

Abstract

The thesis is concerned with the life and work of the poetess Cai Yan 蔡琰 (178-239?), also known under the honorary title Wenji 文姬 , and the way her life experience is later displayed in visual arts.

The first part of the thesis summarizes basic biographical information on Cai Yan based on her biography in the *Book of the Later Han (Hou Han shu 后汉书)*. Cai Yan's original poem *Hujia shiba pai 胡笳十八拍* is introduced along with the issues relating to their authenticity. The crucial for this thesis is the other much later poem with the same title and theme written by Liu Shang 刘商 . It was this piece writing full of emotions which has inspired Song painter to create the narrative painting commissioned by the emperor Gaozong 高宗 .

Major part of the thesis consists of analysis of the Tang poem *Hujia shiba pai* translated traditionally as *Eighteen Songs of a Nomad Flute* along with the formal analysis of the most famous surviving narrative scroll from the collection of Metropolitan Museum in New York. The analysis includes description of the sub-themes inspired by a poem *Hujia shiba pai* attributed to Cai Yan and her biography in the official chronicle.

In the conclusion the thesis deals with the issue of narrative painting in China. The definition of the term narrative painting and general reflection on the relationship between literature and painting in the Chinese cultural and art tradition can be found there. Translations of three poems from Chinese to Czech language are attached.

Keywords

Cai Wenji 蔡文姬 , Cai Yan 蔡琰

Chinese poetry 3rd century

Late Han

Liu Shang 刘商

Song dynasty painting