(1598)

**ABSTRACT**

Wang Wei (A.D. 701 - 761) was a great painter-poet in the Tang Dynasty. During A.D. 748 to A.D. 756, because of his previous life experiences and his thinking which were influenced by Tao Yuan-Ming (陶渊明) as well as the teachings of Buddhism and Taoism, he took to seclusion in a "country-villa" which was situated at the Wang-chuan Valley of Lan-tian country (蓝田县) in Shanxi, (陕西). During this time of seclusion, he wrote a collection of twenty poems called "Poems of Wang-chuan" (《辋川集》).

Though Wang Wei's life of seclusion and his "Poems of Wang-chuan" drew the attentions of numerous scholars, studies conducted on these two aspects were neither complete nor systematic. Thus, this thesis attempts to analyse them through historical materials as well as all the poems written in Wang-chuan.

Wang Wei's life of seclusion in Wang-chuan was at best, partial due mainly to family commitments and also his political attachments. Despite this partial nature, studies showed that Wang Wei enjoyed the times he spent at Wang-chuan tremendously. Besides decorating his own villa, he also participated in farm work. He also indulged in meditation and prepared his own vegetarian meals from the edible mallow that he plucked. He enjoyed sight-seeing and would sometimes take long strolls by himself or with some of his friends, taking in the beautiful scenery and transforming every bit of it into poems of praises and appreciation. He also found time to study the religious teachings of Buddhism.
With the passage of time and the constant partaking in such activities, Wang Wei's pessimistic outlook had gradually changed to a more optimistic one.

Regarding his "Poems of Wang-chuan", although it describes the scenery of Wang-chuan, it also reflects the feelings of Wang Wei and his Buddhist philosophy. In this thesis, the artistic achievement of his "Poems of Wang-chuan" will be analysed in terms of structure pattern, sources of inspiration, contents and mood. On top of all these, his poems also subtly portray his beliefs in Buddhism and through his collection, the meaning and significance of the Buddhist philosophy in Wang Wei's life can be understood.

Apart from the main contents, six pictures of Wang-chuan are presented at the back followed by References.