

# ∞ Predecessors of Jane Austen ∞

## Compiled by Ronnie Jo Sokol

The following is a list of works that were literary antecedents to *Northanger Abbey*. Although *Northanger Abbey* was published in 1818 after Jane Austen's death, it was the first of her novels written in prose with chapter delineations. The ones marked in **red** are actually mentioned in *Northanger Abbey*. Since Jane Austen's formal education was brief and she was self-taught by regular reading from her father's library of 500+ volumes, it is assumed that Austen read many of these books. Also, *Northanger Abbey* is especially appreciated for its defense of the novel and the many references to books in discussions among its characters.

### The Sentimental Novel and Its Parodies

Year	Author	Title
1740	Richardson, Samuel	<i>Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded</i>
1742	Fielding, Henry	<i>Joseph Andrews; or, The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews and of his friend Mr Abraham Adams</i>
1743	Fielding, Henry	<i>The History of the Life of the Late Mr Jonathan Wild the Great</i>
1744	Fielding, Sarah	<i>The Adventures of David Simple</i>
1748	Richardson, Samuel	<i>Clarissa; or, The History of a Young Lady (Clarissa Harlow)</i>
1749	Fielding, Henry	<i>The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling</i>
1751	Fielding, Henry	<i>Amelia</i>
1752	Johnson, Samuel	<i>The Rambler</i> (periodical)
1753	Richardson, Samuel	<i>The History of Sir Charles Grandison</i>
1754	Hawkesworth, John	<i>The Adventurer</i> (periodical)
1759	Johnson, Samuel	<i>The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia</i>
1761	Hawkesworth, John	<i>Almorán and Hamet</i>
1766	Goldsmith, Oliver	<i>The Vicar of Wakefield</i>
1767	Sterne, Laurence	<i>The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman</i>
1768	Sterne, Laurence	<i>A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy</i>
1771	MacKenzie, Henry	<i>The Man of Feeling</i>
1773	MacKenzie, Henry	<i>The Man of the World</i>
1777	MacKenzie, Henry	<i>Julia de Roubigné</i>
1778	Burney, Frances	<i>Evelina; or, The History of a Young Lady's Entrance into the World</i>
1782	Burney, Frances	<i>Cecilia; or, Memoirs of an Heiress</i>
1788	Smith, Charlotte	<i>Emmeline; or, The Orphan of the Castele</i>
1789	Bennett, Agnes Maria Smith, Charlotte	<i>Agnes de Courcy: A Domestic Tale</i> <i>Ethelinde; or, The Recluse of the Lake</i>
1791	Smith, Charlotte	<i>Celestina: A Novel</i>
1792	Smith, Charlotte	<i>Desmond</i>
1793	Smith, Charlotte	<i>The Old Manor House</i>
1795	Smith, Charlotte	<i>Montalbert</i>
1796	Burney, Frances Smith, Charlotte	<i>Camilla: A Picture of Youth</i> <i>Marchmont</i>

## Precursors of the Gothic Romance

Year	Author	Title
1753	Smollett, Tobias George	<i>The Adventures of Ferdinand, Count Fathom</i>
1764	Walpole, Horace	<i>The Castle of Otranto</i>
1773	Barbauld, Anna Letitia	<i>Sir Bertrand</i> (fragment)
1777	Reeve, Clara	<i>The Old English Baron</i>
1783	Blake, William	<i>Poetical Sketches: "Fair Elenor"</i>
1788	Reeve, Clara	<i>The Exiles; or, Memoirs of the Count de Cronstadt</i>
1798	Drake, Dr. Nathan	<i>Literary Hours; or, Sketches Critical and Narrative</i>

## The Novels of Suspense

Year	Author	Title
1789	Radcliffe, Ann	<i>The Castles of Athlone and Dunbayne: A Highland Story</i>
1790	Radcliffe, Ann	<i>A Sicilian Romance</i>
1792	Radcliffe, Ann Sleath, Eleanor Walker, George	<i>The Romance of the Forest: Interspersed with Some Pieces of Poetry</i> <i>Mysteries of the Forest</i> <i>The Romance of the Cavern; or, The History of Fitz-Henry and James</i>
1794	Radcliffe, Ann	<i>The Mysteries of Udolpho, A Romance</i>
1796	Palmer, John	<i>The Mystery of the Black Tower</i>
1797	Radcliffe, Ann	<i>The Italian; or, The Confessional of the Black Penitents</i>
1798	Roche, Regina Maria Sleath, Eleanor	<i>The Children of the Abbey: A Tale</i> <i>Clermont: A Tale</i> <i>The Orphan of the Rhine: A Romance</i>
1799	Walker, George	<i>The Vagabond: A Novel</i>
1800	Walker, George	<i>The Three Spaniards: A Romance</i>
1802	Edgeworth, Maria	<i>The Castle Rackrent: A Hibernian Tale</i>
1806	Palmer, John	<i>The Mystic Sepulchre; or, Such Things Have Been: A Spanish Romance</i>
1824	Walker, George	<i>The Midnight Bell: A German Story Founded on Incidents in Real Life</i>

## The Novels of Terror

Year	Author	Title
1793	Parsons, Eliza	<i>The Castle of Wolfenbach: A German Story</i>
1794	Flammenber, Lawrence/ Teuthold, Peter, trans.	<i>Necromancer; or, The Tale of the Black Forest</i>
1795	Lewis, Matthew Gregory	<i>The Monk: A Romance</i>
1796	Grosse, Marius von/Will, Peter, trans. Parsons, Eliza	<i>Horrid Mysteries: A Story from the German of the Marquis of Grosse</i> <i>The Mysterious Warning: A German Tale</i>
1798	Lathom, Francis	<i>The Midnight Bell: A German Story</i>
1799	Lewis, Matthew Gregory, et al.	<i>Tales of Terror</i>
1801	Lewis, Matthew Gregory, et al.	<i>Tales of Wonder</i>
1802	Parsons, Eliza	<i>The Mysterious Visit</i>
1803	Wilkinson, Sarah	<i>The Château de Montville; or, The Golden Cross</i>

## The Oriental Tale of Terror

Year	Author	Title
1704-1717		Translations of <i>The Thousand and One Nights</i> : beginning with Antoine Galland's 1704 <i>Mille et Une Nuit</i> and followed in 1706 with an anonymous English translation, <i>The Arabian Nights' Entertainment</i>
1708		<i>The Turkish Tales</i> (translated into English during the reign of Queen Anne)
1711	Addison, Joseph	<i>The Vision of Mirza</i>
1714	King, W. trans.	<i>The Thousand and One Days: Persian Tales</i>
1715	Gueullette, Thomas-Simon	<i>Tartarian Tales; or, The Thousand and One Quarters of an Hour</i>
1723	Gueullette, Thomas-Simon	<i>Chinese Tales; or, The Wonderful Adventures of the Mandarin Fum-Hoam</i>
1729	Bignon, Jean-Paul	<i>The Adventures of Abdallah</i>
1732	Gueullette, Thomas-Simon	<i>Mogul Tales; or, The Dreams of Men Awake</i>
1734	Gueullette, Thomas-Simon	<i>Peruvian Tales, Related in One Thousand and One Hours, by One of the the Select Virgins of Cusco, to the Ynca of Peru</i>
1761	Hawkesworth, Dr. John	<i>Almorán and Hamet</i>
1762	Langhorne, John	<i>Solyman and Almena</i>
1764	Ridley, James	<i>The Tales of the Genii; or, The Delightful Lessons of Horam, the Son of Asmer</i>
1767	Sheridan, Frances	<i>History of Nourjahad</i> <i>Memoirs of Miss Sidney Bidulph</i>
1782	Beckford, William/ Henley, Samuel	<i>The History of the Caliph Vathek, An Arabian Tale from an Unpublished Manuscript</i>
1785	Peacock, Lucy	<i>The Adventures of Six Princesses of Babylon, in their Travels to the Temple of Virtue: An Allegory</i>

## Godwin & the Rosicrucian Novel

(a plea for freedom of the individual and the perfectibility of man through reason)

Year	Author	Title
1794	Godwin, William	<i>The Adventures of Caleb Williams; or, Things as They Are</i>
1799	Godwin, William	<i>Travels of St. Leon</i>

## Additional References to Literature in *Northanger Abbey*

Addison, Joseph	<i>The Spectator: Essays</i>
Blair, Hugh	<i>Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres</i>
Edgeworth, Maria	<i>Belinda</i>
Gay, John	“The Hare and Many Friends”; <i>The Wife of Bath: A Comedy</i>
Gray, Thomas	“Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
Hume, David	<i>History of England</i>
Johnson, Samuel	<i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> (popularly called <i>Johnson’s Dictionary</i> )
Mackenzie, Henry	<i>The Mirror: A Periodical Paper, published at Edinburgh in the years 1770–1780</i>
Milton, John	“Paradise Lost” and other poems.
Moss, Rev. Thomas	“The Beggar’s Petition”
Pope, Alexander	“Elegy to the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady,” and poetry and essays
Prior, Matthew	Epigrams
Richardson, Samuel	Letter in <i>The Rambler</i> #97, Vol. ii
Robertson, William	<i>The History of Scotland</i>
Shakespeare, William	<i>Othello</i> , III; <i>Measure for Measure</i> , III; <i>Twelfth Night</i> , II
Walpole, Horace	<i>Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard III</i>