



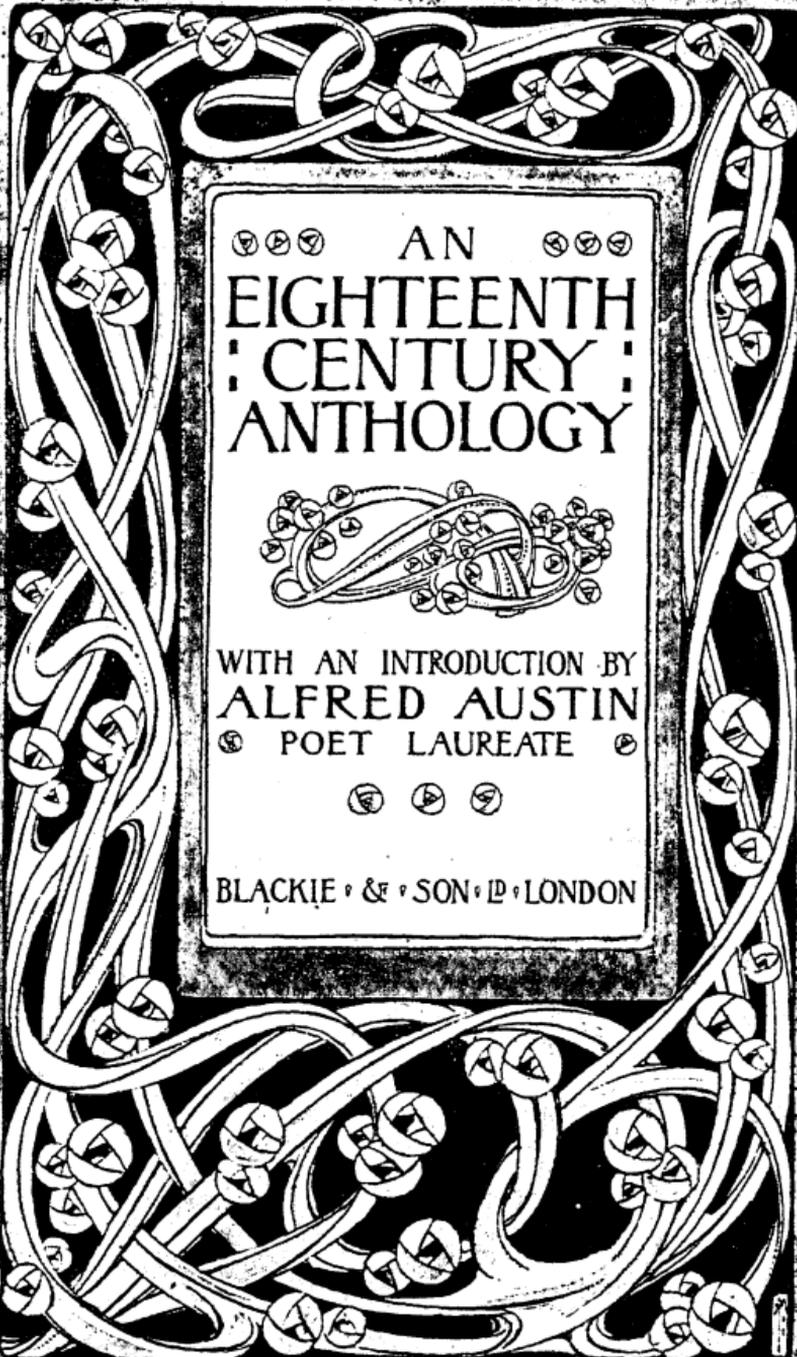
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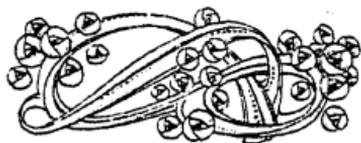
AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
ANTHOLOGY







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CENTURY  
ANTHOLOGY



WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
ALFRED AUSTIN  
• POET LAUREATE •



BLACKIE & SON, LONDON

## Introduction

It would seem to be the duty of everyone who has the slightest chance of being listened to, to contribute to the formation of a sounder literary criticism at a time that is somewhat suffering from the need of it. Impelled by this feeling, I have acceded to the suggestion that I should write the following essay on the Poetry of the Eighteenth Century, by way of introduction to selections from the writings of the foremost poets of that period. Chosen strictly in conformity with that principle, and with the above object, it will be found that they are extracted from writers whose names are familiar to all educated persons, and that belong to the enduring storehouse of English literature. Were they at present as much read, and as justly estimated, as they deserve to be, this essay would have been unnecessary.

The division of literary periods into centuries must inevitably be more or less