A STUDY OF THE THEORIES OF SOME LITERARY FORMS
EXPOUNDED IN WEN HSIN TIAO LUNG BY LIU HSIEH

GOH NGUEN WAH

Abstract

Liu Hsieh in his Wen Hsin Tiao Lung devotes several chapters to
the study of various literary forms of which the "Pien Sao" (An Analysis of
Sao), "Ming Shih" (An Exegesis of Poetry), "Yueh Fu" (Musical Poetry)
and "Tsuan Fu" (Elucidation of Fu) seem to have marked common charac-
teristics. These four literary forms have not only attained prominent
positions in the history of Chinese literature, but also have a great in-
fluence on the succeeding literary forms and later writers over many
generations.

In this paper, the writer attempts to make a systematic & detailed
study of the above-mentioned four literary forms, with special reference to
their origins, courses of development, famous works by eminent writers and
methods of writing them. Furthermore, the interrelations, mutual influences
of these four literary forms are also discussed in order to throw a new light
on the subjects concerned.