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A CHINESE FORE-EDGE PAINTING

IN Weber's historical record of the mysterious art of fore-edge decoration—a book (now out of print) entitled *A Thousand-and-one Fore-Edge Paintings* (Colby, 1949)—pages 109-110 are devoted to the work done by Chinese artists. The author remarks: “Chinese fore-edge paintings . . . can all be dated 1936 to 1942. . . . They are either gilt-edged or not; . . . many . . . are not under gold. . . . Chinese artists who were Christians painted Biblical scenes on the edges, no matter what the books contained [for subject-matter]. . . . These Chinese scenes were not always painted horizontally on the edges [of the book], as is the case with almost all the English fore-edge landscapes, but vertically. . . . [There are] scores of specimens of Chinese work . . . [now in] American libraries.” Curiously enough, however, there has been none at Colby. Now, thanks to the generous act of Mrs. Hazel G. Littlefield Smith, of Palos Verdes Estates, California, we have an excellent example of Chinese work. From Peking, China, came her copy of Vicesimus Knox's *Essays, Moral and Literary* (London, Dilly, 1795), on the fore-edges of which, not under gilt, is a vertically-executed Biblical scene which illustrates perfectly all the comments quoted above.



OTHER ACQUISITIONS

MR. H. BACON COLLAMORE, of Hartford, Connecticut, has greatly improved the Library's holdings of modern poets and novelists by presenting extensive collections of the works—largely first editions—of the following: Norman Douglas, Archibald Marshall, Robert Nathan, Oliver Onions, Eden Philpotts, and Henry Williamson. These books have arrived in Waterville too recently for us to speak in detail about them, but they constitute the latest evidence of Mr. Collamore's long-continued interest in and benefaction of the Colby College Library.