ABSTRACT

The *Yu Ming Lu* (*Records of the Hidden and the Visible Worlds*) is a collection of strange writings by a group of unknown writers during the Southern Dynasties. However, completion of this collection was owed largely to the important role contributed by Liu Yiqing, a noble from the Liu-Song regime.

This paper attempts to make a comprehensive study of the *Yu Ming Lu*, which has a collection of more than 200 items of short stories.

The study is divided into four chapters and a conclusion. Chapter one introduces and briefly describes the approach of this study. Chapter two deals with the authorship, especially Liu Yiqing’s life, the background of that period and the circulation and publications of their collection until today. Chapter three focuses on the contents and the main topics prevailed in the stories. As human beings have always encountered with the possible existences of the other worlds, stories in this collection presented a mystery and attractive appeal to all readers. The final chapter highlights the writing style of these stories, which has always been neglected by researchers in this study field.

The conclusion will demonstrate that the *Yu Ming Lu* not only exerted great influence on literary works of the same genre, but also on history writings.

Thus, this research has been based mainly on micro study of a collection among all other strange writings in classical Chinese literature, as compared with in the past, where studies on strange writings mainly focused only on macro views.