A STUDY OF YE XIE'S YUAN-SHI

The aims of this essay are to study YUAN-SHI, the work of YE XIE, and to elaborate the importance and significance of his theory on poetry, relying mainly on the materials available to me.

There are altogether five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction of YE XIE'S life and an analysis of the structure of YUAN-SHI. Chapter two is intended to introduce the historical and literary background which led to the writing of YUAN-SHI. Chapter three is a reconstruction of YE XIE'S theory on poetry which I divide into eight sections. Chapter four depicts poetic criticism of YE XIE in YUAN-SHI. The final chapter evaluates the work as a whole, putting it in its historical perspective.

YUAN-SHI, compared with other shi-hua, ("jottings on poetry" or "poetry talks") is more solid and systematic. It can be regarded as a representative piece of work of this nature during the period. Two scholars, XUE XUE (薛) and SHEN DE-QIAN (沈德潜), admired and accepted the whole theory of YE-XIE and further developed them, which influenced greatly the literary circle in China in the late 17th century and early 18th century.