Abstract

This Academic Exercise aims at examining the values of an anthology, a source which has long been overlooked in the field of Chinese literary criticism. *A Collection of Tang Poetry* (《唐诗品汇》) compiled by Gao Bing (高棣) (1350 - 1423 A.D.) has been selected for this study because of its widespread influence but has yet received little critical attention.

The focus of this study was on the selection criteria used by the compiler. Two methods of analysis were used in this investigative study. Firstly, the qualitative analysis (based on inductive and deductive reasoning), where the comments of the compiler on the selected poems were closely examined. Secondly, the quantitative analysis (based on statistical evaluation), where a new scientific method in the study of anthologies was used to extrapolate the poetic theory of the compiler.

The present investigative study into an anthology provides us with a greater understanding and a more rounded picture of Gao Bing's poetic theory rather than scholarly works based mainly on his theory. Hence, an anthology is an essential source of material which should not be ignored in the study of Chinese literary criticism.