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Paragons of Post-war Taiwan Literature: Lu Xun to Yu Yu-jen with Rise and Decline of Classical and Modern Literature

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ABSTRACT

A well-known phenomenon of post-war Taiwan literature is the predominance of Lu Xun. In contrast, Yu Yu-jen, a revolutionary veteran who also had lots of influence on Taiwan literature, did not get due attention. This article first traces how Yu became a paragon of poetry in post-war Taiwan with the help of Tseng Jin-ko who had polemics with Lu. It also explores how the alternate emergence of modern left/right-wing literary models was related to the rise and decline of classical poetry and classical literature in Taiwan. Finally, the article elucidates Yu's perspectives on poetry and their significance in the history of literature. Re-evaluating the importance of Yu on the poetry scene in post-war Taiwan highlighted the stimulation and impact he had brought to Taiwan literature, which was being reformed in that era. Moreover, it offers insight into the deep structure and ecology of post-war Taiwan literature. Furthermore, as members of the famous Chinese revolutionary literary group "Nan Sheh", Tseng and Yu's involvement and engagement in the post-war Taiwan poetry arena can be viewed as a continuation of the "Nan Sheh" spirit in Taiwan.

Keywords: Yu Yu-jen, Lu Xun, Tseng Jin-ko, Post-war Taiwan Literature, Nan Sheh