ABSTRACT

Lin Hui Yin (林徽因, 1904-1955) was one of the most talented female authors in modern Chinese literature. She is an author who has very strong artistic temperament and she dedicated her life to social art. This can be seen in her work as a researcher of ancient Chinese architecture and also in her literature work.

Modern Chinese literature relates strongly to the techniques of Western literature. One can see from her work that she is very good in understanding these techniques and making them her own. “99 Degrees Fahrenheit” is one of the works that can serve as proof. She is very special among all the female authors because she stands far above other authors of the thirties when it comes to understanding and using western techniques. The content and the style of writing of Lin Hui Yin literary works is also different from the traditional female literature.

Lin Hui Yin’s meeting with the poet Xu Zhi Mo (徐志摩) during her first stay in London at the age of sixteen turned out to be a very important event in her life. Xu Zhi Mo fell in love with her and divorced his wife in order to be with her. This aroused a lot of criticism from the society, also because he was a well known poet at that time. However, Lin Hui Yin remained silence in this matter and eventually married Liang Qi Chao’s (梁启超) son Liang Si Cheng (梁思成). Later, Xu Zhi Mo married Lu Xiao Man (陸小曼). This did not mean that people stopped speculating about their relationship. All this speculating resulted in a lack of attention to the capabilities of her literary work. Her talent did not have the opportunity to reveal itself. Especially her poems can be characterized as excellent and nowadays they serve as a treasure in the literature heritage.

Lin Hui Yin therefore deserves the name “The talented lady of the modern Chinese literature”. Even though pearl is covered by dust, it is still a pearl. The aim of this dissertation is to reveal the “pearl” and let the world know the true things.