

## *Original Paper*

# An Examination of the Editors and Friendship of the Tang Songs and Poems in the Classification of the Categories

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### **Abstract**

*Zhao Mengkui's compilation of Tang poems is one of the largest collections of Tang poems in the Southern Song Dynasty, and has served as a guide in the history of the compilation of Chinese Tang poems. Zhao Mengkui, the compiler of the "Tang Songs and Poems", was born into a royal family of imperial examiners and had excellent family roots and profound academic training. The problem of the different records of Zhao Mengkui's origin is due to the fact that he lived in a different place of official transfer. In his life, Zhao Mengkui had a close personal friendship with Liu Kezhuang, Li Qianwei, Lin Xiyi, and other literati. It is an important reference value for the study of the compilation of the Tang Songs and Poems.*

### **Keywords**

*"Tang Songs and Poems", Zhao Mengkui, friendship*

## **1. Introduction**

The Tang Songs and Poems of the Southern Song Dynasty is a large compilation of Tang poems, and the surviving records of its editor, Zhao Mengkui, are mixed. As for Zhao Mengkui's family origin and friends, there is no special article in the scholarly field at present, so this paper mainly deals with Zhao Mengkui's family and place of origin, his birth and death dates, and his friendship with Li Long.

## **2. Zhao Mengkui's Family Lineage**

According to the "Baoyou four years of enrolment", Lin Xiyi "Huitong master true body pavilion record", the Qianlong "Jiangnan General Records" volume 121, Guangxu "Chuzhou General Records" volume 16 and "Zhejiang General Records" volume 128 and other documents: Zhao Mengkui (1238-?), nickname Rusun, the word Su Dao, a word Wen Yao, No. Chungu, living in Jizhou Anfu (now Jiangxi

Anfu), a living in Qingtian (now part of Zhejiang), Song Taizu eleventh grandson. In the fourth year of Baoyou (1256), at the age of nineteen, he was admitted to the scholarship list of Wen Tianxiang. During the Xianchun period, he was sent to Quzhou with the authority of the military state, and became a member of the Secret Cabinet. He was good at painting bamboo, stone, orchids and cypress. According to the “Catalogue of the Cabinet Collection”, volume 8, “Zhao Mengkui compiled the words and deeds of all the famous sages in the Song Xianchun period into a volume of “Shanshan Record” (Zhang & Sun, n.d.).

About Zhao Mengkui family history. Bao You four years of the record of enrolment” contains: “three brothers, the service. He married Han. His great-grandfather, Shigei, served. Grandfather Bonnie. His father was a member of the family. He was a member of the Anfu County family”. From this, we can see that Zhao Mengkui had three brothers, his wife was Han, his great-grandfather was Zhao Shiqian, his grandfather was Zhao Xiyi, and his father was Zhao Yuchou.

Zhao Mengkui’s grandfather, Zhao Xiyi. Zhao Xiyi (1155-1212) was a member of the Southern Song clan who lived in Pingjiang Prefecture (present-day Suzhou, Jiangsu Province). He lived in Qingtian County, Suzhou, and was the eighth grandson of Zhao Dezhao, King of Yan Yi. He was the eighth grandson of Zhao Dezhao, King of Yan Yi. He served as a general judge of Taiping State, a governor of Rao State, an inspector of Changping tea and salt in Jiangxi Province, and an ambassador of Jiangxi Province and a canal officer. In 1210, he was transferred to Pingjiang Prefecture because of the ineffectiveness of suppressing the riots of Luo Shichuan, Li Yuanli and Chen Tingzuo. In the fifth year of Jiading (1212), he was reassigned to Taiping Prefecture with the title of Bachelor of Hsien Mu Ge. Later, he was appointed to the post of Zhaoxinjun Festival Minister and the Third Superintendent of the Kailashiki Prefecture. He died posthumously and was posthumously named Duke of Chengguo (Yang, 2015). His deeds can be found in Song Zhen De Xiu (*The Collected Writings of Mr. Xishan Zhenwenzhonggong*), Volume 45 (*Zhao Zhenghui Gong (Xibongyi) Epitaph*), Wanli (*West re-repair of Nan’an Prefecture Zhi*), Volume 16 (*Eunuchs Biography-Fang Yue*), Guangxu (*History of the Prefecture of Chuzhou*), Volume 16 (Jinshi-Song), and Republic of China (*Fujian General History*), Volume 35 (*Fujian Famous Eunuchs Biography-Song*).

Zhao Mengkui’s father, Zhao Yuchou. According to Xianchun “Lin’an Zhi” Volume 49 “rank official” seven, “Song Shi” Volume 42.3 “Zhao and chip biography”, Yongzheng “Zhejiang General Zhi” Volume 127 “election-Song Jinshu” related records: father and chip, the word De Yuan, alias Juzhai. Zong family, the people of Shizhou, living in Huzhou (a Shizhou Qingtian County), Jiading thirteen years (1220) to enter the first scholar. JiaXi three years (1239) know PingJiang, and HuaiZhe shipping envoy. JiaXi four years (1240), “the county hunger, set up porridge in the field, commissioned Dong service, the whole live tens of thousands of people”. In the first year of Chunyau (1241), he was appointed as the Secretary of Agriculture in addition to the Minister of Public Affairs of the Ministry of the Central Secretariat, and he was also the governor of Lin’an. Baoyou three years (1255), to

Guanwen Temple bachelor again guard county, “to perform the country drink shooting ceremony in the Palace of learning, and decorate the hall Lodge, wide string recitation to strict education, the Palace of learning children for the students to establish a shrine”. Baoyou six years (1258), in addition to the Jiangdong peacekeeper, know Jiankang Prefecture. Jing Ding early, then know Pingjiang, special transfer two officials to serve. He died in August of the first year of Jingding (1260), and was given the title of Major Master. Crowned the Duke of Zhou, benefit loyalty (Qu, 1985).

In summary, it can be seen that Zhao Mengkui was born in a family of officials. Zhao Mengkui’s grandfather, Zhao Xiyi, was a strict disciplinarian, a clean official, a carer of the people, and a helper, which won the hearts of the people. He chose wise and capable people to get along with his children, studied and supervised the lessons personally. The eldest son, Zhao and wisdom, was admitted to the Xinwei section in the fourth year of Jiading (1211). The third son, Zhao Heqin, was admitted to the Wuxu section in the second year of Jiayi (1238). The fourth son, Zhao Weiqin, was admitted to the Gengchen branch in the 13th year of Jiading (1220). Zhao Mengkui’s father, Zhong Hui Gong, was a very strict disciplinarian, “the first of his brothers, Mengkui, was promoted to the first grade of Binchen. In the second year of his life, he was the first to be promoted to the B.C. degree. In the second year of his life, he was the first to be promoted to the B.C. degree (Song, 2018). Zhao Mengkui, in the fourth year of Baoyou (1256), was admitted to the Binchen class. The grandsons of Zhao Xiyi, Zhao Menghou, Zhao Mengzhi, and Zhao Mengqi, were all admitted to the same list in the first year of Xianchun (1265). Zhao Mengkui’s family had eight scholars in three generations, so they were a family of scholars. It is recorded in the Song “Jiatai Wuxing Zhi-Conggui Fang” and Guangxu “Dizhou Prefecture Zhi” Volume 16 “Jinshi-Song”.

The residence of Zhao yuchou is located near Renzhengfang in Wuxing Province. According to Song talk key “Jiatai Wu Xing Zhi”, tomorrow qi “Wu Xing ready Zhi” and Qing Guangxu “Gui An County Zhi” records, “in Long Xing Bridge up to Guo Shang Shu Temple, Huabiao confrontation”. Longxing Bridge is located at the corner of the present People’s Road, North Square Road (Song, 2018). Zhao yuchou children and grandchildren mostly live in Wuxing Gui’an (now Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province), and successively all in Huzhou to enter the first. “Zhao and his sons, Zhao Mengkui, Zhao Mengqi, Zhao Mengzhi and Zhao Menghou, also passed the imperial examinations. To honor them, the Wuxing government renamed the Renzheng Square at the entrance of Zhao’s house as Conggui Square, which was renamed in honor of Zhao’s royal sons in Huzhou.

Zhao Mengkui, the editor of “The Compilation of Tang Songs and Poems”, was a member of the royal family of the Southern Song Dynasty, and the family was full of people who could write and speak well. Among them, Zhao Lingchou, Zhao Rutan and Zhao Shishu were famous in the literary world for their poems and words, while Zhao and Yuyan, Zhao Mengkui and others were notable for their poetry commentaries and poetry editions, fully demonstrating the profound literary cultivation of the royal family of Zhao Song (Zhao, 2018).

About Zhao Mengkui's place of origin. Yongzheng "Zhejiang General Records" Volume 128 "Elections-Song Jinshu" "Zhao Mengkui, Qingtian people". Qingtian, the ancient name of the old county, the old city of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, the beginning of the Song Dynasty for the rule of Suzhou, the Song Dynasty and after the administration of the Pingjiang Prefecture (Dai, 2015). Qianlong "Jiangnan general" volume 121 "election Zhi - scholar - Song": "Bao You Zhao Meng Kui, Wu County people". Guangxu "Shizhou Prefecture", Volume 16 "scholar - Song": "Bao You Bingchen Branch Wen Tianxiang list, Zhao Mengkui, Qingtian people". Qing Qu Liang Shi "iron qin copper sword building book collection inscriptions collection of records" volume 4 "send through Suzhou", Xia Hanning "the Southern Song Dynasty Jiangxi scholar examination record" as "living in Jizhou Anfu (now Jiangxi Anfu), a for living in Qingtian (now part of Zhejiang)". Because of the mobility of the Southern Song clan, Zhao Mengkui was transferred with his official position and worked everywhere. Therefore, there is no agreement on the place of origin of Zhao Mengkui, and the above-mentioned document should be the place where the official was transferred.

The word and number of Zhao Mengkui. In the book of the fourth year of the Bao-you period, it is said that "Zhao Meng-kui ..... was called "Su-dao" and his nickname was "Ru-sun". Qu liang shi "iron qin copper sword building book collection inscriptions collection record" volume 4 contains "Zhao Mengkui, word Wen Yao, number Chungu". Cheng Zhangcan's "Liu Kezhuang's Chronicle" mentions in the form of a note that Zhao Mengkui was known as Wenyao and Chungu (Cheng, 1993). From this, we know that Zhao Mengkui was known as Wenyao, also known as Sudo, No. Chungu, and his nickname was Rusun.

The year of Zhao Mengkui's birth and death. Bao You four years of the Dengke record: "Zhao Mengkui ..... year 19, June 17 has been born". According to the Yongzheng "Zhejiang General Records" Volume 128 "Elections - Song Jinshi" "Baoyou four years chen Wen Tianxiang list, Guangxu "Shizhou Prefecture" Volume 16 "Jinshi - Song" "Baoyou chen Branch Wen Tianxiang list" related records, Zhao Mengkui in Baoyou four years (1256) year nineteen, so it can be deduced that Zhao Mengkui was born on June 17, 1238 AD. According to Fu Xuanzong's "Song Poems", there are three poems of Mou Yan's "Elegy for Zhao Chungu", and according to Yang Qianzheng's "Dictionary of Song Dynasty Characters", Mou Yan was born in 1227 AD and died in 1311 AD, which is discussed in detail below. From this, we can deduce that Zhao Mengkui's death year should be no later than Mou Yan's death year, that is, 131 years AD.

### 3. Zhao Mengkui's Friendships

In the Analects of Confucius - Yan Yuan, it is written, "A gentleman meets his friends through literature, and aids benevolence through friendship" (Zhu, 1983). The term "meeting friends through literature" refers to making friends with like-minded people through words. The ancients had the custom of socializing and making friends, and they all valued friendship and talent in the process of socializing,

so they often gave each other poems and replies to show their talents. Zhao Mengkui was not only born into a family of imperial examiners, but all of his friends were also active in the imperial examinations, and there were no white men (Wu, n.d.). According to the literature, the scholars with whom Zhao Mengkui had a close relationship included at least Li Gong, Liu Kezhuang, Lin Xiyi, Mou Yan, and Li Jue.

### 3.1 *Li Gong*

Li Gong was the most closely related to Zhao Mengkui, the compiler of “Tang Songs and Poems in a Separate Category”, Li Gong (1194-?) Li was a native of Heze (now Heze, Shandong Province), with the word and father and the number Xuelin. Home Wuxing, Song Chen Qi “after the collection of Jianghu”: “years to the old age (eighty), self-made tomb, died in Zha Zha, not a few deaths, no children. Zhao Wenyao again for the Zhi, buried between the two mountains of He, Road, planted a hundred plums. Zhao De Fu inscribed stone tablet said: Song poet Xuelin Li Jun’s tomb”. Li Qiun had two kinds of posthumous books, “the set of raw images” and “the line of plum blossoms” (Chen, n.d.). During his lifetime, Li Qi made his own tomb, and later “Zhao Wenyao repeated for the tomb”, this Zhao Wenyao is Zhao Mengkui, which shows the deep friendship between the two. Li Jie was born in 1944 AD and Zhao Mengkui was born in 1238 AD, and the age difference between the two was 44 years, so they were friends of forgotten years.

According to the preface of the “Classification of Tang Songs and Poems”, “Xuelin Li was a fan of Tang poetry”. When Zhao Mengkui studied poetry from his father, “every time we talked with each other, we sighed that we could not see all the schools”, so he “sent out my family collection, made an outline with his hands, and compiled the classification”, and aspired to compile this book. Subsequently, “the eunuch rutted the east and west axes and asked Li Jun to complete it”. This shows that Li Gongli was involved in the compilation of “Tang Songs and Poems in a Separate Category” and contributed a lot to this book, so he was actually another compiler of “Tang Songs and Poems in a Separate Category”.

### 3.2 *Liu Kezhuang*

Liu Kezhuang and Zhao Mengkui were old friends. Liu Kezhuang (1187-1269) was the character Qianfu, and his name was Houcun. He was a native of Putian (now in Fujian). He entered the government with shade, and in the sixth year of Emperor Li’s reign (1246), he was given the same scholarship and became a bachelor of Longtu Pavilion. He was an important writer of the “Jianghu School”. His lyrics were like those of Xin Qiji, and he was fond of making strong words, and his words were bold and impulsive. He has “The Complete Works of Mr. Houcun”. The collection of lyrics is called “Houcun Long and Short Phrases”, or “Houcun Other Tune” (Zhou, 2020). According to the chronicle of Liu Kezhuang, Liu Kezhuang was eighty-one years old when he bought the land of his deceased friend Zhao Mengkui as a hall of worship to offer incense. The poem “Collection” IV.2 records the story of this incident, Liu Kezhuang’s grandmother, He Gongren, because “the burial place

is narrow and cannot accommodate the mound keeper”, when paying respect to the tomb, “the rain is borrowed from the Fang’s nunnery to set up a place for sacrifice. And because Liu Kezhuang “both orphaned more than fifty years, finally can not increase the foot of land, insert inch rafters”. To Xianchun Dingmao year, Liu Kezhuang found that “from the tomb down the mountain to the official road, there is a gap of more than 2,000 acres of land, the forest more than hug”. So he visited the neighboring land belongs to who, know “belongs to Chunguzi, the late also”, to Zhao Mengkui explain the reason, “Chungu Xin letter coupon to give to, with in its made for the Hall, in order to serve incense and live child line. After that, Liu Kezhuang wrote a poem to thank Chungu. This Chungu that is Zhao Mengkui, according to the “picture painting Baojian” four, “painting history painting” three, “painting matter preparation examination” six, “Zhuxi Jianzhai sequel” four “and Zhao Chungu South Creek double lotus two” and other documents, Zhao Mengkui official secret cabinet repair, good at painting bamboo, stone, orchids and cypress (Cheng, 1993).

Another according to Cheng Zhangcan “Liu Kezhuang chronicle” test Xianchun four years wuchen (1268) Liu Kezhuang eighty-two years old when the chronological poetry and “Cambodia Chungu Gongbu” one: “if the rich enclosure country, why as poor at home. I would rather take away my qi gourd than still have a Han Chinese letter” (Fu, 1996). The Chungu in the poem is also Zhao Mengkui, which shows the deep friendship between Liu Kezhuang and Zhao Mengkui.

### 3.3 *Lin Xi Yi*

According to the available documents, Lin Xi Yi was the poet with whom Zhao Meng Kui sang and sang the most poems during his lifetime. The two sisters with peach leaves and peach roots should not be included in the title of the poem”. The second one is “The pond in front of the Wenyao Shrine is full of flowers, and the god of flowers is offering treasures to the valley. Two or two red lotus torches will be seen, and the autumn breeze will be sent into the poem first” (Fu, 1996).

Lin Xiyi (1193-1271), character Su Weng, number Zhu Xi, also known as Kuanshai. He was a native of Fuqing County, Fuzhou. According to Chunxi Sanshan Zhi, vol. 32, “Personality Class - Ke Ming - this dynasty”, Song Zhou Mi, “Kuei Xin Miscellaneous Knowledge - After Collection”, “Private take Lin Zhuxi”, Ming Huang Zhongzhao, “Bamin Tongzhi”, vol. 47, “Election - Ke Di - Fuzhou Prefecture - Song”, Ming He Qiaoyuan, “Min Shu”, vol. 79, “Ying Lao Zhi - Fuzhou Prefecture Fuqing County - Song Ke Di”, Qing Ji Yun, “Si Ku Quan Shu General Catalogue Abstract”, vol. 19, “Rites”, Qing Li Qingfu, “Minzhong Min The source of science and learning examination”, volume 8, “Zhongshu Lin Zhuxi Mr. Xi Yi” and other documents, Lin Xi Yi is “ChangYan’s great-grandson, Kai’s nephew. Duanping two years to enter the first grade, B Wei Wu Shu told the list, for the Ping navy section officer. Solve the provincial test Fu Kui, through the Hanlin power straight and Chongzheng Hall of the book, straight secret cabinet, know Xinghua army, Jingding between the official Secretary of agriculture less Secretary, the end of the Chinese book shepherd”.

### 3.4 *Mou Yan*

Mou Yan is the only friend who wrote elegiac poems for Zhao Mengkui in the available data, and there are as many as three of them, which shows that they had a great friendship during their lifetime. Mou Yan (1227-1311) was a native of JingYan (now in Sichuan), Longzhou, late Song and early Yuan dynasties, and later migrated to Huzhou (now in Zhejiang). “Mou Zicai’s son. With his father’s shade, he joined the civil service, successively became the chief judge of the eastern part of Zhejiang Province and the junior secretary of the Dali. The death of the Song Dynasty, not to serve. Since the death of the Song Dynasty, he did not serve. He discussed the six scriptures and was especially passionate about literature. He wrote “Ling Yang Ji” (Yang, 2015). Zhao Chungu had asked Mou Yan to tour the North Mountain, there is a poem for “Zhao Chungu about touring the North Mountain Chen Benzai rhyme”: “the sick man is chronic in laziness, the world less than a match. Not save to read the Taoist book, head down to cover the purple handkerchief dream north mountain north, the household limit long not cross. The folding of the brief allows me to travel, the basket is temporarily borrowed. I was able to lift my shoulders from my belly and thank the target at ease. When I met the bamboo and water, the gods were in my house. The mountains are also purple and green, so I didn’t have to pay a visit. I am afraid of the city because I have two bare feet in my life. Why not among the rocks, together with the eternal day leisure. I am not inferior to the ancients. I like to see the guest’s eyebrows, cooking tea to sweep the windy pavilion. The old mountain is so thin that the night is quiet. I am not a fan of the old mountain. My peers occasionally meet, and they are always thunderstruck by small talk. The wind and rain are clear, how can we follow the transformation of things. Shang Shan is still confined, let alone the border summer” (Fu, 1996). In the poem, “Folded a brief to allow me to travel, and lent me a basket for a while”, it can be seen that Mou Yan had written a letter to Zhao Mengkui to ask him to travel, or because Mou Yan was older than Zhao Mengkui, Zhao Mengkui lent the basket for climbing to Mou Yan.

On the other hand, after Mou Yan heard of Zhao Mengkui’s death, he wrote three elegiac poems, which shows the depth of his friendship with Zhao Mengkui. First of these poems is: “A steed chasing the wind on the ground, a roc driving the sea in the sky. He was a great friend of Zhao Mengkui. A few people are waiting for the fire to be lifted, and they are willing to drink ice all their lives. I am glad to see that he has lived a long life”. Mou Yan sighed that Zhao Mengkui had been appointed to serve in politics all his life and was worried about his country. The second part of “Elegy for Zhao Chungu” reads, “Zimei turned to the same valley, and Lingjun missed this capital. The name of cultivation is short for a thousand years, and the minister is lonely for many difficulties. God’s will is unpredictable, but his heart will never change. The west wind blows even more sharply, and the path between the springs is depressed”. “God’s will is unpredictable, but his heart is unchanging”. In the end, it is difficult to predict and speculate the will of God, but the promise that Zhao Mengkui holds in his heart remains the same. It is evident that Zhao Mengkui, like Qu Yuan, insisted on his ideals and ambitions

and did not regret his death. The third part of “Elegy for Zhao Chungu” reads, “The north is a meeting of the party, but the west is not to be pursued. Mochizuki is sick in Jinliang, and Yongmen is sad in Taiyuan. The crane has a dream of returning home, and the crow has no time to feed itself. The pine trees in Takioka are close enough to comfort the thoughts of Jiu Yuan” (Fu, 1996). The strong feelings of friendship are overwhelming.

### 3.5 Li Jue

Li Jue (1219-1307), called Yuanhui, called Hetian, also called Lulingmin, was a native of Jishui (now part of Jiangxi). At the end of the Song Dynasty, he was in charge of the imperial Hanlin Division and was in charge of the imperial books. There are “four collections of miscellaneous writings” and “one hundred chants of Qiantang” (Fu, Xu etc., 1999).

About Li Hetian and Zhao Mengkui’s interactions less, only see Liu Chen weng made “send Li Hetian into Zhejiang to Zhao Chungu recruit” a, Liu Chen weng (1232-1297), the word will Meng, No. Su Xi, Luling (now Jiangxi Ji’an) people. He was a native of Luling (now Ji’an, Jiangxi). In the third year (1262) of King Jingding of the Li Zong of Song Dynasty, he was listed as a candidate for the imperial examinations because of his disobedience to the powerful minister Jia Sidao. He served as the head of the Lianxi Academy. After the death of the Song Dynasty, he lived in seclusion. He had a collection of poems entitled “Su Xi Ji” (Wen, 2019). From the title of the poem, it is clear that Li Hetian was invited by Zhao Chungu to work in Zhejiang during the Southern Song Dynasty, so they should be colleagues.

## 4. Summary

In summary, Zhao Mengkui, the compiler of the “Tang Songs and Poems in a Separate Category”, was born in a family of imperial examiners, and the place of origin recorded in the document should be the place where Zhao Mengkui lived during his official transfer. Zhao Mengkui was born in 1238 A.D., and the year of his death should be no earlier than that of Mou Yan, with whom he had close contact, namely 1311 A.D. Zhao Mengkui had close relations with Li Qiqi, Liu Kezhuang, Lin Xiyi, Mou Yan, Li Yu and others, and had poetic and literary interactions. Combing Zhao Mengkui’s related documents is of great documentary value for further research on the “Tang SPoems in a separate category”.

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