by stressing the outstanding and importance of Xu's poetry in the history of modern Chinese poetry.

This exercise is a study of the poetry of Xu Zhimo. Xu was one of the foremost poets of modern China. He first studied banking in America, then moved to England and returned to China a burgeoning poet exultant with acquired European tastes. What has provided the major source for Xu's poetic imagination and intellectual orientation can be found not in America, but in Europe, not the Europe of the postwar disillusionment, but a more ebullient Europe of the nineteenth century.

As a western-oriented poet, Xu attempted to break away from the rhyming patterns of traditional Chinese poetry and to substitute an essentially western form of versification with rhyme. Xu has written four collections of poems: Zhimo De Shi《志摩的诗》, Feilengcui De Yi Ye《翡冷翠的一夜》, Meng Hu Ji《猛虎集》 and Yun You《云游》. In most of Xu's poems, the theme centres around the pursuit of love, freedom, beauty and ideals.

To enhance understanding of Xu's poetry, this academic exercise is an attempt to develop a systematic approach towards the study of his poetry. Structurally, the exercise is divided into eight chapters. The Introductory chapter consists of a brief description of Xu's poems, and the reason for choosing his poetry for analysis. Chapter two is an account of Xu's life and thought. Chapter three, four and five deal with his ideological poetry, love poetry and poetry of other subjects respectively. Chapter six concerns the special aesthetic feature in his poetry. Chapter seven is an assessment of the literary merits and demerits of his poetry. The final chapter sums up the entire exercise
by stressing the outstanding features and importance of Xu's poetry in the history of modern Chinese poetry.

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