Abstract

There has been a proliferation of works on literary criticism, especially that on poetry, during the Qing Dynasty. However, there is yet a display of pre-eminence in the above research. Any attempt to weave the fragmented pieces of comments together is never an easy task in face of the colossal collections. It is therefore hoped that, through the study of Qing literary criticisms on poetry, this thesis will make its contributions.

This five-chapter study investigates the framework of He Shang's (贺裳) notes on poetry, as depicted in his Zai Jiu Yuan Shi Hua (载酒园诗话). He Shang, also known as He Huang Gong (贺黄公), has since not received much attention in the field of literary criticism. It is because of this oblivious study that inspired the present researcher to analyse the topic in some detail.

Chapter One puts forth He Shang's aesthetic ideals. The methodology in poetry writing and appreciation is discussed in Chapter Two and Chapter Three, respectively. The next chapter exemplifies He Shang's views on his predecessors. The study ends with a brief evaluation on He Shang's literary criticisms in Chapter Five.

There is very little information on Zai Jiu Yuan Shi Hua, it is therefore mainly based on the original text that He Shang’s perspectives are deduced. The findings show that He Shang’s views, though not entirely flawless, are significant and certainly deserve more attention than they are now. It is the writer’s utmost hope that this thesis will induce further studies on Zai Jiu Yuan Shi Hua.