This paper aims at examining the values of *The Anthology of Qing Poetry* (清诗别裁集) compiled by Shen Deqian (沈德潜) (1673-1769 A.D.). *Qing Shi Bie Cai Ji*, also known as *Guo Chao Shi Bie Cai Ji* (国朝诗别裁集) (36 chuan 巻) which was edited in 1759, collected the poems of the early Qing period. A revised edition in 32 chuan with a preface by the Emperor Qian Long (乾隆) was published in 1761.

As this study focusses on the analysis of the poetic theory of Shen Deqian, only those relevant aspects which reflect Shen's view on poetry are included. Chapter One briefly depicts the historical and literacy background of the anthology. Chapter Two is an introduction to Shen's life, and his compositions and anthologies which he compiled and edited. Chapter Three describes the aims of Shen's compilation and the criteria used in the selection of poems. Chapter Four focusses on the form of arrangement of this anthology. Chapter Five depicts Shen's poetic criticism towards both the poets and their work. The final chapter evaluates Shen's literacy assertion "poetic form" (格调说), as opposed to Yuan Mei (袁枚), who emphasized genius and individuality (灵性说).

Comments are mainly disorganised, fragmented and unsystematic in *Qing Shi Bie Cai Ji*. However, in piecing
together the scattered comments over the anthology, we could reconstruct the theoretical framework of Shen Deqian. The findings do provide us with an in-depth understanding of Shen's poetry theory besides studying his theoretical work.

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