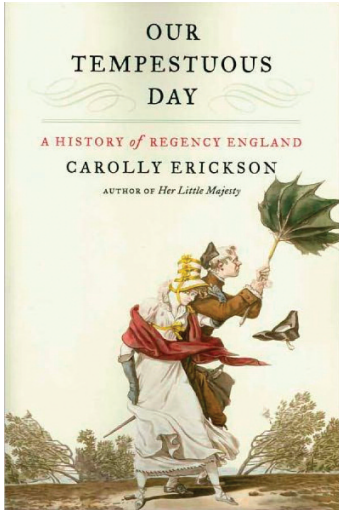


Bayou Bend/Rienzi Book Club Guide

July 2016



Reading Guide: *Our Tempestuous Day: A History of Regency England* by Carolly Erickson

1. How would you characterize King George III? His family? How was his son George, the Prince Regent, different from him?
2. What crises faced Great Britain in the early 19th century? Did this affect how visitors such as Louis Simond viewed Britain?
3. What events led to the call for a Regency? What obstacles complicated the decision to designate a Regency?
4. The Prince Regent was known for his extravagant lifestyle; describe some ways he exemplified this characterization.
5. The sense of frivolity is interrupted in late 1811 by the rise of the Luddite Movement and culminates with the assassination of Prime Minister Spencer Perceval. How does the Prince Regent handle these upheavals? How do the British people?
6. Why do you think Carolly Erickson followed her chapter on Lord Byron with one about Hannah More?
7. Jane Austen's opinion appears in a few places throughout the book. What do you think of her assessment that she would support the cause of Caroline, Princess of Wales, "as long as I can because she is a woman?" Do we see any indication that the roles and perceptions of women are changing in the Regency period?
8. Compare the portraits of the Prince Regent by Thomas Lawrence to Erickson's description of him. Do you find the Prince Regent to have any redeeming qualities? In what ways could he have redeemed himself to the average Briton?
9. Of all the larger-than-life characters described in the book, who was your favorite? Least favorite?
10. Was the structure of the book, the "transformation scenes" as described on page 8, helpful in your understanding of Regency England?

Author Biography

Carolly Erickson (born 1943) is a historian and author of many award-winning works of nonfiction and fiction. Besides tackling the complicated Regency period, she has published numerous books about women in history, including Queen Victoria, Josephine Bonaparte, and Tsarina Alexandra. She graduated from Columbia University and currently lives in Hawaii.

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