ABSTRACT

Li He (李贺), style Changji (长吉) (790-816), was born to a distant branch of the imperial clan. He was a talented poet of the mid-Tang Dynasty. With his extraordinary literary style, he earned himself a name of "ghost-poet" (诗鬼).

This study of Li He is divided into six chapters. The preface provides the background to the subject of the study. Chapter One gives the historical background of mid-Tang Dynasty when Li He lived. Chapter Two deals with Li He's life. Chapter Three focuses on the literary origin of his poems. Chapter Four touches on the main themes underlying his poems. Owing to the failure of his political career, Li He's poems mainly reflect frustration and bitterness, offering sharp sarcasm, irony and satire about political matters. Chapter Five dwells mainly on the intricacy of Li He's literary style. For the unusual richness of his alluirement, and his courting of the the macabre - the unlikely, unlucky image - he earned a reputation as a "ghost-poet". In Chapter Six, the influences of Li He on succeeding poets are briefly discussed. The conclusion of the study gives a summary of the above discussion.