



Model Pagodas

Date

1850-1880

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Chinese

Medium

Soapstone

Description

Pair of soapstone architectural models of pagodas brought to Hamilton College by Justus Doolittle (1824-1880), class of 1846. Doolittle authored a book on Chinese culture as well as an early Chinese-English dictionary. He served as a missionary in the Foochow and Tientsen regions of China. Doolittle returned to the United States in poor health and died in Clinton in 1880. The pagodas were likely made for the souvenir market by a local workshop, as soapstone was plentiful in the region. Doolittle's diary indicates that he witnessed soapstone carving as a practice during his time in China. In terms of form, pagodas served as both religious and geographic markers, prevalent in Fujian, where Doolittle lived.

Dimensions

Overall (2023.14.1): 40 x 10 1/4 in. (101.6 x 26 cm)