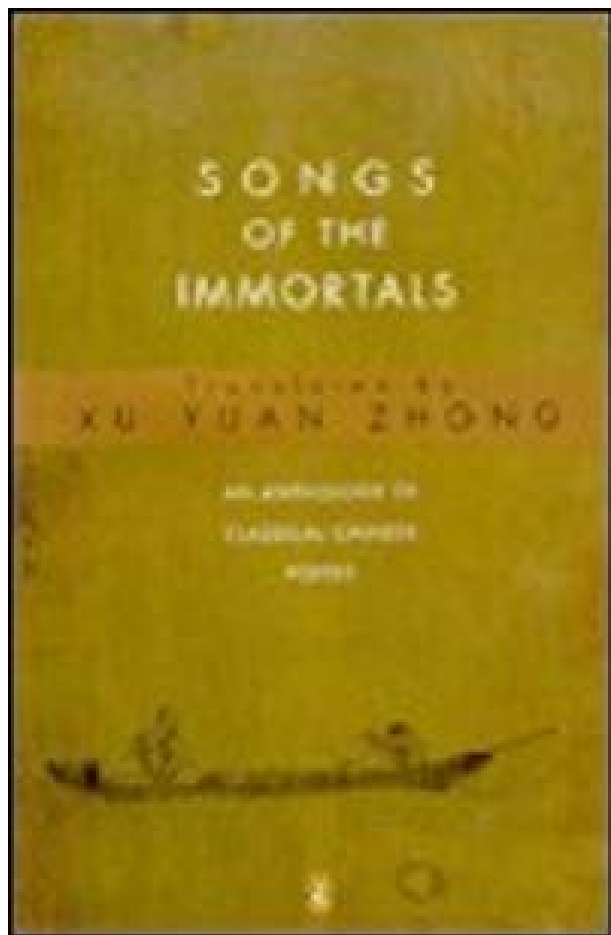


# Songs of the Immortals: An Anthology of Classical Chinese Poetry



<b>Pages:</b>	256
<b>Published:</b>	December 1st 1994 by Puffin
<b>Genre:</b>	Favorites
<b>Author:</b>	Various
<b>ISBN13:</b>	9780140586855
<b>ISBN10:</b>	0140586857
<b>Goodreads Rating:</b>	3.50
<b>Language</b>	English

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Arranged in chronological order, it opens with poems from the Book of Poetry, one of the world's earliest and greatest anthologies compiled in 600 BC and traditionally associated with Confucius. It concludes with poetry from the Qing period (1644-1911). As new, freely colloquial forms and song-poems emerged during the Yuan period (1279-1368), the tide of Chinese literature began to turn away from poetry towards prose. In between there are poems by, among many others, Qu Yuan, the earliest named Chinese poet; Li Shang-yin, sublime master of the love lyric in the Tang dynasty, golden age of Chinese classical poetry; and Li Qing-zhao, a woman poet of rare intensity and invention.