ABSTRACT

This is primarily an analytical study of a late MING and early QING (明末清初) (1640? - 1677?) novel -- A SEQUEL TO THE WATER MARGIN (II), (HOU SHUIHUZHUAH) (后水浒传).

The novel had only been recently discovered and thus little in-depth study was done upon the evaluation of this novel. This Academic Exercise attempts to fulfill the task of giving this novel a fair evaluation with respect to its themes and artistry.

Structurally, the academic exercise is divided into seven chapters. Charter One introduces the various books which are, in their studies, sequels to the famous novel, the WATER MARGIN (水浒传), with special focus in the above mentioned novel.

The Second Chapter deals with an analysis of the identity of the author, who was known only as QINGLIANSHI ZHUREN (Master of the QING LIAN Studio)(青莲室主人). Chapter Three delves into the historical back-ground of the story, i.e. the chaotic period of Southern SUNG (南宋) while Chapter Four examines the thematic significance of the book.

Chapters Five and Six highlight the artistic accomplishments of the novel, with Chapter Six examining specifically the artistic achievements of character projections and creations. Chapter Seven concludes the study by re-emphasizing the significant qualities of the novel.

The findings show that although there are certain deficiencies found in the artistic accomplishment of the novel, the ideological achievement is nevertheless profound and enriching.