ABSTRACT

Chinese tales of chivalry had long been neglected by scholars though much loved by the general readers. Among the world of chivalric tales, San-Yan’s collection of the Ming Period, exuding rays of peculiar charm, have yet received little critical attention. Hence, the focus of this study is on the reflection of chivalric spirit in the characters of San-Yan’s tales of chivalry.

The influences of the popular Buddhist recitals in the T’ang period and the story-telling in the Sung period on these tales of chivalry from San-Yan’s collection are discussed in the study, helping to unfold the visions and ideals of the authors. Furthermore, the authors’ ideas of chivalric spirit which exerted influence on the development of Chinese chivalric tales are evaluated in this paper.

The present study tries to reappraise the tales of chivalry from the San-Yan and to acknowledge their rightful status in the tradition of Chinese literature.