ABSTRACT

Guo Pu (郭璞) (276-324) was a famous poet of the Eastern Jin dynasty (317-420) noted for his poems on Wandering Immortals (游仙诗). His corpus of 14 poems shows that he had manifestly developed the poems on Wandering Immortals to the fullest extent in terms of theme, contents and poetic artistry.

Chapter Three examines the influence of Guo Pu's poems on later generations based on the conclusion drawn in Chapter Two. In so doing, some studies of Guo Pu's poems are still wanting in depth in some respects. It is the aim of this exercise to show the inherent richness of the poetic artistry of Guo Pu's poems and the artistic techniques of the poet which rightly places him in a position of eminence in the development of such poems.

The introductory chapter includes a definition of the poems on Wandering Immortals and critical comments on previous studies of Guo Pu's poems as well as the aim of this study.

Chapter One dwells on the characteristics of poems on Wandering Immortals in periods prior to Guo Pu which laid the foundation for the poet's distinctive works.

Chapter Two is divided into two sections. In the first section the theme and contents of Guo Pu's poems were found to contain not only a description of the immortals but also an expression of the thoughts and feelings of the poet. Thus the theme and contents are examined in three aspects, viz., wanderings in the immortal world; intermingling of immortals and recluse; and disillusionment in the immortal world. Moreover the social inclination to seek immortality and reclusion in the Wei Jin period (220-420) and the life encounters of the poet are
used in examining Guo Pu's poems. In the second section the artistic
techniques of the poet are explored in three aspects: the presentation
of scenery, the description of wanderings, and the expression of
emotions.

Chapter Three examines the influence of Guo Pu's poems on later
generations based on the conclusion drawn in Chapter Two. In so doing
it is hoped that the richness in theme and contents as well as the
poetic artistry of Guo Pu's poems are fully appreciated.

The important features and notions regarding Guo Pu's poems on
Wandering Immortals are given added emphasis in the concluding chapter
of this study, thus establishing the reputation of Guo Pu as a
significant representative of this literary genre.