Abstract

Traditional Chinese drama has a long history of several centuries. Today, it is regarded as an important heritage of Chinese culture. This academic exercise sets out with two purposes: first, introducing to the readers the types of literature on traditional Chinese drama available at the NUS Chinese Library; second, to provide an easy-to-use reference and annotations on the literature. A catalogue is planned with the following categories: (i) Introduction, (ii) Early Drama, (iii) Yuan Drama, (iv) Ming Drama, (v) Qing Drama, (vi) Drama after Qing, (vii) Local Drama, (viii) Music and Theatrical Art. This literature includes writings in the nature of theory, works and stagecraft, among others. Seventeen books on local drama are annotated, owing to their usefulness in research and less readily accessible outside NUS Chinese Library. The annotations focus on Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese and Hainanese drama in Singapore and other developments directly relevant to these four major groups of local drama.