ABSTRACT

This whole study aims at examining the important contribution made by Zhu Ting Zhen (1841-1903) in the field of Chinese literary criticism. Besides being a literary critic, he was also a poet in the Qing period. Literary criticisms flourished during this period. Zhu Ting Zhen enjoyed a high reputation within his homeland, Yunnan. However, because of his low social status and the fact that he was far away from the political arena (Beijing), he has not been well-known nor studied much by others. This study of Zhu Ting Zhen’s “Notes of Poetry” (Xiao Yuan Shi Hua 筱园诗话) therefore aims to fill in the gap in the area of research.

Chapter one of this thesis provides an account of Zhu Ting Zhen’s life which is important for a better understanding of his central ideas which are given in full detail in Chapter two. Chapter three deals mainly with his viewpoints about poetry writing. To evaluate the viewpoint from which he assesses the poems and comments given to both the poets and their work is forwarded in Chapter four. Finally, the last chapter concludes with an evaluation on his work.

Above all, this study helps to achieve its objective of raising the status of Zhu Ting Zhen in the history of Chinese literary criticism through an in-depth and analytical study of his poetic theories.