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The Chinese Theatre

By Chu- Chia Chien

Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Alexandre Jacovleff (illustrator). 229 x 152 mm.

Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.A review excerpt from The Bookman, Volume 63: .MY third book takes me far enough afield from France, England and Italy. It is The Chinese Theatre, a cosmopolitan volume written by Chu-Chia-Chien, translated by James A. Graham, prefaced and illustrated by Alexandre Jacovleff, and printed in Paris. I had no thought of comparison-hunting when I took it up, yet on the third page of the preface I find comparison made between the Chinese theatre and-what but our old friend, the commedia dell arte! Like that Italian form, the writer tells us, Chinese folk-drama deals almost exclusively with conventional characters. It is akin to the antique theatre, the mystery plays, the commedia dell arte, to all forms of theatrical art which are not the expression of individual personality but the reflection of a race. It has changed little from the fourteenth century, and from the seventeenth not at all. It has a highly complicated ritual, but the simplest morality - plain black-and-white without half-tones, right versus, might, vice punished and virtue suitably rewarded; Adelphi melodrama could...



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Reviews

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