SUMMARY

This thesis is intended to study Qiu Shu Yuan’s poetry on historical themes as a topic for research.

Qiu Shu Yuan (1874-1941) was a well known poet in Singapore in the early times and reputed to be the ‘The Most Talented Scholar in Nanyang’, ‘Master of Poetry in the Southern Lands’. In his life time, he wrote more than 1400 Chinese poems in traditional form leaving behind a rich cultural heritage. I choose his poetry on historical themes, a kind of lyrics meant to comment on subject matter with respect to historical figures and events, as the object for study, hoping that this will promote the study of Qiu’s poems.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters:

The first chapter is about the motivation of this study, its scope, method and the procedure to write;

The second chapter briefly describes the emergence and development of the Chinese poetry on historical themes in mainland China;

The third chapter introduces the background and conditions under which Qiu wrote his poetry on historical themes;

The fourth and fifth chapters will bring to light the subject matter of Qiu’s poetry on historical themes in a chronological manner and under different groupings;

The sixth and seventh chapters will analyse the arts form and style of Qiu’s poetry on historical themes, looking at them from several perspectives such as structure, language and rhetoric. Qiu’s achievement and standing as a poet on historical themes will also be appraised.