Compiling Annals: On the Self-Image in Ke-Zhuang Liu’s ‘Ci-poetry for Birthday Self-Congratulation’

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Abstract  The style of Ci liaised closely with the popular culture and served practical functions such as sentimental expression, social intercourse and entertainment. However, the purpose of Ci had shifted from creating a convivial atmosphere for gatherings to social activities of, say, poetry clubs. Ci works even became the gifts that poets presented at celebratory feasts. This talk deals with Ke-Zhuang Liu, a renowned poet who flourished in the Southern Song Dynasty, with a special focus on his life and the self-image he manifested in his “Ci-poetry for Birthday Self-Congratulation.” The receivers of Ci-poetry for birthday congratulation had changed from the hosts to the Ci writers themselves, which implied that Ci-poetry had become a new literary form for expressing one’s sentiments and ambitions. This variant of Ci happened to be suitable for Liu to exude his bold and unconstrained temperament as well as to vent his grudges and wrath.

About the Speaker  Dr. Yun-Chun She is currently a visiting research fellow and an adjunct lecturer at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto. After earning her PhD in Chinese Literature from National Taiwan University, Dr. She had taught at Shih Hsin University (Taiwan) and worked as an overseas post-doctoral fellow of the Ministry of Science and Technology (Taiwan). Her research interests center on Ci study and Chinese Ci-poetry in early modern Japan. Immediate Performance and Writing Artistry: Mengchuang Ci under the Perspective of Socializing is her chef-d’oeuvre with a particular focus on the evolution of Ci in the Southern Song Dynasty. Her research on Chinese Ci-poetry in early modern Japan revolves around the literary exchange among East Asian Chinese poets during the late Qing and early Republic period in general, and the Japanese poet Kubo Tenzui in particular.

All are welcome!