

**The Activities and Connoisseurship of Painting
and Calligraphy Among Northern Literati
in the Early Yuan: A Survey of Several Points
Focusing on Wang Yun's (1227-1304) *Complete
Collected Works of Qiujian***

Lu, Hui-wen

Graduate Institute of Art History,
National Taiwan University

Abstract

After the Mongols conquered the Jin dynasty in 1234, Kublai Khan made a call to scholars to join his administration of Chinese lands. Among those invited at that time were many Jin dynasty literati who later became important officials at the Mongol Yuan court. Modern academia has paid relatively more attention to how these ex-Jin literati played a central role in politics, institutions, and Confucian learning of the early Yuan dynasty than their activities in painting and calligraphy along with the pervasive influence they had on art circles at the capital of Dadu in the early Yuan. *Complete Collected Works of Qiujian* (Qiujian xiansheng daquanji) in 100 *juan* represents the writings of Wang Yun (1227-1304; sobriquet Qiujian), an early Yuan government official, writer, and connoisseur of painting and calligraphy. The text includes mostly various matters, institutional developments, and anecdotes of what he had seen and heard. In addition to its enormous historical value, the text includes many inscriptions that Wang Yun wrote for works of painting and calligraphy.

The works of art that Wang Yun had seen dated purportedly back to the Three Kingdoms period up to the Jin and early Yuan. The contents of his inscriptions touch upon comments on and connoisseurship of the work in question as well as a record of with whom and in what gathering the viewing had taken place. This makes the text exceptionally vital to understanding art activities in the north during the late Jin and early Yuan period. The contents of *Complete Collected Works of Qiujian* are quite broad and the

topics addressed therein very large in number. The present study in particular examines the art circles and networks in Dadu, the circulation of artworks after the fall of the Song dynasty, Wang Yun's evaluation of the Tang dynasty calligrapher Yan Zhenqing (709-785), and the circulation of Yan's calligraphy. The several points brought up for study in this survey can serve as a foundation for further research in the field.

Keywords: Wang Yun, *Complete Collected Works of Qiuqian*, Dadu, Yan Zhenqing

(Translated by Donald E. Brix)