

# Colby



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## Epilogue

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◆ *Editor's Epilogue* ◆

**Who's Who:** Mrs. Florence Talpey Williams, widow of Ben Ames, is proud of her mixed heritage—English mother, Yankee father; born in China, family roots in York, Maine. A graduate of Bradford Academy and Wellesley College, she is an accomplished painter as well as author of *China Childhood*, a piquant, abbreviated autobiography.

This issue of *CLQ* would not have been possible without her intimate guidance and support. I wish also to thank her two sons—Roger C., president of Creative Associates in Portland, and Ben Ames, Jr., vice-president of the First National Bank in Boston—for cooperation *ne plus ultra*.

Dr. Joseph B. Yokelson, a product of Brooklyn College and Brown University, is now an assistant professor of English at Colby. He has done intensive research on the reception of Joyce's *Ulysses* and the symbolism in Hemingway's fiction, and has published an explication of T. S. Eliot's "Gerontion."

**Little Did He Know:** The final anecdote in Mrs. Williams' autobiography reanimates the first visit she made to the Allen School for Boys in West Newton, Mass., not long after her permanent return from China. Still in her early teens, she had accepted with alacrity the invitation of her cousins Will and Mamie Howard (he was assistant headmaster) to a Sunday night supper. After the meal, they repaired to the headmaster's house for a hymn sing which was also attended by "dozens and dozens of boys." On the walk back to the station, to catch the train for Boston, Florence queried her cousin about "The big boy with the curly hair and the square jaw. I think he's by far the nicest! What did you say his name is?"

"Oh," said Cousin Mamie. . . "He's from way out in Ohio. His name's Ben Ames Williams." With these fateful words the book closes.

**But He Found Out:** From BAW's unpublished "American Notes": "The individual who drew my horoscope, if the stars told him all there was to tell, should have mentioned the name of Will Russell Howard. Certainly no man has more directly influenced my life. It was Will Howard who persuaded Mother and Father to send me to the Allen School, in West Newton. It was because Mrs. Howard was remotely related to Mrs. Williams' father that at the Allen School I met her." *Satis verborum*.