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ABOUT EDWARD AUSTEN



Edward Austen (from 1812, Knight) (1767-1852) was the author of the two Grand Tour journals published here. The Introduction gives pertinent information about his early life and the circumstances of his making the Grand Tour. About a year after his return to England he married Elizabeth Bridges, daughter of Sir Brook Bridges of Goodnestone Park in Kent, a near neighbour of Edward's adoptive parents, the Knights. Edward and Elizabeth first lived at nearby Rowling and then in 1797 when Mrs Knight, then a widow, signed over the estates to Edward, he and his wife (and by this time children) moved to Godmersham Park where he spent the rest of his life. Elizabeth died in 1808 after the birth of their eleventh child; all of their children survived to adulthood.

Edward never married again, and after Mrs. Knight's death, he and his family spent a part of every year at his Chawton estate in Hampshire where his mother and sisters lived at Chawton Cottage, a stone's throw from the Great House.

When Jane Austen died in July 1817, Edward's eldest son, also called Edward, was about to make the Grand Tour. Several of his journals have survived, most notably that of his journey through the Black Forest which includes his travel itinerary from Basle to Dresden. His visit to Dresden prompted his father to write to Prince Maximilian of Saxony in 1818, recalling his own year in Dresden twenty years earlier.

Neither Jane Austen in her surviving letters nor Edward, in so far as his letters are known, makes any other reference to his Grand Tour. Maria Josepha Lady Stanley, the widow of Edward's friend John Stanley, noted in a letter at the time of Edward's death that of her late husband's Neuchâtel 'set' only Sir Henry Campbell was still alive.

NOTES ON THE TEXT



Our aim has been to provide an accurate and readable text of Edward's two journals with as little editorial interference as possible. Nevertheless, for the sake of readability, some interference was necessary.

Editorial additions in the text are always indicated by square brackets. For Edward's spelling of place names – sometimes phonetic and sometimes 18th century spelling – we have on first mention given in square brackets the accepted modern spelling according to *The Times Atlas*; thereafter we have retained Edward's own spelling. Proper names of people have been corrected without comment. Other obvious mis-spellings have been retained.

We have added an itinerary before each journal, and included place names in each date heading, for the convenience of the reader. Where transcription or identification of a name or word is uncertain, we have supplied a facsimile of that text for readers to interpret for themselves.

Edward's capitalisation, like that of his sister Jane and other late 18th- and early 19th-century writers, is erratic. This has been normalised, as it was by Jane Austen's first publishers. We have also included a period at what is undoubtedly the end of a sentence – sometimes omitted in the manuscript.

Each journal was written on different-sized small sheets, so it was not feasible to retain the original line and page breaks. Though Edward's pages are not numbered, we have given page numbers in the text, using the first dated entry of Edward's journal as [1]: this will facilitate, it is hoped, the work of those who wish to consult the originals. Some facsimiles of text in manuscript are also included.

In the 1790 journal, Edward from time to time added information on the blank left hand page (i.e. the verso of the preceding page). These have been shown separately within this text.

*J*ourney through Switzerland

August 1786

ITINERARY

5 Aug: Neuchâtel to Berne via Aarberg and Anet	17
6 Aug: Berne, excursion to Hindelbank	19
7 Aug: Berne	21
8 Aug: Berne to Lauterbrunnen via Thun and Unterseen	21
9 Aug: Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald	25
10 Aug: Grindelwald to Meiringen via Schidegg	27
11 Aug: Meiringen	29
12 Aug: Meiringen to Spital via Guttanen	31
13 Aug: Spital to Oberwald	34
14 Aug: Oberwald to Hospental	38
15 Aug: Hospental to Altdorf via Amsteg	40
16 Aug: Altdorf	41
17 Aug: Altdorf to Lucerne via Fluelen, by boat on Lake of the Four Cantons, passing Gersau and Brunnen	43
18 Aug: Lucerne	44
19 Aug: Lucerne to Zug	46
20 Aug: Zug to Zurich via Albis	47
21 Aug: Zurich	48
22 Aug: Zurich	49
23 Aug: Zurich to Winterthur	50
24 Aug: Winterthur to Schaffhausen	50
25 Aug: Schaffhausen to Zurzach	52
26 Aug: Zurzach to Basle	53
27 Aug: Basle	53
28 Aug: Basle	54
29 Aug: Basle to [Blank in ms]	55
30 Aug: [Blank in ms] to Bienne	56
31 Aug: Bienne to Haute Rive, summer residence of M. Meuron	56

JOURNAL

[1] August 5th 1786 [NEUCHÂTEL TO BERNE]

I left Neuchatel early in the morning in the company of Monsieur Meuron¹ Ministre and dined at Aarberg, a small town in the Canton of Berne about half way between Neuchatel and the city of Berne where we arrived the same evening and joined Me^{srs} Stanley [Fig. 10, p. 131], Leycester and Campbell.² The road from Neuchatel to Berne is in general good more hilly at the latter end than at the beginning.

[2] About 5 miles from Neuchatel we passed a bridge called the Pont de Thielle, which is the boundary of that principality and separates it from the Canton of Berne. Here all the peasants speak only a bastard German, the bridge serving to separate the two languages as well as countries. After having passed a small village called Annette [Anet], we had a pretty view of the Lake of Morat and of the town of the same name famous for a battle the Swiss [3] gained over Charles the Proud Duke of Burgundy, the trophies of which we saw in the arsenal at Berne. From thence there is nothing remarkable till we ascended the hill, which looks immediately down on Berne, from whence we had a very fine view of that city which is situated almost in an island formed by the River Aare

¹ See Biographical Appendix

² All in Biographical Appendix

which flows neatly round the town at the bottom of a kind of amphitheatre of steep hills partly covered with vines and gardens, and partly with [4] pasture land. The whole view is bounded by the distant Alps, which from hence seemed somewhat nearer than from Neuchatel. I walked out in the evening with my new English companions and amused myself in feeding with bread a couple of enormous bears which are kept in a ditch at the entrance of the town for no other reason than through custom and a bear being the arms of the canton. From thence we continued our walk about a mile out of town [5] to be spectators at a ball consisting of the nobility and gentry of the place which was had in the open air under a silken canopy suspended to four pine trees.³ The fineness of the evening, the dress and the seeming gayety of the dancers, the trees crowded with lamps of different colors, a number of sky rockets which continued to enlighten the air above us, and in short the whole sight pleased me exceedingly and gave me a good opinion of the manners in which the Bernois amuse themselves.

[6] We all returned to our inn (which by the bye is a very good one) well pleased with our entertainment, most of us wishing I believe to have made one of it. The dress of the women of the lower rank in the Canton of Berne is very singular in the eyes of Englishmen. It consists of a short blue petticoat tied high

³ William Coxe, *Travels in Switzerland*, reports that in Berne there was a public ball every fortnight. 'The gaiety of these parties is still more enlivened during the summer months, when the natives resort to a garden near the town, and dance under an open pavilion amid scenes of rural festivity' (p. 212).

up their waists and just reaching down to their knees. Their stockings are in general red. Their shift (for they wear not neck handkerchiefs) comes under their [7] chin and buttons down their neck. Instead of stays they have a red cloth stomacher which comes up to the breast⁴ and is fasten'd round their waist with brass hooks and eyes. Their hair is combed back over their forehead and meets behind in two long plats which come down to their middle, sometimes farther; two black ribbons, one of which is platted in to each plat, generally train on the ground. On the top of their heads they wear a plain cap of black velvet [8] with broad lace of the same color. When they marry they no longer wear these long flowing plats of hair, but either cut them off or, what is more common, wear them in a kind of tress round the crown of their head, where they fasten them with a silver clasp.⁵ The men wear an odd sort of large puckered breeches, or rather trousers, which reach down to their feet, a short thick waistcoat, and frequently a small cloth hat, as do sometimes the women, when they go out.

[9] August 6 [BERNE]

Walked in the town in the morning, which is by far the neatest I ever saw and kept constantly well cleaned by a set of

⁴ Edward wrote 'their breasts' but struck out the 'ir' and the 's'.

⁵ '[Their hair] is parted from the top of the forehead, from thence brought round and joined to the locks behind, which either hang down their back in long tresses, are braided with ribband, or are woven round the head in a simple plait', writes Coxe. He also notes 'the absurd fashion of wearing their petticoats so high that they all appear as if they were far advanced in pregnancy.' (Coxe, *Travels*, I, p. 350)

malefactors who chained two and two are condemned for a certain number of years, sometimes for life, daily to clean the streets and remove whatever rubbish may offend the eyes or nose of passengers. By that means their streets are as neat and clean as a drawing room. Besides that there is a small brook runs through some of them and as they are [10] in general rather on a rapid descent carry off all dirt and rubbish that falls in to them and contributes also a little towards the cleanliness of the town. The houses are almost all well built of a fine white stone, which preserves its color better than our Bath stone. Every street in Berne has on each side of it a broad arcade or piazza supported by strong stone arches which though this may render the town, [11] as some complain of, rather dark, yet as there are at Berne very strict sumptuary laws⁶ in regard to carriages, they are certainly the cleverest things of the kind I ever saw, equally convenient against the cold of the winter as the heat of the summer. After dinner we went about 6 miles out of town to a village called Hindelbank in order to see a celebrated tomb⁷ at that place of the wife of the minister of the parish who died in childbed and is sup-

⁶ Sumptuary laws forbade certain displays of wealth. These varied from place to place. The use of carriages except by strangers was forbidden in Zurich as well as in Berne, where 'the wearing of gold, silver, lace &c. and even silk, is expressly prohibited.' (William Coxe, *Sketches of the Natural, Civil, and Political State of Swisserland*, 2d ed, p. 368).

⁷ This was the tomb of Anna Magdalena Langhans (1723-1751), who died in childbed on Easter eve. 'It is placed in the body of the church, sunk into the pavement like a grave, and covered with two folding doors. When these are opened, a grave-

posed to be [12] rising from the tomb together with the child at the Day of Judgment. The thought is original and the whole well executed.

August 7 [BERNE]

Went after breakfast to see the Arsenal, well stored with arms and kept remarkably clean. They shewed us the Duke of Burgundy on horseback in armour and the cords which they say he brought with him with the intention of hanging the Swiss he took prisoners but were taken [13] from him at the Battle of Morat. After dinner saw the church, which is nothing remarkable, a good view from its tower of Berne and its environs. The most striking building in Berne is the hospital lately created, which is both a neat and elegant piece of architecture.

August 8 [BERNE TO LAUTERBRUNNEN]

We left Berne early in the morning and breakfasted at Thun, a small dirty town situated on the Aare. We there bid a farewell to travelling in carriages and after breakfast embarked on the lake, which takes its name from the town [14] of Thun and is about half a mile distant from it. We went the whole

stone appears as if just rent into three fractures through which is half discovered the figure of a woman slightly veiled in a shroud. She is represented at the moment of the resurrection, when the graves are commanded to yield up their dead. With her right hand she is gently raising that portion of the broken grave-stone which lies over her head; and in the other holds a naked infant struggling with its little hands to release itself from the tomb. "Here am I, Lord, and the child whom thou gavest me," are the sublime words which form the inscription.' (Coxe, *Travels II*, p. 308)