

Jane Austen and the Unfinished Right of Resort

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Austen's unfinished fragment, *Sanditon*, is a narrative about trying to establish a seaside resort where there isn't one and thus falls conceptually and historically at an incipient moment in the modern "hospitality industry." For the purposes of this paper, I am especially interested in how the word "resort" flickers between the logics of refuge and of recreation. I read the *Sanditon* fragment as a historico-philosophical extension of a decades-long investigation into hospitality dating to Austen's earliest experiments with novelistic form. Using the posthumous co-publication of *Northanger Abby* and *Persuasion* as a historical convenience for reflecting on the arc of Austen's career, I first consider how those two novels structure narrative crises around matters of host-guest relations, while tracing a history of privatization that, I argue, finds its terminus in the unfinished experiment at Sanditon.