

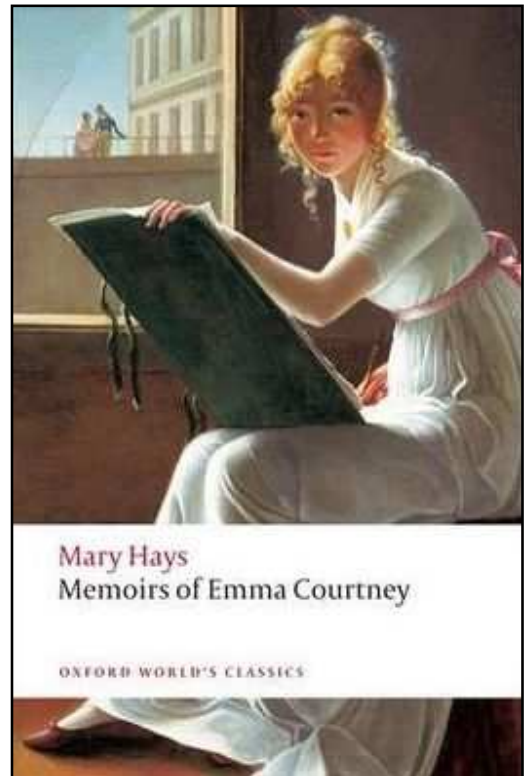
Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture

25th February 2010

Pride, Prejudice, Patriarchy: Jane Austen Reads Mary Hays

Professor Gina Luria Walker, New York

For two centuries, Jane Austen and her older contemporary Mary Hays (1759-1843), religious controversialist and feminist, have been represented as enemies in the "Woman's War" between conservatives and radicals that produced furious debate about gender politics during and long after the French Revolution. In "Pride, Prejudice, Patriarchy: Jane Austen reads Mary Hays," Gina Luria Walker will discuss new information that may alter our assumptions about Austen and Hays. Based on Deirdre Le Faye's scholarly speculation that Austen had access during her lengthy visits at Godmersham to her aristocratic sister-in-law's copy of Hays's groundbreaking *Female Biography* (1802), Professor Walker will propose that Austen's reading of Hays provided her with a larger-than-life tapestry from which to pick and choose evidence of real women's lives that advanced Austen's artistic and commercial intentions. They were not always and only in opposition to each other. They have more in common than has been previously recognized, as well, it seems, as a vital textual connection. The likelihood that Jane Austen read Mary Hays gives us pause for thought – is it possible that on the great issues of their lives, pride, prejudice, and patriarchy, they agreed on more points than they disagreed?



Lecture Tickets: £10 (£7.50 for students)

6.30pm Reception with wine & canapes

7.00pm Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email info@chawton.net.

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