

The Female Spectator.

VOL.1 No.2, 2015



New and improved series

Hidden 'Treasure' of Chawton House Library More Accessible Than Ever Before

ON 23 APRIL 2015, Chawton House Library opened its doors to the public in an entirely new way. Rather than visitors being restricted to guided tours on specific times and days, people can now visit the Library on a self-guided tour Tuesday to Friday from 2.00pm until 4.30pm and the Gardens from 1.00pm until 4.30pm.

'Absolutely wonderful to see the house – so significant as a Jane Austen lover – great it is opened to the public – good luck for ventures to maintain and expand this treasure.'

J.R., Sydney, Australia

As we have previously relied on tour guides leading people around the house, the new approach involved a lot of hard work to ensure that there was signage and interesting information throughout the house to guide people around. We need to give particular thanks to Hazel Barry-Scott and Amy Clarke, our volunteers who worked immensely hard on planning the visitor experience and pulling all of the information together, and to Jon Clark for designing our new visitor map and interpretation material, entirely free of charge.

Our steadfast volunteers have familiarised themselves with a new ticketing system, and with being stationed at specific places in the house to assist visitors and give extra information when required. It has been a huge success thanks to a great team effort from all concerned.

The comments in our visitor book and on feedback forms have been absolutely glowing in their praise, with a number of references to



the Library as a 'treasure'. Our future vision is to give people a more integrated experience with some of the most special texts in the Library collection displayed in key places around the house. The first step towards this is a new display case outside the Lower Reading Room. This currently houses six rare first editions, 'Treasures of the Collection', which together help to highlight the depth and range of works that are housed here. We are delighted to thank the Foyle Foundation for a generous £15,000 towards fully realising our vision. This contribution will go towards more display cases and explanatory signs throughout the building. We are also seeking further funding for our ambitious plans, which include a permanent exhibition in the Exhibition Room. Watch this Space! ●

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A gift for our Friends



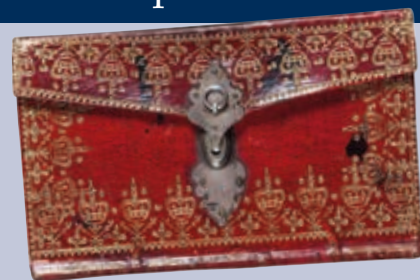
The iconic new quill pin badge

Waterloo Remembered



The tumultuous politics in Britain during the French wars

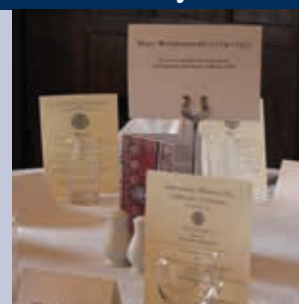
Mrs Topham's Treasure



Hilary Davidson's remarkable detective work on one of our books

International Women's Day

Celebrating inspiring women writers



New Friends Programme Announced

WE HAVE RECENTLY been working on an exciting new version of our Friends programme and we are delighted to unveil the four new levels. Now you can become a Friend of Sarah Fielding, Frances Burney or Ann Radcliffe. Or you can perhaps become what you always knew you were – a Bluestocking. Whichever you choose – you will be making a much appreciated commitment and difference to Chawton House Library.

For those of you who are already a UK or North American Friend, we will be inviting you to join the new programme when your membership is due for renewal. And if you can persuade other like-minded individuals to join you in supporting us, we would be very grateful for your help. ●



THE EXCLUSIVE QUILL BADGE

We are delighted to be including specially made quill badges for Friends of Chawton House Library as an iconic emblem of affiliation with the Library. The first of these badges – a specially made gold version – was presented to Joan Ray, Trustee and President of the North American Friends of Chawton House Library, by our Founder Dr Sandy Lerner on International Women's Day, 8 March 2015. Joan is the founding member of our Legacy Circle, having pledged a generous \$100,000. All of our Friends will now receive an exclusive quill pin, modelled on this original version, as part of their welcome pack. Special thanks go to Master Jeweller Kate Wolf who kindly carved the original design for us entirely free of charge.



SARAH FIELDING'S REAL FRIEND

£36 a year or £3 a month / Joint membership: £48 a year or £4 a month

'A Person who could be trusted, one who was capable of being a real Friend'
Sarah Fielding, *The Adventures of David Simple, in search of a Real Friend* (1744)

As a token of our thanks you will receive:

- ✍ Welcome Pack, including quill bookmark
- ✍ *The Female Spectator*, our regular newsletter
- ✍ One Library tour for you and a guest
- ✍ Selected offers for our annual events programme including conferences, talks and recitals
- ✍ An exclusive silver-plated quill pin



FRANCES BURNEY'S HONOURED FRIEND

£120 a year or £10 a month

'My dear and Honoured Friend. ...I come to you now without hesitation'
Frances Burney, *Camilla, or a Picture of Youth* (1796)

As a token of our thanks you will receive all of the above, plus:

- ✍ An invitation to a special annual event at Chawton House Library



ANN RADCLIFFE'S PRESERVER

£480 a year or £40 a month

'Ellena could find no words to express her joy and surprise on beholding her preserver'
Ann Radcliffe, *The Italian* (1797)

As a token of our thanks you will receive all of the above, plus:

- ✍ Welcome notice in *The Female Spectator*
- ✍ An exclusive sterling silver quill pin
- ✍ Personal annual update on the collection by the Librarian



THE BLUESTOCKING CIRCLE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

£3,000 minimum donation

'The Men not bound by pedant rules Nor Ladies Precieuses ridicules'
Hannah More, *'Les Bas-Bleu; or Conversation'* (1787)

As a token of our thanks you will receive all of the above, plus:

- ✍ Members name recorded in our *Book of Bluestockings* held in the Library
- ✍ Recognition and thanks in the *Annual Report & Accounts*
- ✍ An exclusive gold quill pin
- ✍ Invitations to Bluestocking Circle events

The giving levels for our North American Friends are: Sarah Fielding's Real Friend \$50-\$199, Frances Burney's Honoured Friend \$200-\$749, Ann Radcliffe's Preserver \$750-\$4,495 and The Bluestocking Circle \$5,000 minimum single donation.

Book Conservation

The Story So Far

AS MANY OF YOU will know from the last issue, we launched a book conservation appeal at the end of 2014. Since then, we have made significant progress as our Librarian, Darren Bevin, reports...

In February 2015 the accredited conservator, Caroline Bendix, returned to help us with the next steps of our book conservation programme. Caroline led a training day for library volunteers who were shown how to mend frayed book corners and repair hollow-back spines. The day was a combination of demonstration and the opportunity to practice on our rare books

(under close supervision!). Caroline also gave a fascinating evening lecture where she discussed the places around the world where she has worked on rare collections, including Saint Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai in Egypt, and also the damage that can be caused to books by various insects and unsuitable environments.

Since the training day, library volunteers have been based in the Lower Reading Room working systematically through the collection and carrying out repairs where necessary. They work at times when the Library is open to the

public allowing visitors the opportunity to see the work in progress. Sue Dembowski is one of our volunteers working on the project after expressing interest at the end of 2014: 'After retiring from bookbinding and working in libraries, this is such a wonderful opportunity to help conserve such a rare collection of books in the lovely setting of Chawton House Library.' David Woods, another volunteer (and an amateur bookbinder), works alongside Sue and remarks that it is 'wonderful to think that we are giving these books another 100 years, or more, of life.'



NEW STAFF

Meet Simone

While the library volunteers can undertake minor repairs, there are books in our collection that require professional treatment. We are in a good position to start addressing this issue having already raised half of the £60,000 needed to restore works in the collection thanks to many generous donations, from individual friends and supporters of the library, and from the George Cadbury Quaker Fund, the Foyle Foundation and the Mercers' Company. The money has enabled us to approach Ruth Stevens of the book and paper conservation company, Sussex Conservation Consortium, a company recommended by Caroline Bendix. Ruth has

already been to Chawton House Library to examine the collection and will shortly return to start taking batches of items away to be professionally repaired.

In the meantime, library volunteers will continue working in the lower reading room. They will eventually move to our rarest books following a second training day hosted by Caroline later in the year – this will include learning to repair torn pages among other things. We still need to raise the remaining £30,000 but it is reassuring to know that the books are starting to get the attention that they need. ●

PLEASE JOIN US in giving Simone Marshall a warm welcome to the Chawton House Library team. Simone, who has joined us as our new Assistant Horseman, will be helping Head Horseman, Angie McLaren, to care for the five heavy horses kept at the Library – Summer, Speedy, Charlotte, Royston and Isaac. Simone has plenty of experience in horsemanship as her passion for horses led her to spend the last ten years volunteering with Suffolk Punches, another breed of heavy horse commonly used for farm work.

Speaking of her new post, Simone has said: 'I am thrilled to be looking after these beautiful working animals with such unique personalities. I look forward to working with Angie to promote their welfare and carry on their training in traditional agricultural methods'.

Horse lovers can get more involved with the horses through our Sponsor a Shire programme – you can read more about this and sign up on our website. ●



THE UNKNOWN LADY'S ACCOUNT BOOK; or, Mrs. Topham's Treasure, Being a Tale of Historical Deduction, True in All Particulars

written by Miss Hilary Davidson, of Australia, and compiled during
her visiting fellowship in residence in the village of Chawton in March 2015.

The booklet which accompanies the first exhibition in the new display case at Chawton House Library, entitled 'Treasures of the Collection', uses as its cover an image of a certain red Morocco leather, gold-embossed notebook in the collection. The book is hand sized, closing with a silver clasp, with two pockets inside. The spine is embossed 1768, a misleading date having nothing to do with the contents. For on the blank pages, between 1810 and January 1825, an unnamed woman carefully recorded expenditure of 'money for my own use', and so created a treasure indeed that was waiting to be found during my Visiting Fellowship.

I am a dress historian. I work on why and how people made, bought, wore and thought about clothing in the past. Currently I am writing a book on dress in the 'long Regency', synthesising a lot of recent scholarship and returning to the archives seeking new sources to illuminate this interesting period of fashion transitions. I wanted documents that told me how much it cost to have a pelisse made up, how much of that cost was fabric, how much labour, how much trimmings. If Lydia Bennet bought an ugly bonnet because she may as well as not, just how much money might she be squandering? (around a guinea it turns out, the spendthrift). This kind of information is surprisingly lacking in current published information on 'Regency' dress. The account book was exactly the kind of source I hoped I'd find, because the unknown lady spent most of her pin-money on, well, pins. And gowns. And bonnets. And shawls, netting-thread, purse components, and most of all, hundreds and hundreds of yards of ribbons. It also feeds into my own very material understanding of historic clothing. For some years I was curator of fashion and decorative arts at the Museum of London, and I also make hand-stitched replica garments, most notably of the silk pelisse once probably belonging to Jane Austen held by Hampshire County Council. So I am interested in the nuances of

material culture for the contemporary consumer and textile worker. What was the difference and purpose to the buyer between one penny a yard satin ribbons and those costing six pence, all meticulously recorded in the accounts? Where and how might they be used? And with these differences in mind, can I now find them in surviving garments?

The account book became an unfolding narrative as I transcribed it over three weeks and became increasingly interested in who the author might be. There was no name or direction. The book came with no origin or provenance. I got distinct impressions from the purchases - and increasingly shaky handwriting - of an older woman, probably a spinster or a widow, without children of her own but with children around her. She seemed like a nice sort of aunt, steeped in lavender water, with sugar-plums (one shilling) in her purse (she was an indefatigable purse-netter), who regularly gave out toys and fairings. Her eyesight was not of the best (she bought eye-glasses and their cases). Neither were her teeth. She had 11 drawn in three years, and paid at least £1 per regular visit to a dentist. The only clues to her possible location were expenditures during a stay in Lymington in summer 1814. Like Austen's unbellicose writings, the sole reference to the Napoleonic Wars is the Peace Ball she attended there. She bought a pair of shoes at 'Hazlegrove' - now a school in Somerset. She visited Sherborne Church. I placed 'Mrs. Unknown', then, generally in southern England. She was genteel and comfortably off, with her spending income from mostly unspecified sources varying between £35:15s and £74:12s:9d during the fifteen years. Usually she had £5 a month.

Whoever she was, her expenditure was perfect for my research. The accounts break down the haberdashery and ancillary costs of creating and maintaining clothing. Reading the account book with an informed eye builds up stories from the internal evidence, like reading the history



of a garment through its material qualities. For example, when on 1 February 1820 she buys 10 yards of bombazine, 1/2 oz black silk, black Cotton needles, a Remnant and a yard of Crape, 5 yards of black Ribbon, a pair of slippers, a Crape Cap, a pair of gloves, and has the new gown made up, I can total her spending on mourning for the death of George III on January 29 as a luxurious £6:2s:3d. Regularly buying two pairs of gloves at the same time bespeaks an economy of use: if one glove is lost or stained, the other can be brought in to make up the pair. The nicety of ribbon purchases suggest specific uses, as well as her fondness for the colour green. The lady bought yard and fraction lengths each time, precise amounts that hint at a definite purpose, not stockpiling. This contrasts with quotidian items such as Irish linen, or flannel, bought in long pieces of over 10 yards to make shifts and other underwear as required. If she bought a length of fabric for a garment, such as January 1812's '3 yds of merino cloth', the subsequent '2 yards of Persian' (a silk lining fabric), '¼ yard white velvet, 1 ¼ yards Gold trimming' and a 'Gold tassel' conjure the finished appearance of a handsome winter spencer. The need for 100-200 visiting cards a year underpins a robust social circuit. The slow increase of piping and wadding mentioned matches the wider padded hems and applied decoration seen in surviving garments from the late 1810s. Regularly buying new walking shoes shows my lady was active on foot, while the time between entries shows how fast those shoes wore out.

Such purchases also expanded on what I knew of the inequalities between costs of materials and the labour to make them up. The usual cost for making up a gown is seven or eight shillings – the price of a figured sarzenet silk alone was between 2s:6d and 6s a yard. As I know personally, hand stitching a gown takes upwards of twenty hours work. It's a very small return for the time, which opens new research questions for me on how dressmakers made a profit. There is a clear delight in

lovely clothes running through the accounts. Age in no way diminishes the lady's consumption of fashionable adornment. In fact, when in April 1818 she receives a £15 windfall above her usual allowance, she promptly spends the whole lot on clothes: 'a Pellisse Silk Lined' (£8:8s), 'a work'd Mus[li]n Gown' (£2:1s:9d), and 'a Long Shawl' (£5:15s). The human reality of this purchasing is an enjoyable contradiction to the constant admonishments of the moral texts I was reading at the same time, all promoting the idea that one should not be overly concerned with dress and appearance. My lady was regularly pious – though her church collect drops from 3s to half a crown – and a follower of fashion.

By the time I reached the end of the account I was itching to discover the author. I wanted to know the bigger picture, to contextualise her spending in place and social standing. The internal clues were few. At Lymington, she gave a cap to a Mrs. Peyton. An online search brought up the Peytons of Priestfields, Milford, a property once belonging to Rear-Admiral John Peyton. This was a semi-fruitful lead, as further investigation into this family brought in the Armstrongs – a name seen in the accounts, including a John and William who are recorded as recipients of presents. While some of the family's probates were online, they didn't lead to my lady. However, at the end of the 1823 accounts is recorded an income of 'Mrs C Peytons Legacy Ten Guineas'. If I could discover this lady I might find her friend. At first I thought Mrs. Peyton was the admiral's widow (he died in 1809). Searching on Google Books turned up one chance reference in the Gentleman's Magazine to a Mrs Catherine Peyton, spinster, who died in Kensington in late 1823. Her title was a red herring as she wasn't married but had a courtesy 'Mrs'. This death notice moved my search away from Hampshire to London, and to the National Archive's probate lists. With the new place information, I found a Catherine Peyton with a probate dated 6 November 1823, and bought the scan of her will, peering through the



A pelisse is a woman's outer garment very popular from the 1790s, blossoming into inventive varieties to become an essential part of early nineteenth-century fashion. It was a style of coat-dress made in every kind and weight of fabric, from sheer cotton muslins to fur-lined luxury, worn indoors and out, in all seasons, and reaching anywhere from the wearer's knees to her ankles. Pelisses were vehicles for style, situated between the essential gown and the harder warmth of redingotes, mantles and cloaks, going 'some way towards compensating for the reduced number and thickness of petticoats, which was all that the new line of dress would accommodate', as the late textile historian Natalie Rothstein observed. Pelisse styles inspired by the Napoleonic conflicts often appear in fashion plates, echoing details of military masculine uniforms. The word derives from the medieval French 'pelisson', meaning a fur-lined mantle.

Left and Right:
The Lady's Magazine: Or Entertaining Companion for the Fair Sex, Appropriated Solely to Their Use and Amusement.
 XLII. London: G. Robinson, 1811. Print.



clerical hand to find anyone to whom she left ten guineas. Happily, she did so to only one person, 'her friend Mrs. Topham'. Finally I had a name. The London residence suggested my lady was there too, as had other titbits like her account at the jewellers, Hamlets, and visits to Almacks and a blind school, of which there were only two in the country at the time. So I searched for probate for a female Topham, who died in early 1825 when the accounts stopped, and lived in one of the London parishes. There was only one result. On chance I bought that probate too, and was finally rewarded with the identity of the unknown lady of whom I knew so much and so little.

The account book belonged to Mrs. Mary Topham of 37 Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square, London, in the parish of Saint Marylebone. She died in January 1825, as the accounts suggest, and had no children. Thanks to the current breadth of digitised resources I was able to unfold the bigger picture of Mrs. Topham's life entirely online. Her husband Mr. John Topham, born in Yorkshire in 1744, was a respected barrister and eminent antiquarian, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a robust contributor to its running. They married in 1794. Mary herself was born Mary Swindon (or Swinden), one of two daughters of the Rev. Mr. Samuel Francis Swindon, who ran an Academy at Greenwich. He is notable for having taught Major General James Wolfe, defeater of the French at the Battle of Quebec. Mr. Swindon appears to have married in 1761 and died in 1764, giving a narrow date range for Mary and her sister Susannah's births. The girls are mentioned as being co-heiresses, suggesting Mary was comfortable in later life on her own fortune as well as her husband's professional income. With this birth range she is in her late forties when the accounts begin in 1810 and dies in her early sixties. Mrs Topham is regularly listed in Boyle's Court Guides, placing her firmly in the gentry. Mary's sister Susannah married twice, the second husband being Rear Admiral John Peyton of Priestlands. Mrs Catherine Peyton, the friend who left Mrs Topham the legacy and key to unravelling the mystery, was in fact the Admiral's spinster sister. The probates of Admiral Peyton, John Topham and the Rev. Swindon are at

the National Archives and can shed further light on Mrs. Topham's life and situation. Mary's and Catherine's will be used to untangle the names mentioned in the accounts.

She does not appear to have been a great reader - or at least consumer of new books - unlike her husband. After his death in 1803, Mr. Topham's considerable antiquarian library was sold at auction in 1804 and many books went to the British Museum. The catalogue survives. By contrast, while Mrs. Topham bought a new pocketbook and almanac each year, the accounts record only two book purchases. 'the Peacock & Parrot', bought 1816, is the nursery book *The Peacock and Parrot, on Their Tour to Discover the Author of "The Peacock at Home"*. *The Peacock at Home* came out anonymously in 1808 as a sequel to *The Butterfly's Ball*, both part of the Harris's Cabinet series; the later book was a whimsical illustrated poem tracing the author, now known to be Catherine Ann Dorset. At the same time Mrs. Topham bought the 1815 edition of *A New Manual [of Devotions]*. Only a 6 shilling entry under 'Library' in 1820 hints at more extensive reading habits. Books may have come out of a separate household purse, however, as other regular expenditures such as washing, post and travel do not appear.

Many questions remain. The biggest one is, why did Mrs. Topham get her head shaved weekly for a year and a half, at a shilling a pop? She clearly converts to wig-wearing through the accounts. First, she gets her hair cut off, then has her own hair made into a false front, then the shaving. It seems extreme as the regrowth would be a couple of millimetres, which doesn't suggest making a difference to the comfort of the wig-wearer. Was it a medical treatment? Was she trying to make her hair grow in thicker? It does not appear to have worked, as the accounts later record regular washing and combing of her false hair-pieces, or 'tetes'. And I would like to know if the cost of 'Washing Bouffant' is for a wig or her dog. There is much more historical information to be drawn from Mrs. Topham's 'treasure' and I look forward to further analysing its ribbon-bedecked pages. ●

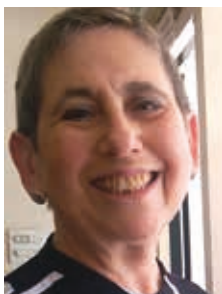
New Patrons

WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that Chawton House Library has three new patrons who are all internationally renowned scholars of early women's writing...



A spencer was a short, close-fitting, long sleeved jacket ending, like the waists of women's gowns, under the bust, and worn by women and children. It was a style that slipped into female fashions from a male version: a dress coat with the long 'skirts' cut off. The name derives from Lord Spencer, the garment's supposed inventor though the origin stories differ. Either he tore the tails off his riding coat falling from a horse, or singed them off standing too close to a fire. However it happened, the lord preferred the freedom of a tailless coat and asked his tailor to make more. A new style was born. For women, a spencer was the perfect way to keep the upper body warm when fashion preferred exposed arms and décolletage. Like pelisses, they were made in every variety inventive dressmakers could concoct.

Above
The Lady's Magazine: Or Entertaining Companion for the Fair Sex, Appropriated Solely to Their Use and Amusement. XLII. London: G. Robinson, 1811. Print.



Cora Kaplan is Honorary Professor of English at Queen Mary University London and Professor Emerita at the University of Southampton. Professor Kaplan was instrumental in setting up the links Chawton House Library enjoys with the University of Southampton, established before the Library opened in 2003. Author of *Salt and Bitter and Good: Three Centuries of English and American Women Poets*, *Sea Changes: Essays in Culture and Feminism* and *Victoriana—Histories, Fictions, Criticism*, she has edited several volumes resulting from conferences held here and, together with Dr Jennie Batchelor, she is the series editor of the Palgrave MacMillan *History of British Women's Writing*.



Isobel Grundy, Professor Emerita in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada, was formerly a Trustee of Chawton House Library and we are immensely grateful that her expertise remains available to us now as a Patron. She is an international authority on the life and writing of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762) and part of the team responsible for the groundbreaking Orlando Project, a database of women's writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present, an extraordinary resource for people interested in women's writing (orlando.cambridge.org).



Janet Todd OBE, President of Lucy Cavendish College Cambridge, has written and published widely on women's writing of the eighteenth century. She has written biographies of Aphra Behn (1640-1689), Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), Fanny Wollstonecraft and Lady Mount Cashell and edited the complete works of Behn and Wollstonecraft. She is the general editor of the nine-volume *Cambridge Edition* of Jane Austen and the co-founder of the journal *Women's Writing*.●

Chawton House Library 'Conversations'

In March this year, we launched a series of podcasts called Chawton House Library Conversations. These are a monthly round-up of news, events and highlights, helping supporters stay connected with Chawton House Library, wherever they are. The podcasts have been made possible thanks to a generous donation from Sue Forgue.

The release of the first podcast, announced on International Women's Day was greeted with the joy we hoped for, with one of our Twitter followers, a literature Professor in Italy, remarking 'How wonderful! What a wonderful gift on #IWD2015!'

Just a few of the items featured so far include the scandalous tale of actress and muse, Susannah Cibber, an introduction to the world of nineteenth-century mental illness at Bedlam hospital, and interviews with book conservator, Caroline Bendix, and dress historian Hilary Davidson, who talks about Edward Austen, later Knight, and his portrait and suit. The diversity reflects the many interesting talks and activities that go on here! Anyone can listen to the podcasts by visiting our website. •



A big thank you to Professors Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield, former visiting fellows, who have joined our Legacy Circle by pledging a bequest to Chawton House Library in their wills. Speaking of this generous gift, Linda Troost has said:

'Mr. Darcy observed that the library at Pemberley was the work of many generations. The library at Chawton House must also be the work of many supporters. Therefore, inspired by the example of Joan Ray, Sayre Greenfield and I have left a bequest to it in our wills. Chawton House Library has given much to us personally as well as to the study of women's writing; it is a privilege to be able to give something back in thanks and gratitude.'



International Women's Day 2015

Chawton House Library officially launched its new visiting fellowships at a special celebratory lunch to mark International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March 2015. Guests included writers, editors and world-renowned scholars as well as our Trustees and Patrons.

Tours of the Library were followed by lunch in the Great Hall with tables named after different women writers in the collection. The meal itself took inspiration from the *Knight Family Cookbook* and included a particularly delightful 'Everlasting Syllabub', a dessert Jane Austen referred to in an unfinished epistolary novel, *Lesley Castle*, with the wonderful line describing one character: 'her face as White as a Whipt syllabub.'

Lunch was followed by inspiring talks from Professor Ros Ballaster and Dr Helen Cole on their personal journeys to study women's literature and how the Library has supported

their work throughout their careers. Dr Cole, who was previously a lawyer, even warned guests 'beware!' of the influence of Chawton House Library, having come to the gardens on an open day with her children some years ago only to find herself signing up to the Chawton M.A. in Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of Southampton that night!

To round off the event, our Founder, Sandy Lerner, gave a very special presentation of the first quill badge to Joan Ray, Chawton House Library Trustee and President of the North American Friends of Chawton House Library, who is the founder member of our Legacy Circle, generously pledging to leave the charity a gift of \$100,000. As mentioned in a previous article, our new Friends programme includes a special quill badge for all supporters, modelled on this original version. •

Left:
Our Executive Director,
Dr Gillian Dow, with
Trustees Len Bosack
and Richard Knight.



Above Left:

Our Founder and Chairman, Dr Sandy Lerner, talks to Sandra Clark and the RT Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby. Sandra Clark, who has donated a number of special items to us, including Jane Austen first editions and original Regency dresses, flew over from Texas especially to attend the event.

Above Right:

Left to Right, Tamsin English, Commissioning Editor at Michael Joseph Publishing, Charlotte Mardon-Heath, Marketing Executive at Content Media Corporation, and Jonathan Beckman, Author and Senior Editor at the Literary Review.

Below Left:

Left to Right: Penny Mordaunt MP and newly appointed Minister of State for the Armed Forces, our Trustee Professor Joan Ray, the RT Hon. Earl of Selborne, and our new Patron Professor Cora Kaplan.

Below Right:

Keith Arcsott, our Development Director, the RT Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby and Pamela Birley, Chawton House Library Liaison Officer for the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (SWWJ). Baroness Williams was delighted to see for the first time the trophy honouring her mother, Vera Brittain, which is on display here, along with other trophies and items of the SWWJ.



Did You Know?

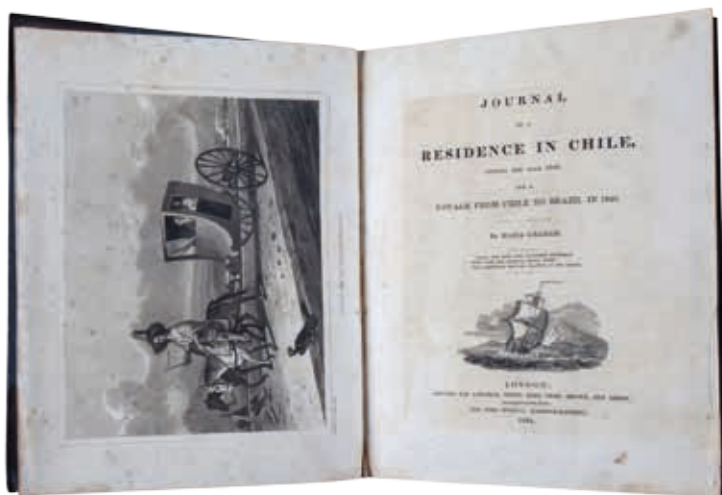
The intrepid travel writer, Maria Graham (née Dundas and later known as Maria, Lady Callcott, 1785-1842), experienced a major earthquake in Chile in 1822. Graham, who had a keen interest in geology, wrote a letter with detailed observations of the earthquake and its aftermath to Henry Warburton, who thought it worthy of publication in the *Transactions of the Geological Society* in 1824. This was the first article by a woman to appear in the journal and it was actually cited in Geologist Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* (1830) as it supported his theory that earthquakes could cause the elevations of landmasses.

Graham found herself drawn into controversy, however, when another geologist, George Bellas Greenough, attacked this theory by publicly

ridiculing Graham as a witness. Graham was incensed. According to her nephew, John Callcott Horsley, her husband and brother offered to fight a duel with Greenough, to which she responded 'Be quiet, both of you, I am quite capable of fighting my own battles, and intend to do it.' She then published a crushing response, *On the Reality of the Rise of the Coast of Chile* (1835). Soon after this, Charles Darwin corroborated Graham's account when he observed the same phenomenon in 1835 in Chile during the second voyage of HMS Beagle.

There will be a music recital featuring readings from Maria Graham's letters from India at the Library on 6 October at 6.30p.m. For further details and our full events programme, please see our website or call the office. ●

Maria Graham's journal of her residence in Chile in 1822 is on display at Chawton House Library. The journal features illustrations of various scenes drawn by Maria Graham and later engraved by Edward Finden.



The original *Female Spectator* made a bold statement in its day. © Chawton House Library

Paying tribute to pioneering women

The Female Spectator is named after Eliza Haywood's publication of the same name, which was published from April 1744 to May 1746. Haywood's journal – which was a direct play on the existing *Spectator*, written by and for men – was the first magazine by and for women, and was widely read. Haywood was familiar with the challenges of life for women within a patriarchal system, and she wrote pragmatic advice on what kind of education women should seek, and on common difficulties such as how to avoid disastrous marriages and deal with wandering husbands.

The journal featured romantic and satiric fiction, moral essays and social and political commentary, covering everything from the craze for tea drinking and the problem of gambling, to politics, war and diplomacy, and the importance of science and natural history. ●

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