Northanger Abbey”: Jane Austen and the Writing Profession* is for all lovers of Jane Austen, in and out of universities, libraries, and fan clubs, including readers now staying home with their favorite novelists during the pandemic.



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