



Georgette Heyer's Regency World

Jennifer Kloester, Geraeme Tavendale (Illustrator)

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Georgette Heyer fans will delight in Jennifer Kloester's definitive guide to her Regency world: the people, the shops, clubs and towns they frequented, the parties and seasons they celebrated, how they ate, drank, dressed, socialized, voted, shopped and drove. A fun read for any Heyer fan.

Georgette Heyer's Regency World Details

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From Reader Review Georgette Heyer's Regency World for online ebook

Sabrina Jeffries says

Lots of great information about the Regency period.

Kelly says

A few weeks ago, as I was browsing the Romance shelves at one of my local Barnes & Noble stores, I spied a few copies of *Georgette Heyer's Regency World*, which I immediately scooped up. I could have used it for some of my Jane Austen-related research, since it includes quite a lot of useful information about the customs, manners, fashions, and practices of the time period.

If you are a fan of (a) Georgette Heyer's books; (b) Jane Austen's novels; (c) Regency romances; (d) the Regency era for any reason; and/or (e) all of the above, this book is for you. If you are planning on writing a Regency novel, I daresay this is a resource you will be exceeding glad to have in your arsenal.

There are chapters about society; housing (town vs. country); how men lived and were expected to behave; what women were taught and what sort conduct was expected of them (including what constituted an auspicious marriage); information about the Seasons in London (Big and Little), including information on Almack's and a separate chapter about the "pleasure haunts" of London (scandalous!); the fashionable resorts; the modes of transportation of the time; clothing of the time period; shopping, with a focus on particular haberdashers of note; food (Good Lord, what they ate . . .); "Sport" for men, which includes talk of boxing, racing, gambling and even (one hesitates to mention such an illegality) duelling; business and the military; and the royal family. There are useful appendices including common Regency terms, newspapers, books mentioned in Heyer's novels, plus three more appendices that provide a timeline, a list of further Regency resources and information on Heyer's novels.

The book contains absolutely charming pen and ink illustrations by Graeme Tavendale, many of which are his adaptations of the sketches of Regency artists such as George Cruikshank, John Nash, Hugh Thomson and more. While not all of them are absolutely *necessary*, they are all delightful additions to the package as a whole, and are in some cases indispensable to understanding the text (as with the illustrations of certain conveyances, such as a barouche, a phaeton, etc.).

Highly recommended for Regency fans of all ilks.

Amy Bruno says

Jennifer Kloester has authored a MUST READ reference book for any avid Georgette Heyer or Regency period fans.

In Georgette Heyer's Regency World Kloester covers a wide-range of information pertaining to the Regency period; from deciphering the convoluted social class order of the day (wowza!), to what they wore, where

and what they ate, where they shopped, the daily life of regency men and women, and my favorite, the hottest entertainment destinations to see and be seen! Also included is a who's who in the Regency, a chapter that gives a small bio of the big players of the day, a list of newspapers and magazines that were being printed, a timeline of the Regency period and a bibliography of Heyer's novels. One thing I really enjoyed was the way the author referenced scenes from Heyer novels that directly tie in with what she is discussing. I thought that really brought a lot to the book and showcases the author's meticulous research. For example:

"Executing steps such as the chasse, jette, coupe, balote, glissade or the pas de basque with elegance and grace required a high degree of skill. Marianne Bolderwood at her first ball in *The Quiet Gentleman* found that she had to concentrate carefully on the steps of the quadrille, while her partner, Gervase, executed even the most difficult steps with considerable grace."

What's great about this book is that you can either read it all the way through or just pick it a chapter or subject at a time, whatever tickles your fancy that day or if you're reading a book and come upon something you would like to have explained. Kloester has obviously done her homework, and I feel that I'm walking away knowing a LOT more about the Regency period than I did before and it's also renewed my love for Georgette Heyer!

Passages to the Past highly recommends!!

Lynn Spencer says

If you're looking for a basic survey of social history of the Regency period, this one is an interesting read. While the author doesn't delve deeply into the topics covered, there are all kinds of interesting tidbits about dress of the period, manners and mores, transportation, social class, and more. Because she is looking at the world portrayed in Georgette Heyer's novels, the author does tie some of the factual information into various plot points used by Heyer.

Since I like Heyer's novels and I enjoy history, I enjoyed reading through this book. It's a good starting point if you want to learn more about the period, though those already fairly knowledgeable may find it a little too basic.

Lori says

This book really takes the guess work out of the slang terms and social customs of the regency period. I plan to read more of Heyer's work, as well as other regency novels, so this book has given me a better understanding of all things regency. My only disappointment was the omission of the slang term "stupid" which I encountered in *Venetia*. A term of endearment??? All in all, I felt like this book was an easy to read motorcycle ride through the time period and the illustrations will help me to construct mental images of phaetons and curricles next time I read a regency novel. Very helpful!!!

Rebekah says

Terrifically entertaining and interesting guide to the Regency World of Georgette Heyer. Kloester goes into just enough depth on such topics as Clothing, Sport, The wars, A typical day in a bachelor's or a Debutante's life, The Royal Family, etc. to both enlighten the Heyer fan, and to remind them of what they already know. It's not for the serious historian or sociologist. She keeps it light and entertaining. As she goes from topic to topic, she adeptly and smoothly weaves in illustrations and examples from Heyer's own novels. There are line drawings throughout on, for example, carriages, bonnets, underclothes, architecture, the leading figures of the day. One of the highlights are her appendices. The one on the cant or slang of the day is particularly entertaining and handy. I started out intending to just skip around and read the parts that particularly interested me, but I ended up reading the whole thing, cover to cover.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

While engrossed in the pages of a delightful Jane Austen or Georgette Heyer novel have you ever come across something you didn't quite understand? Like what is the difference between a barouche and a phaeton? Have you ever thought about places mentioned in these novels like Almacks, Hyde Park, Carlton House, Vauxhall Garden and wondered if their renderings were true? Or are you fascinated by the Regency Era and interested in learning all you can about it? If you are anything like me, you would probably love to have a cumulative and accessible resource in which to find the answers to these and many other Regency related questions. Good news! One does exist!

Broken down into fourteen distinct chapters and with six valuable appendixes, Georgette Heyer's Regency World by Jennifer Kloester is a fantastic resource for understanding the Regency World. The chapters are categorized by topic and include manly pursuits (The Pleasure Haunts of London and The Sporting Life), areas of feminine interests (Shopping and The Gentle Sex), and historical places and people (The Fashionable Resorts and Who's Who in the Regency). It was interesting to learn that many characters from Ms. Heyer's novels were real people, such as Almack's patroness Lady Sefton and famous physician, Dr. Matthew Baillie. It would appear that Ms. Heyer has deftly woven fiction with history in her novels!

My favorite aspect about this book is that it could be read two ways: cover to cover for a full immersion of Regency history and life, or in conjunction with a Regency fiction novel, serving as a reference/guide. With chapters divided into subtopics and a detailed index in the back the reader can look up any question or topic with ease and convenience. Another aspect I greatly enjoyed was the black and white illustrations. I found them to be very helpful visual aids, I only wish there were more of them! Lastly, I took pleasure in reading the appendixes where there is a glossary of "Cant and Common Regency Phrases," as well as other informative lists and indexes.

There are many allusions and references to Georgette Heyer's Regency novels interspersed throughout this text. If you have read several of her novels, then these references will make sense. I haven't read any of Georgette Heyer's Regency novels, I have read two of her Georgian novels, so the references to Mr. Beaumaris of Arabella or the Taverners of Regency Buck went right over my head! However, this did not deter my enjoyment of this book and when I do read some of Ms. Heyer's Regency novels I am sure I will understand and appreciate these references.

So, who would enjoy this book? Readers of Regency novels, of course, especially Georgette Heyer and Jane

Austen novels! In addition, this book would be great for first time Regency readers who may not understand some of the language or etiquette of the era. Lastly, this book would be a tremendous resource for authors trying to write in this time period. I know the next time I read a Regency novel by Jane Austen or Georgette Heyer, I will keep Jennifer Kloester's book close by and most likely turn to it often!

Austenesque Reviews

Laurel says

During her prolific fifty-three year writing career, British author Georgette Heyer (1902-1974) wrote fifty-six historical romance and detective fiction novels. She was a pioneer in Regency romance, and is generally attributed by many for establishing the sub genre that is flourishing today. Stylish, witty and historically accurate, her humorous plots and memorable characters serve as the benchmark for new Regency romance writers.

In her lifetime Heyer publisher twenty-six Regency-era novels, many of which are again available in new editions by Sourcebooks and Harlequin Books. Renowned for her historical detail, to read a Heyer Regency romance is to be truly entrenched in the bon ton lifestyle in England from 1811 to 1820. Even though readers can enjoy her novels without understanding the entire historical context or nuanced meanings behind social customs and colloquialisms of the time, it is even more entertaining if you do. *Georgette Heyer's Regency World: The definitive guide to the people, places and society in Georgette Heyer's Regency novels*, by Jennifer Kloester offers an incredible resource for Jane Austen fans, Georgette Heyer enthusiasts and Regency-era novelists. Here you will find detailed cultural information on the aristocrats and gentry that populate her drawing room comedies. Learn the importance of social strata and the right connections, where to live in Town and the country, how to dress, eat and conduct yourself properly in polite society, where to shop for a fashionable frock, what type of carriage to tool down St. James Street in, which pleasure haunts to frequent in London, and, most importantly, who to be seen with and who to avoid socially. Also included are appendixes on de rigueur Regency era cant and common phrases that Heyer's characters frequently use, a very helpful historical timeline and other pertinent information.

What elevates this book beyond a collection of historical facts is its organization and that the author places many of Heyer's novels and characters in context to the categories and descriptions within the text. For example, Hero the young and naïve bride in Friday's Child soon learns the importance of proper language when she asks her husband Lord Sheringham about his 'opera dancer' and is quickly informed on the ways of the world by a brotherly friend. Unbeknownst to Hero who had received a negligent upbringing, young ladies vocabulary was strictly regulated and a slip such as asking her husband about his mistress could ruin her reputation if the conversation had been overheard outside the family. If you do not know what an 'opera dancer' is or their reputation for becoming the mistresses of the bon ton, then you missed an important aspect of Hero's personality and Lord Sheringham's position in society. The book is full of similarly helpful insights and I found myself learning more about Regency culture and developing a greater appreciation for Georgette Heyer's skill as a writer as the book progressed. What a treasure!

Originally published in the UK in 2005 and reissued in 2008 by Arrow Books (Random House UK), *Georgette Heyer's Regency World* is an import and not readily available in North American bookstores. I purchased my edition from Paperbackshop-US via Advanced Book Exchange, but I was happy to discover that Sourcebooks will be printing a new edition that will be available this August. Gentle Readers, since Sourcebooks is re-issuing it, we know it is more than worthy and the definitive guide to all things in Heyer's

world.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Barbara says

Recommended for curious readers and also highly recommended for aspiring Regency Period authors, along with whatever other sources can be found. Having recently read a few more recently authored Regency novels and cringed at some of the anachronisms, I would point out that this is a great resource for research for historical fiction, and so are Georgette Heyer's actual novels set in that period.

I'm not sure of the exact date I started this, because I've picked it up and read a little more between others things for a few weeks now. It's one of those books you can do that with. It's also a nice one to have as a reference for when you come across something in a Regency Period historical novel that puzzles you.

If you've been reading Georgette Heyer's Regency fiction and you suddenly want to know what a Yard of Tin is, this is the place to find it. It does help to have it on an e-reader so you can do a quick search for the term in question.

By the way, a yard of tin was a coaching horn, used when traveling to let the ostlers at the next posting place know you were coming and needed a change of horses, or to alert the toll gatekeepers that you were approaching a toll gate. Its use required a person other than the driver to blow it, so a person driving alone couldn't make use of this convenience, which sped up travel quite a bit.

I found the information about carriages and coaching especially helpful, because I'm always curious about that. There was quite a lot about social matters, the men's clubs, and other fascinating stuff. The fashion information was helpful too, although it didn't answer all my questions. I think I need a time travel machine to make some quick visits. But with what amounts to an entirely different way of life than we have now, these novels can sometimes keep me puzzling, and now I have found a key to unlock some of those puzzles.

Hannah says

Read in one sitting at my local *Borders* today :D

Interesting compendium of everything regency, especially as it relates to Georgette Heyer's novels. A good reference companion book, but probably best for people who don't know all the in's and out's of this fascinating time period.

Glad to say I knew most of this stuff already (yes, *I'm bragging....*)

Melissa McShane says

This is closer to 3.5 stars. As a companion to Heyer's novels, it's invaluable. Kloester makes frequent references to characters and events from the books when she's discussing aspects of Regency society, and I think the only way it could be more useful in that respect is if there were some sort of index so you could look up facts in reverse (though this would be a truly major endeavor and probably better suited to a database). She's also got an extensive list of recommendations for further reading. What I wasn't fond of was that she said she'd written her thesis on Georgette Heyer and had access to all these letters and research Heyer did, and I wish she'd used more of that in her book. It's a popular rather than scholarly text, and I suppose I shouldn't fault the book for being something it isn't, but I was still a little disappointed. If you're looking for actual research on the Regency era, pick this book up and use the recommended reading list at the end. If you want something to help you understand some of the more arcane aspects of Heyer's novels, this will be perfect for you.

kris says

This book is a quick, glancing look at life during the Regency, complete with lots and lots of references to the books written by Heyer. So if you read Heyer and had questions: this is the book for you, probably. Maybe.

1. Ultimately, this was adequate. It doesn't provide quite the depth I would have liked, and it spends too much time referencing books rather than referencing Heyer's allegedly deep pile of reference materials. It felt like the sight-seers guide to Heyer rather than a tour of the Regency era, which was slightly disappointing for me, the loud-mouthed romance reader in the back.
2. This was also just not well written? And I mean that in a completely superficial way because the information is *fine* but the presentation is kind of...repetitious and cyclical and lazy. Information is repeated in multiple sections and there are places where the categories are rather poorly organized so the text seems to jump from topic to topic only to circle back and it's just a mess. Much like this sentence.
3. The descriptions would have been far more handy with additional illustrations.
4. I'm picky and cranky and this just didn't do it for me, I guess!

Staci says

I wanted to read this one because I've read a few of Heyer's Regency romance novels and thought it would be fun to try to understand the customs, rules, clothes, food, and the monarchy from that time period. This book does not disappoint at all. There are so many aspects from the Regency era that it can be a little mind-boggling at the beginning. I recommend that you read this book in chunks, because there is so much information that your head may explode....SERIOUSLY! I can tell you one thing...I would never be allowed into the upper crust because I wouldn't be able to remember all of the rules of etiquette!! My favorite chapters were:

* The Gentle Sex- everything a young lady needs to know and oh, so much more!

- * Up and Down the Social Ladder- this was great information as to how the class system was dictated.
- * On the Town-how to get in with the very best Patronesses so that you will marry well! Oh, and after you're married and have produced an heir, you may have as many affairs as you want as long as you don't flaunt them! O' la la!!
- * Eat, Drink, and Be Merry- no wonder the rich were fat!!They ate all of the time!
- * Who's Who in the Royal Family- I really enjoyed this one. I don't know the monarchy and this was a much needed chapter!!
- * If you're a fan of information the appendix is awesome!!!

Recommend? I would, especially to fans of Heyer, Austen, and the Regency time period. This has everything you would ever need to know and while I was reading it, I found myself filling in some questions that I had while reading their books.

Lady Wesley says

If you enjoy Regency-era romances, you will learn many interesting details from this book. Although I love fiction, it's nice to know about some of facts of that era.

QNPoohBear says

This is a handy reference book for fans of Georgette Heyer, Jane Austen and the Regency era. Each chapter covers an aspect of Regency society: clothing, transportation, etiquette, health care and more. She uses examples from Heyer's novels and appendices provide a list of slang words, biographies of Regency people and a timeline. The book is illustrated with small line drawings done from 19th century illustrations. The book could have benefited from full-color or at least larger illustrations. Though I knew most of the information included in the book from reading the novels and reading blogs, I found it useful and learned a few new things. I especially liked the glossary, biographies and timeline.

Despite a few historical inaccuracies, Jennifer Kloester nicely compiles all the information from Heyer's novels into one book. I plan to keep this book on my night stand next time I read Heyer so I can look up what a tilbury looks like or the dates of events mentioned in the book, etc.

I recommend this book primarily to first-time Regency readers and not so much to the long-time reader.
