

Xie Lingyun ji 謝靈運集

Introduction

Xie Lingyun (385–433), the Duke of Kangle 康樂, is generally regarded as the patriarch of Chinese landscape poetry. He was born into one of the most illustrious clans of the Six Dynasties, originally of Chen commandery (Chenjun 陳郡) in present-day Henan, and led a life of privilege and leisure. His grandfather Xie Xuan 玄 (343–388) was a nephew of Xie An 安 (320–385), and both were heroes of the crucial Battle of the Fei River in 383 against Fu Jian 苻堅 (r. 358–385) of the Former Qin. According to Xie Lingyun's biography in *Song shu*, q.v., 67:1743–87, he was quite the trendsetter at the capital, popularizing styles of poetry and even of clothes and personal ornaments. He is furthermore portrayed as temperamental, proud, and exceedingly talented.

Xie's ability to advance himself politically did not match his literary achievement. He found himself exiled in the prime of life after a rash and halfhearted attempt to promote the Prince of Luling, Liu Yizhen 劉義真 (407–424), to the throne. Liu Yifu, eldest son of the Liu-Song dynasty's founder, was installed instead, posthumously Emperor Shao (r. 422–424). In exile at Yongjia 永嘉, and subsequently in retirement at an ancestral estate in Kuaiji 會稽, commanderies both situated in regions of Yangzhou (modern Zhejiang) known for magnificent landscapes, Xie turned toward an aesthetic appreciation of nature and a spiritual quest for enlightenment. During his many adventures into mountains and across rivers, he produced a wealth of landscape poems that would become models of this subgenre for later writers.

Contents

The *Xie Lingyun ji* contains lyric verses and "music bureau" poems, that is, *yuefu*, as well as rhapsodies and various prose works. The description here of the collection's arrangement follows the *Xie Lingyun ji jiaozhu* 謝靈運集校注 annotated by Gu Shaobo 顧紹柏 (Zhengzhou: Zhongzhou guji chubanshe, 1987), which is the most complete and reliable edition:

Lyric poems arranged by chronology

Yuefu poems, arranged without chronological order

Prose pieces arranged by chronology

Prose pieces, arranged without chronological order

There are 139 titles in Gu's edition: ninety-seven poems (four of which are only titles, without extant text; seventy-five lyric poems, and eighteen *yuefu*) and forty-two prose pieces. The prose genres represented are the rhapsody, letter, encomium, dirge, memorial, inscription, discussion, monograph, response to a challenge (*da nan* 答難), response to a question (*da wen* 答問), memorandum, eulogy, commentary, preface, and sevens (*qi* 七).

A number of the texts, especially among the prose works, consist of mere fragments, sometimes only a line or two. As Xie is known primarily as a poet, less attention has been paid to his achievement as a prose writer. His notable prose works include "Shan ju fu" 山居賦 (Rhapsody on dwelling in the mountains), "Fo ying ming" 佛影銘 (Inscription on Buddha's shadow image), "Lushan Huiyuan fashi lei" 廬山慧遠法師誄 (Dirge for Dharma Master Huiyuan of Lu Mountain), "Wudi lei" 武帝誄 (Dirge for Emperor Wu [of the Liu-Song; r. 420–422]), and "Bian zong lun" 辨宗論 (Disquisition on essentials).

Transmission of the text

The transmission history of the current *Xie Lingyun ji* is brief, since versions of the original work were lost sometime after the Song, and editors from the Ming onward needed to reconstruct the work by culling through anthologies, encyclopedias, collectanea, and histories for citations. The dynastic bibliography in *Song shi* (comp. 1343–1345) 208:5329 lists the work in nine *juan*. Just under half of the twenty-*juan* work that existed in the Liang dynasty (502–557) had survived.

The earliest extant edition of a *Xie Kangle ji* 謝康樂集 was compiled in the Ming by Shen Qiyuan 沈啟原 and published by Jiao Hong 焦竑. The result was a four-*juan* collection, with 110 poems and prose works drawn from sources such as the *Wen xuan*, q.v., which had contained forty verses under thirty-two poems titles, the *Yuefu shiji*, q.v., and the *Song shu*. Not only was this edition far from complete, it also was marred by a number of misattributions. Zhang Pu's (1602–1641) *Han Wei Liuchao baisan mingjia ji*, q.v., included a *Xie Kangle ji* in two *juan* with 119 poems and prose works and improved upon Shen's edition, though there were still notable errors. Two compilations of the Qing dynasty, Yan Kejun's (1762–1843) *Quan shanggu Sandai Qin Han Sanguo Liuchao wen*, q.v., and Ding Fubao's (1874–1952) *Quan Han Sanguo Jin Nanbeichao shi**, "Quan Song shi" 3:1a–18a (2:797–831), added to the number of known works by Xie Lingyun. Modern editions have relied on the work of Yan Kejun and Ding Fubao.

Principal editions and commentaries

The 1583 edition by Shen Qiyuan was reproduced in *Xuxiu Siku quanshu** 1585:219–303. Also, a late-Qing woodblock printing of Zhang Pu's anthology was

reproduced in five volumes by the Jiangsu guji chubanshe, Nanjing, in 2002; Xie Lingyun's collection may be found in vol. 3, pp. 321–87. For most of the twentieth century, the standard edition used for Xie Lingyun's poetry was Huang Jie's 黃節 (1874–1935) *Xie Kangle shi zhu* 謝康樂詩註 (preface dated 1924). This work was published by Renmin wenxue chubanshe (Beijing, 1958) and reprinted several times by Yiwen yinshuguan (Taipei, 1967–1987). Huang's annotations and comments often cite traditional readings and include a number of his own insights. The now-standard edition for all of Xie's writings, by Gu Shaobo, contains 139 works in poetry and prose (including four works that exist only as titles). Gu culled through all available anthologies, encyclopedias, and histories to produce the fullest and most accurate collection to date. His extensive and excellent annotations and comments on Xie's poems are indispensable for research on the poet. Although the prose pieces in Gu's edition are not accompanied by annotations, they appear with important contextual information as well as variants and textual corrections. Gu's edition also includes a helpful introduction to Xie and a number of useful appendices, including a biography in modern chronological format, a descriptive genealogy of members of the Xie clan, and selected traditional criticism.

Two modern selections of Xie's poems deserve mention: Ye Xiaoxue's 葉笑雪 *Xie Lingyun shi xuan* 謝靈運詩選 (Shanghai: Gudian wenxue chubanshe, 1957) and Hu Dalei's 胡大雷 *Xie Lingyun Bao Zhao shi xuan* 謝靈運鮑照詩選 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2005). The commentaries and annotations of both are concise, helpful, and often insightful.

Selected studies

- Chang, Kang-i Sun. "Hsieh Ling-yün: The Making of a New Descriptive Mode." In *Six Dynasties Poetry*, 47–78. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.
- Frodsham, J. D. *The Murmuring Stream: The Life and Works of the Chinese Nature Poet Hsieh Ling-yün (385–433)*, Duke of K'ang-Lo. 2 vols. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press, 1967. Volume 1 provides a detailed biography with excerpts from poems; pp. 106–72 contain full translations of poems; appendix 4 (179–81) is a translation of the "Inscription on the Buddha's Shadow." Volume 2 contains notes to the chapters and poem translations.
- Ge Xiaoyin 葛曉音. "Cong Da Xie ti dao Xiao Xie ti" 從大謝體到小謝體. In *Shanshui tianyuan shipai yanjiu* 山水田園詩派研究, 32–69. Shenyang: Liaoning daxue chubanshe, 1993.
- . *Xie Lingyun yanjiu lunji* 謝靈運研究論集. Guilin: Guangxi shifan daxue chubanshe, 2001.
- Hu Dalei. "'Bian zong lun' yu Xie Lingyun dui xuanyan shi de gaizhi" 辨宗論與謝靈運對玄言詩的改制. *Wenzhou shifan xueyuan xuebao* 25.1 (2004): 34–38.
- Huang, Shizhong 黃世中. *Xie Lingyun yanjiu congshu* 謝靈運研究叢書. Guilin: Guangxi shifan daxue chubanshe, 2001.
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- Li Yan 李雁. *Xie Lingyun yanjiu* 謝靈運研究. Beijing: Renmin wenxue chubanshe, 2005.
- Lin Wenyue 林文月. *Xie Lingyun* 謝靈運. Taipei: Guojia tushuguan, 1998.
- Obi Kōichi 小尾郊一. *Sha Reiun: kodoku no sansui shijin* 謝靈運: 孤独の山水詩人. Tokyo: Kyūko shoin, 1983.
- Qian Zhixi 錢志熙. "Xie Lingyun 'Bian zong lun' he shanshui shi" 謝靈運辨宗論和山水詩. *Beijing daxue xuebao* 5 (1989): 39–46.
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- . "Landscape Transformation in the Poetry of Hsieh Ling-yün." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 100.3 (1980): 237–54.

Translations

- Frodsham, J. D. *The Murmuring Stream* (see "Selected studies" section herein).
- Hinton, David. *The Mountain Poems of Hsieh Ling-Yün*. New York: New Directions Publishing, 2001.

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