At Home with the Georgians - More Reading
Amanda Vickery, December 2010

Keen viewers have asked me to provide an introductory bibliography and suggestions for where to go to find out more. Here is an edited list as a place to start.

All the stories in the series come from my book *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England* (Yale, 2009) where they are covered in greater depth and with more context. Any documents or individuals you are interested in can be followed up via my footnotes and bibliography.


Town houses are much less studied than country piles, but see Sir John Summerson, *Georgian London* (1945) and Rachel Stewart, *The London Town House* (2009). And of course walk around York, Lancaster, Edinburgh, Bath, Bristol, Beverley, Stamford and London, amongst many
others towns and cities, to glimpse the surviving skeleton of the Georgian townscape.

It is the houses of the super-rich that tend to survive intact and their exquisite possessions which are preserved for posterity in museums. It is much harder to study domestic lives and design decisions below the level of the gentry. But historians have used inventories to recreate the material world of the middling. Two path breaking studies are Lorna Weatherill, Consumer Behaviour and Material Culture in Britain, 1660-1760 (1988), Mark Overton with J. Whittle, D. Dean and A. Hann, Production and Consumption in English Households 1600-1750 (2004).

The British Galleries at the V&A give an excellent overview of how commercial boom, technological innovation and new manners created new objects and designs: http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/furniture/galleries/118a/index.html

The Geffrye Museum also in London aims to show the changing style of the domestic interiors of middling families: http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/period-rooms-and-gardens/explore-rooms/parlour-1745/

For houses in your area have a search on the websites of the National Trust and English Heritage: www.nationaltrust.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk
The National Trust houses has posted a handy house by house bibliography:

The houses and possessions of the labouring poor are hardly studied at all, for lack of evidence. Two attempts to redress the balance are Peter Guillery, *The Small House in Eighteenth Century London* (2005) and John Styles, *The Dress of the People* (2008).


To research in archives yourself, a great place to start is the Access to Archives website from which you can search the catalogues of your local record office:
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/

Hope you enjoy yourself!
Amanda