

# Speculation on the Date of The Completion of Jade Terrace New Songs

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**Abstract:** By summarising and recognising the previous theories, we can try to find out the clues of the process of the formation of Jade Terrace New Songs, and consider the possible timeframe of the formation of Jade Terrace New Songs in terms of both subjective and objective conditions. As a result, a new view of the process of compilation of Jade Terrace New Songs can be put forward, that is, Jade Terrace New Songs went through a draft compilation in the Liang dynasty and a continuation and completion in the Chen dynasty.

**Keywords:** Gong style poetry, Jade Terrace New Songs, Xu ling.

## 1. Introduction

It is well known that the compilation of books must have both subjective and objective conditions, i.e. Xu Ling's own internal motivation to compile books and external conditions for compiling books. In the Preface to Jade Terrace New Songs, it is written: "But the masterpieces of the past generations, and the ingenuity of the present day, have been divided into the Lin Ge, and scattered in the Hong Du.[1]" The preface of "Yutai Xin Yong" states: "But the famous poems of the past generations have been cleverly made today, and they have been divided into Lin Ge and scattered in Hong Du.", indicating that the poems in this book were compiled from the poems stored in "Lin Ge" and "Hong Du" in a stable environment where there was time and opportunity to browse through a large number of books, as explained in the following paragraphs.

## 2. Outline

Yutai xin yong" has its own unique style, that is, the first six volumes and volumes 7 and 8 of the record of the ancients and the survivors of the poetry of the chronological order of the style, as already mentioned above, "Yutai xin yong" of the ancients and the works of the present and future volumes of the style determines the initial compilation of "Yutai xin yong" catalogue can only be compiled from the middle of the Liang dynasty in the fourth year of the Datong (A.D. 532 years) to the first year of the Datong (A.D. 535 years).

In terms of the motivation for the compilation of this book, Mr Wang Huaicheng believes that it has something to do with the dispute between the Liang Shi Wentong[2]. That's to say, in the three years of DaTongZhaoMing Prince XiaoTong although princely, its chief editor of the "WenXuan" but continue to expand the influence of the "TaipingGuangJi" has recorded the northern qi GaoHuan to make ministers read the "WenXuan" of the matter[3], can prove that at this time this generation of the "WenXuan" influence of the wide and big. The successor of the crown prince Xiao Gang, neither the first son nor the eldest son, was not the right name, at that time there were people advised to set up the Prince of Zhao Ming's son Xiao Huan as the crown prince, Xiao Gang must be shouldered with a lot of pressure. This passage from Liang

Shu - Liu Mi Chuan may illustrate the problem faced by Xiao Gang: "Prince Zhao Ming, the new palace was built, and the old people did not stop.[4]" Therefore, Xiao Gang hope that through the mother and brother advocated "things out of the Shen Si, the righteousness of Han Zao" style of the Palace of the body of the rebellion, to achieve the purpose of enhancing their own political prestige, is very likely, the then Prince of the East Palace of the Bachelor[5] of the Xu Ling was selected to edit the book with a political purpose, is also more reasonable. It seems that the political purpose of the book could have been the internal reason and motive for the initial compilation of poems and drafts of Jade Terrace New Songs.

Of course, it remains to be seen whether the palace style poems could take up the role of "platform for the development of the literary system", and whether Xiao Gang would use literary means to get rid of the political influence of his brother, Xiao Tong, these two questions are still open to discussion. If we give a negative answer to both of them, and therefore think that the Jade Terrace New Songs is a collection of palace style poems that was edited by Xu Ling for unknown reasons during the Liang dynasty, then it would be contrary to the records of the biographies of Xu Ling. It is certain that Xu Ling had the right to write his own poems. What is certain is that when Xu Ling had the external conditions for compiling Jade Terrace New Songs, it could only have been during the time when he was working in the East Palace. In terms of the external environment of "Linge" and "Hongdu" needed for compiling the book, we have to combine the records in Xu Ling's biography. Can be roughly listed as follows[6]:

In the second year of the common era (521 AD): Xu Ling was 17 years old and was appointed as the military officer of Ningbanfu. At that time, King Xiao Gang of Jin'an was the lieutenant of Ningbanfu, and Xu Wuling was the consultant of King Jin'an.

In the third year of Zhongdaitong (531 A.D.): at the age of 27, Xu Wenshi was appointed as a bachelor in the Eastern Palace of Crown Prince Xiao Gang, and was slightly promoted to the position of Shangshu Duzhilang (尚書度支郎).

Before the seventh month of the fifth year of Datong (539 A.D.): before Xu Wenshi was 35 years old, he went out as a Shangyu order, was impeached by Liu Xiaoyi, the imperial

chancellor, and sat down to be exempted. (According to the Southern History - Liang Benji - Emperor Wu Ji, Liu Xiaoyi travelled to the Northern Wei Dynasty in the fourth year of Datong [7] and returned to Liang as the Imperial Historian [8].)

Jiuzhi ("The Book of Liang" does not say the time, only "Jiuzhi"): Xu Ling wrote "The Preface to Changchun Hall's Record of Righteousness" and "Zhuangzi's Righteousness" for Xiao Gang, the Emperor of the Jianwen Dynasty.

In the second year of Taiqing (548 A.D.): Xu Ling made a trip to Northern Wei and was detained, only to be released after Hou Jing's rebellion.

Thus, the environmental conditions under which Xu Ling had the opportunity to view a large number of books only appeared in the two time frames from the third year of Zhongdatong (531 A.D.) to the fifth year of Datong (539 A.D.) and from the resumption of his official duties to the second year of Taiqing (548 A.D.), and the recording of Liu Xiaoyi's poems in the Yutaixinrong suggests that the time of compilation of the book was more likely to be located within the first time frame. Because at that time, being impeached was a very serious matter, as Mr Huang Wei and Mr Fu Gang have written [9]. If the compilation of the book was started after the impeachment and the reinstatement of the official in the Liang Dynasty, it is unlikely that Xu Ling would have included Liu Xiaoyi's poems in the Jade Terrace New Rhymes.

To sum up, the first stage of the Jade Terrace New Songs was a draft compilation, and the time period that satisfied both the motivation and the environment was from the third year of the Zhongdatong period (531 AD) to the first year of the Datong period (539 AD). However, Xu Ling's participation in the compilation of the book was temporarily cut off, perhaps due to his sudden appointment as a magistrate.

Some may argue that: "Xu Ling's seniority is still shallow, and he did not necessarily play a leading role in compiling this book. Therefore, Xu Ling's withdrawal cannot serve as a lower limit for the cessation of the compilation of this book." What the author can answer is that no matter how Xu Ling's role is, it will not affect this book full of evidence proving that it had a re-compilation process in the Chen Dynasty, and it will not contradict the view that this book was not completed in the Liang Dynasty. Indeed, the less senior Xu Ling may not have been at the centre of the group that compiled the book, and his withdrawal would not have affected the preface of this collection of palace-style poems with a political purpose. The reason why the book did not become a book and was not circulated may be due to the fact that Emperor Wu was still on the throne, and that the Emperor himself had a natural antipathy towards Gongshi ("The name of Gongshi was given since S (Xu wen). Gaozu heard the anger.[10] "Liang Shu - Xu wen biography"), although Xu wen made a very wonderful explanation, so that his "dragon luck day long [11]", but the emperor's antipathy to the palace style poetry is spontaneous, endogenous, Prince Xiaozang must not dare to in the emperor is still on the throne of the compilation of this book. The above "Xu Ling's participation in the compilation of the book was temporarily cut off." It does not mean that the author believes that Xu Ling played a dominant role in both phases of the Jade Terrace New Rhymes. In the author's opinion, no matter what Xu Ling's role was in the editing stage of Jade Terrace New Songs in the Liang Dynasty, he must have been involved in the editing of the book, or else the later generations would not have said that Xu Ling was the only editor. Based on Xu Ling's age and seniority at that time,

it is contrary to the usual view, which is also supported by the most documentary evidence, to hastily conclude that Xu Ling's influence on the book was minimal, or even to deny Xu Ling's identity as the editor. In order to avoid controversy and doubt, it is stated here.

### 3. Compile and Edit

The fact that the draft of Jade Terrace New Rhymes was compiled during the Liang dynasty does not mean that it was fully compiled during the Liang dynasty.

The process. If the whole process of the formation of Jade Terrace New Songs is defined only by the eight years of the Liang dynasty (i.e., the period from the third year of Zhongdatong (531 AD) to the first year of Datong (539 AD) mentioned in the previous article), then it repeats the viewpoints of the Liang Shishu, and it is impossible to answer the four questions posed in the second part of this article. Therefore, based on the outstanding research of the scholars of the "Chen Shi Shi" theory, the author thinks that the second stage in the process of the completion of the Yutai Xin Rong, i.e. the finalisation of the compilation, took place in the Chen Dynasty.

As mentioned before, Xu Ling's transfer interrupted his participation in the editing of this book, and then Hou Jing's rebellion, Emperor Wu's collapse, and Xu Wenshi's death in the same year. Xu Ling is still trapped in Northern Qi, can not go back to Liang, as Chen Baxian killed Wang Sinwei, the creation of the Chen Dynasty, all kinds of turmoil makes Liang and Chen Dynasties when the situation is volatile, Xu Ling at this time, first of all, to do the Wang Sinwei appointed "Shangshu mandarins, in charge of the imperial edicts.[12]" After the death of Wang Shengwei, Chen Baxian still appointed Xu Ling as the General of Zhenwei and the Left Minister of Shangshu without asking any questions[13]. After that, Xu Ling remained in a high position, and eventually became the left Guanglu Daifu, the crown prince's young master, when "when the state had a great deal to do, all of them were drafted by Xu Ling"[14].

From this, we can think, Xu Ling in the Chen dynasty has extremely superior conditions for bookmaking, hidden in the "Lin Ge", "Hong Du" of the book canon also have the right to read. However, Xu Ling's motivation for compiling books is "Chen Shi said" scholars section of the text.

Looking through the Notes on Xu Ling's Collection, we will pay attention to the letters written by Xu Ling when he was trapped in Northern Qi, such as "The Book of Yang Zunyan, Servant of Qi Shangshu"[15] "The Book of the Clansmen and Xu Ling in Northern Qi"[16]. Among them, "I made sacrifices in the Eastern Kingdom and carried the master's brass in the Southern Capital, and for more than two hundred years, I have been at home in Yangyue, where Lu Chen is not going, Pei Ning is still staying, and the senior officials are late in returning to their hometowns and villages, and there is a gap between the mountains and rivers, and there is no chance of completing a meeting, and I look forward to Jima to increase my labour, and look at Binhong to sigh forever." [17] Xu Ling extremely allegory of Liang Dynasty, the thought of relatives, said was detained in Northern Qi is "wind disease, half body withered waste" "shape as a haggard wood, the heart is as dead as ash, prostrate thatched hut, only have the soul gas." [18] This can be seen in the heart of Xu Ling Liang, the importance of the relatives. And, these two letters are not openly politicised letters, the former is handed over to the Northern Qi servant Yang Zunyan's letter of

request for return, the latter is a private letter to the relatives of the letter of request for help, to a greater extent to reflect the true state of mind of Xu Ling.

Some might say: "Xu Ling after also for Zhenyang Hou Xiao Yuanming, Emperor Wu Chen Baxian proposed letter, also in the Chen Dynasty officials, can not be considered Xu Ling on the Liang Dynasty have special feelings". It should be noted that Liang and Chen in the relationship between the regime does not constitute an antagonism, Hou Jing chaos Chen Wu Di was ordered to "rate of troops to help"[19], the Liang dynasty is also "the Liang Emperor in the Palace, Gaozu humility again and again, the ruler and ministers solid please, is allowed." [20] Although Chen Baxian's inner thoughts are known to everyone, but in the form of regicide is not the emperor. Xu Ling's "seriousness of dress, as if not to be offended." [21] That is to say, he still has a firm hold on the Liang dynasty, because of Xu Ling's two generations of officials said that he had no feelings for the Liang dynasty, seems to be too arbitrary and not close to the human heart.

Since Xu Ling's service to Chen, his good friend Yu Xin was detained in Qi, almost all of his old acquaintances died in the Hou Jing Rebellion, and his father Xu Wail died in the second year of the Dabao era (551 AD) after he was angered by Hou Jing's imprisonment of Emperor Wu, while his third younger brother Xu Xiaoke, though spared, shaved off his hair and devoted himself to the study of Buddhism, and there is no correspondence between Xu Ling and Xu Ling in his biographies[22]. After Xu Ling's poems of harmony with Xiao Gang, there are Xu Ling's poems of farewell to Yu Xin ("Farewell to Yu Zhengshi on an Autumn Day"[23]), farewell to Chen Bogu ("Sending Xin'an Wang Yingling to the Pavilion of Recruiting Captives"[24]), and other poems of parting. There are almost no poems that record his life and activities in the Chen dynasty, and most of them are official documents for the court. The plainness of Xu Ling's life in Chen can be seen here.

Under this premise, then, it seems extremely reasonable for Xu Ling to complete his Jade Terrace New Poems in the Chen dynasty. Nostalgic for the days when he had been the prince's scholar in the Eastern Palace, and also for the palace style trend that his father, Xu Wenshi, had initiated, he continued this collection of palace style poems that had not been completed in the previous dynasty, and finished the final compilation of Jade Terrace New Songs (New Songs on the Jade Plateau) in the Chen dynasty.

#### 4. Explanation of Xu ling's Role

By synthesising the above discussion of Liang and Chen II, we are able to make a picture of

Xu Ling's role in the compilation of Jade Terrace New Songs

The book may be due to the fact that Wu Wu was a local official. When Xu Ling was compiling books in the Liang dynasty (from the third year of the Daitong era (531 AD) to the first year of the Datong era (539 AD)), he served as an official in the Eastern Palace, but later he was transferred to a local government post, so he was unable to copy this book, probably because of the Emperor's aversion to palace-style poetry. During the Chen dynasty, Xu Ling regained the conditions for compiling the book, so he followed the style of compiling the book of the Liang dynasty, and continued the book with a reminiscence of the past, "Jade Terrace New Songs".

As to why the draft was made in Liang and the continuation

in Chen, it is because the process of making a book must start with a draft catalogue and then finish it, and the style of Jade Terrace New Songs determines that the catalogue of this book must have been made in the Liang Dynasty, and the period from the third year of Daitong in the Liang Dynasty (A.D. 531) to the first year of Datong (A.D. 539) also meets the internal and external reasons for the compilation of Jade Terrace New Songs. However, the inclusion of poems written during the time of Chen, the non-recording of Xu Ling's biography, the non-recording of Xu Wenshi's poems, and other characteristics of the book make it impossible for the book to complete the whole process of compilation during the Liang Dynasty. The author has made the above speculation on the process of compiling the book, in order to wait for the advice of the experts.

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