

# *Poems on Poetry*

*Literary Criticism*  
*by Yuan Haowen 元好問*  
*(1190–1257)*

*Revised Edition*

John Timothy Wixted

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### 3. “Thirty Poems on Poetry”:

#### A Short Table of Subjects and Themes

The following are the major subjects and themes in the series:

- Poem 1     Introductory poem  
              Early *shi* 詩 poetry
- Poem 2     Cao Zhi 曹植 (192–232) and Liu Zhen 劉楨 (d. 217)  
              Liu Kun 劉琨 (270–317)  
              Jian'an period 建安 (196–220) poetry
- Poem 3     Jinn dynasty 晉 (265–420) poetry  
              Zhang Hua 張華 (232–300)  
              Li Shangyin 李商隱 (812–858) and Wen Tingyun 溫庭筠  
              (812–870)
- Poem 4     Tao Qian 陶潛 (365–427)  
              Bai Juyi 白居易 (772–846)
- Poem 5     Ruan Ji 阮籍 (210–263)
- Poem 6     Poetry's non-reflection of character  
              Pan Yue 潘岳 (247–300)
- Poem 7     Heroic poetry and North China  
              Hulü Jin 斛律金 (fl. 546)
- Poem 8     Shen Quanqi 沈佺期 (d. 729) and Song Zhiwen 宋之問  
              (d. 712)

The influence of Qi and Liang dynasty 齊梁 (479–502, 502–557) poetry on that of the early Tang 唐 (618–907)  
Chen Zi'ang 陳子昂 (656–695)

- Poem 9 Pan Yue 潘岳 compared with Lu Ji 陸機 (261–303)  
Criticism of ornate and lengthy display
- Poem 10 Du Fu 杜甫 (712–770)  
Criticism of Yuan Zhen's 元稹 (779–831) critique of Du Fu
- Poem 11 Personal experience and the poet  
Copy-book imitation  
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- Poem 12 Li Shangyin 李商隱  
Xikun-style 西崑 poetry of the early Song dynasty 宋 (960–1279)
- Poem 13 Lu Tong 盧仝 (d. 835)  
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Disaffection in poetry
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Disaffection in verse
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Imitation in poetry

- Poem 22 Su Shi 蘇軾 (1037–1101), Huang Tingjian 黃庭堅 (1045–1105), and their followers
- Poem 23 Poetic indecorousness and its causes  
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- Poem 27 Xikun-style 西崑 poetry of the early Song dynasty  
Wang Anshi 王安石 (1021–1086)  
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- Poem 30 Concluding poem

## *Preface to the Revised Edition*

For this revised edition of *Poems on Poetry*, Chinese texts have been conveniently placed before or beside the translated text. Romanization has been changed to *pinyin* (except for author names and book or article titles printed differently in Western-language publications).

The text of the book has been considerably revised and revamped, the endnotes streamlined, and the index consolidated. References have been added to a 1990 edition of Yuan Haowen's complete works (for his prose writing), and to the revised or reprinted editions of a few key works. In instances where only a German-language translation of a Chinese text was cited in the earlier edition, an English-language rendering (of the original, not of the German) has been substituted or added.

Later publications of the author that bear on topics treated in the book are referenced, and translations of the series of poems on poetry by Du Fu and Dai Fugu have been added as an Appendix.

Ana Clelia Vincenti and John Bowden kindly read the revised text and made many helpful comments. Cui Jie proof-read the Chinese and double-checked poem-romanizations. Cheryl Hutton copy-edited the text. The Quirin Press team was responsible for the typesetting and handled matters professionally. Their support, as well as the contributions of those who helped bring the earlier edition to completion, is deeply appreciated.

William Hung (洪業, Hong Ye) was a warm and knowledgeable adviser and mentor (for biographical information, see Wixted 1981b, S.C. Egan 1987). And for the earlier edition, Eugenia Y. Tu (杜鵬珍, Du Yangzhen) most generously transcribed in fine calligraphy all of the Chinese texts that here appear in print.