

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: Gao Shi in Editions of Koseki-shu and Contemporary Records

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This study examines the legacy of the Tang Dynasty poet Gao Shi, focusing on the editions of Koseki-shu and records of him from the Kaiyuan era. This study produces a new interpretation of Gao Shi through study of Koseki-shu and comprehensive investigations based on new materials.

The first chapter discusses editions of Koseki-shu, drawing on in-person study of contemporary copies of Koseki-shu at domestic holding institutions in Tokyo and Kyoto and overseas holding institutions in China and Taiwan. This investigation establishes that the Dai-tokyu Memorial Library Collection retains the older existing copy.

The second chapter examines the biographical materials of his relatives concerning Gao Shi's family. Using epitaphs, the birth and death dates and official positions of his clan are summarized, and a family tree is created. Then, from the context of the death of Gao's father, Chongwen, and the time of the funeral, I show their detailed traces in the Kaiyuan era.

The third chapter investigates Gao's official position, which he obtained by taking the Zhiji Examination. I also discussed his attitude toward entering into service through a comparison with Du Fu, who was also appointed after taking the same examination. Both poets sought to attract the attention of high-ranking officials by making heavy use of allusions to show off their vocabulary and by writing longer works with higher degrees of rhetorical difficulty.

The above analysis, among other novel conclusions, shows that the Dai-tokyu Memorial Library Collection is the only Southern Song Dynasty era edition of Koseki-shu and has high material value. In addition, because of the lack of high-ranking officials among his relatives and the loss of his father at a young age, he relied on his characteristic poetry to obtain a government office through the Zhiji Examination. The results show that traces of Kaiyuan era influenced his subsequent production.