ABSTRACT

Chen Ting Zhu (陈廷焯) [1853 - 1892] was one of the remarkable literary critics of the last century. This study aims at examining his important contributions to Chinese literary criticism by using the method of inductive and deductive reasoning. The discussion in this dissertation focuses primarily on Chen's Bai Yu Zhai Ci Hua (《白雨斋词话》).

In three independent, but closely related chapters, the theoretical frameworks of Chen's lyrical criticism are reconstructed. Chen's penetrating advocacy of the aesthetic values present in lyrical works is also analysed. The concluding part of this dissertation compares Chen with his predecessors and contemporaries, and contrasts Chen's conceptions with western theories of literature. The research has highlighted Chen's peculiar insights and outstanding literary achievements.