PART II

LARGER HORIZONS: EDITING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
CHAPTER THREE

RETRIEVING THE PAST:
WOMEN EDITORS AND WOMEN’S POETRY, 1636–1941

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Introduction

This study takes up six collections of women’s writings by women editors that came out between the late Ming and the end of the Republican period. The six collections are: Shen Yixiu’s Yiren si (1590–1635) 黛人思 (Their thoughts) of 1636; Wang Duanshu’s 王端淑 (1621–85) Mingyuan shiwei 名媛詩緯 (Classic of poetry by famous women) of 1667; Yun Zhu’s 悌珠 (1771–1833) Guochao guixiu zhengshi ji 國朝閨秀正始集 (Anthology of correct beginnings by women of this dynasty) of 1831 and the sequel of 1836; Shen Shanbao’s 沈善寶 (1808–62) Mingyuan shihua 名媛詩話 (Remarks on poetry by famous women) of 1845; Shan Shili’s 薛士釐 (1858–1945) Guixiu zhengshi zaixu ji 閨秀正始再續集 (Second sequel to the anthology of correct beginnings by women of this dynasty) of 1911–1918; and Xian Yuqing’s 洗玉清 (1895–1965) Guangdong nüzi yiwen kao 廣東女子藝文考 (Research on literary writings of women of Guangdong) of 1941.1

The works differ from one another generically. Mingyuan shihua is a shihua 詩話, or “remarks on poetry,” whereas most of the others

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1 Shen Yixiu, ed., Yiren si (1636), reprinted in Congshu jicheng xubian 叢書集成續編 (Master compendium of writings, a sequel) (Shanghai: Shanghai shudian, 1994); Wang Duanshu, ed., Mingyuan shiwei (Qingyin tang, 1667), in Beijing University Library and Grace S. Fong, ed., Ming Qing Women’s Writings, http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/mingqing; Yun Zhu, ed., Guochao guixiu zhengshi ji and Guochao guixiu zhengshi xuji 國朝閨秀正始續集 (Sequel to the anthology of correct beginnings by women of this dynasty) (Hongxian guan, 1831 and 1836), both in Harvard-Yenching Library and Fong, ed., Ming Qing Women’s Writings; Shen Shanbao, Mingyuan shihua (1845), in Beijing University Library; Shan Shili, ed., Guixiu zhengshi zaixu ji (Gulan Qian Family, 1911–1918), in Harvard-Yenching Library and Fong, ed., Ming Qing Women’s Writings; Xian Yuqing, ed., Guangdong nüzi yiwen kao (Changsha: Shangwu yinshu guan, 1941).