

PRESS RELEASE

14 May 2007

An Evening Lecture at Chawton House Library *Jane Austen & the Silver Fork Novel*

On Thursday 24 May, Edward Copeland will give a talk at Chawton House Library when he will explore the world of the silver fork novels. These were written by novelists of fashionable society in the 1820s and 1830s. Following the death of Jane Austen in 1817, they used her novels for wholesale plunder - they mined her novels to enhance their own. In effect, Austen's novels had become objects of casual literary assimilation far earlier than traditional report would have it.

Austen's ghost life among the silver fork novels exposes not only an unexplored field of kinship presumed by their authors, but also something fresh about Austen's work: its striking political and cultural relevance to the Age of Reform.

Edward Copeland is Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Pomona College, Claremont California.

Reception with wine and canapés at 6.30pm, lecture at 7.00pm.

Tickets £15.00 and £10.00 for Friends and students, available from Corrine Saint on 01420 541010 or email corrine.saint@chawton.net.

- ENDS -

For further information, please contact:
Susie Grandfield or Helen Thirlway on 01420 541010