Xue Xue (薛雪, 1681-1763?), a literary critic of the Qing period, was also a doctor, a poet and an artist. His knowledge of several fields of study was wide, including that of martial arts. Unfortunately, his potentiality and capability had been overshadowed by his teacher, Ye Xie (1627-1703) and his studymate, Shen Deqian (1673-1769). Both Ye Xie's and Shen Deqian's importance in the realm of knowledge has been emphasised. The treatise "Yi Piao Shi Hua" (一瓢诗话) as written by Xue Xue, however, has not attracted much attention and the studies done on this treatise have not been entirely satisfactory. This lack of intensive investigation of Xue Xue's poetics is the main reason for selecting "A Study of Xue Xue's 'Notes of Poetry' (Yi Piao Shi Hua 一瓢诗话)" as the topic of this academic exercise.

This academic exercise provides firstly an account of Xue Xue's life since this enables a better understanding of his central ideas which are detailed in chapter two. An examination of how Xue Xue's theoretical aspects could be linked to the writing skills is forwarded in chapter three. Having fully and accurately understood Xue Xie's poetic theories, chapter four pinpoints how Xue Xue views his predecessors and contemporaries. The final chapter concludes with an evaluation of his writing.
The study hopes to achieve its objective of raising the status of Xue Xue through a detailed analytical study of his poetic theories. In understanding the man and his work, we can more fully appreciate his contribution to the literary history of China.

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