

**Anna Letitia Barbauld in Twenty Hundred and Twelve: New Perspectives
Chawton House Library 11-12 May 2012**

Keynote speaker: William McCarthy, Barbauld's biographer and editor

The 200th anniversary of Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, Barbauld's most powerful and controversial poem seems an ideal moment for a reappraisal of her life and works. Over the past two decades, the publication by William McCarthy and Elizabeth Kraft of a complete edition of her *Poems* (1994) and a paperback of *Selected Poetry and Prose* (2002), followed by Professor McCarthy's internationally acclaimed biography (2008) has stimulated a wealth of new research on her activities as poet, essayist, educationalist, editor, devotional writer and advocate of religious freedom, the abolition of the slave trade, and social reform, in a career that began with éclat in 1773 and endured until shortly before her death in 1825. We invite scholars to Chawton House Library, a rare books collection dedicated to early women's writing, to celebrate Barbauld's achievements and to debate her historical significance and the continuing relevance of many of her themes, not least the economic crisis and dysfunctional war policy which were the occasion of Eighteen Hundred and Eleven and led to its warning, apocalyptic vision of a nation in terminal decline.

Speakers include Isobel Armstrong, Emma Clery, David Fallon, Isobel Grundy, Felicity James and Orienne Smith.

Proposals for papers are invited on these or other Barbauld-related topics:

Dissenters and dissent

Feminisms, bluestocking and otherwise

Education

War

Slavery and the abolition movement

Women and politics

Barbauld's male allies and associates, including John Aikin, Joseph Johnson, William Enfield, Joseph Priestley, William Roscoe.

Science and Art

The Monthly Magazine and the liberal press

Barbauld's genres: poetry, biography, reviews, children's literature

Reactionary reviews and Romantic responses to women's writing

Memoirs and biographies of Barbauld

The conference is co-hosted by Chawton House Library, the University of Leicester, and the University of Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SCECS). Please send abstracts of 200-500 words for the attention of the conference organisers Gillian Dow, Felicity James and Olivia Murphy to Sandy White: sw17@soton.ac.uk The deadline for abstracts is the 30th of January 2012.