

# Chawton House Library

## Inaugural Annual Library Lecture 2010

Wednesday 7 July 7:00–8:30pm

### 'Rewriting the History of the Novel in English'

Today the novel is regarded as the leading literary genre. But how did it reach this position? Before the time of Jane Austen and Walter Scott, fiction was for the most part a faltering, struggling branch of literature, despised by critics and formally fragmented, which at one point in the eighteenth century looked like it might die out altogether. The new Oxford History of the Novel in English is a 12-volume series which charts the extraordinary story of the novel's rise within Anglophone print culture, written by a large, international team of scholars. Professor Patrick Parrinder (University of Reading), the General Editor, will provide an overview of the project. He will be joined by the editors of Volumes 1 and 2, covering the period from the beginnings of print to 1820.

- Professor Peter Garside (University of Edinburgh), co-editor of Volume II (1750- 1820), will give an account of the resources underlying a revisionist history of the novel, including collections such as those at Chawton House Library and Corvey Castle, and new electronic resources.
- Professor Tom Keymer (University of Toronto), editor of Volume I (from the origins of print to 1750), will present material relating to the prolific and successful early eighteenth-century novelist Eliza Haywood - a key figure in revisionist accounts of the development of the novel, and discuss the value of looking at early editions.
- Professor Karen O'Brien (University of Warwick), co-editor of Volume II, will present 'Cultures of Mobility: Women on the Move in Novels 1750-1820', taking a brief look at the patterns of travel and emigration by women in fiction of this period, in relation to the development of the novel from the mid-eighteenth century to the Romantic period.

There will be an exhibition of rare books in the lower reading room of the library.

**Lecture Tickets:** £10 (£7.50 for students)  
**6.30pm** Reception with wine & canapés;  
**7.00pm** Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email [info@chawton.net](mailto:info@chawton.net).

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[www.chawtonhouse.org](http://www.chawtonhouse.org)

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