

## EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND ELEVEN

In 1811 England was on the brink of economic collapse and revolution. The veteran poet and campaigner Anna Letitia Barbauld published a prophecy of the British nation reduced to ruins by its refusal to end the interminable war with France, titled *Eighteen Hundred and Eleven*. Combining ground-breaking historical research with incisive textual analysis, this new study dispels the myth surrounding the hostile reception of the poem and takes a striking episode in Romantic-era culture as the basis for exploring poetry as a medium of political protest. Clery examines the issues at stake, from the nature of patriotism to the threat to public credit, and throws new light on the views and activities of a wide range of writers, including radical, loyalist and Dissenting journalists, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey and Barbauld herself. Putting a woman writer at the centre of the enquiry opens up a revised perspective on the politics of Romanticism.

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EIGHTEEN HUNDRED  
AND ELEVEN

*Poetry, Protest and Economic Crisis*

E. J. CLERY  
*University of Southampton*



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*For William McCarthy*

... every image of the past that is not recognized by the present as  
one of its own concerns threatens to disappear irretrievably.

Walter Benjamin, 'Theses on the Philosophy of History',  
V, *Illuminations*.

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## *Abbreviations*

- AJR* – *Anti-Jacobin Review*.  
*BC* – *British Critic*.  
*CR* – *Critical Review*.  
*ER* – *Edinburgh Review*.  
*EHE* – Anna Letitia Barbauld, *Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, A Poem* (London, 1812).  
*GM* – *Gentleman's Magazine*.  
 HC Deb – House of Commons Debate, in *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*.  
 McCarthy 2008 – William McCarthy, *Anna Letitia Barbauld: Voice of the Enlightenment* (Baltimore, MD, 2008).  
 McCarthy and Kraft 1994 – William McCarthy and Elizabeth Kraft (eds.), *The Poems of Anna Letitia Barbauld* (Athens, GA, 1994).  
 McCarthy and Kraft 2002 – William McCarthy and Elizabeth Kraft (eds.) *Anna Letitia Barbauld: Selected Poetry and Prose* (Peterborough, Ont., 2002).  
*MC* – *Morning Chronicle*.  
*MM* – *Monthly Magazine*.  
*MR* – *Monthly Review*.  
*ODNB* – *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004).  
*PR* – William Cobbett's *Political Register*.  
*QR* – *Quarterly Review*.  
 Robinson 1927 – *The Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson with the Wordsworth Circle (1808–1866)*, ed. Edith J. Morley, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1927).  
 Robinson 1938 – *Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and Their Writers*, ed. Edith J. Morley, 3 vols. (London, 1938).