Abstract

Xu Zeng was born in China, Jiangsu Province in A.D. 1611. His scholastic studies included mainly poetry, prose and critical writing. Unknown and neglected during his lifetime, it is therefore, the objective of this thesis to examine one of Xu Zeng's works i.e. "Er Ann's Remarks on Poetry" (Er Ann Shi Hua). It is an attempt to explore Xu Zeng's perception on poems written during the Tang Dynasty.

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one discusses the objectives of studying Xu Zeng. Chapter two elucidates the works completed by Xu Zeng, his contribution to the vast poetic world of China and an overview of the structure of "Er Ann's Remarks on Poetry". The third chapter highlights the poetic perception in which Xu Zeng considers poetry as an expression of real life experience and emotions in a metrical composition. Xu Zeng also develops a methodology to enable readers to appreciate and analyse poems. This methodology has great similarities with Chin Sheng-tan (A.D. 1609 - A.D 1611) method, one of the great critics of Ching Dynasty. A special chapter (V) is devoted entirely to compare these two methodologies. The final chapter attempt to provide readers with a clear and concise of Xu Zeng systematic poetic perception and the methodology of extracting the main message of the poem.

The study hopes to stimulate readers interest in Xu Zeng and his contribution to the critics of literature.