

# Poems and Drawings

by Iola Scofield

The Collegian

## Egypt

While pageantries of East or West  
Fade from the ancient land,  
These mortal mathematical  
As in the dawning stand,  
Constructing their geometry  
Of shadows on the sand.

## Holiday

On a crowded beach radios croon  
By many a languid knee;  
The boy has found in a caverned shell  
Ocean's melody  
And carries home this distant voice  
That sings of Odyssey.

### Album

Ah, Valentines of yesterday,  
The sullen fire of time  
Consumes your lace and satin hearts,  
The ribbon and the rhyme!  
You too have been in Arcady,  
Earth's ambrosial clime.

### Vienna Wood

Beside a path there is a bench  
Which histories encumber;  
Hearts and years and names are carved  
Deep in the aged lumber;  
Sometimes a bird picks at a heart  
Or nibbles at a number.

### Missing the Mark

Rip van Winkle slept for years,  
Rage removed his mate;  
Apoplexy, ataraxy! —  
They are reprobate  
Who leave the world too soon perhaps  
Or certainly too late.

### Guardian

The clock has stood a century  
In the shadow of the stair,  
Ordering the day's events  
With mild, ancestral care,  
Save for those last departures  
That take it unaware.

## New Troy

Up from the ruins of his pyre  
They say the phoenix flashes  
To be the one undying bird —  
A hope experience dashes,  
As Virgil knew, who is the world's  
Connoisseur of ashes.

## In Memoriam

Men are estranged by nature's walls  
Of mountain, plain, and sea;  
And legend everywhere recalls  
A last catastrophe.  
The world's great age begins anew  
When the wild ape scorns his tree.

## Webster

The spider spins *ex nihilo*  
An apprehensive thread  
Stretched over space and solitude,  
Yet by a dream he is fed  
Of banquet cloth and winding sheet  
About the winged dead.

## Escape

The shadows seen on sunny days  
Are children of the night;  
They hide behind the shapes of things  
From the lordly eye of light  
Until their vast, kind mother comes  
And covers them from sight.







