

*The Collecting of Posters*

**T**HE COLLECTING OF POSTERS.  
A NEW FIELD FOR CONNOISSEURS.  
BY CHARLES T. J. HIATT.

To collect English posters would be mere childishness comparable to the treasuring up of postmarks; indeed, to speak of amassing rubbish as collecting, is clearly a misuse of the word. But between England and France in the matter of the poster a world of difference lies, for while in France in the hands of the artist the poster becomes a charming and beautiful thing, in the hands of the colour-printer's hack in England it rarely succeeds in being other than abominable. The best that can be expected is that it should be inoffensive.

The print collector, wearied for the moment of engravings or etchings, might, without loss of dignity, turn his attention to the wall-pictures that gaily decorate the tedious new streets of Paris, which we owe to the perverse

ingenuity of Baron Hausmann and his disciples. Truth to tell, these great wall-pictures are not easy to manage when they have been obtained. A



CUL DE LAMPE. BY CHÉRET



PORTION OF A POSTER. BY CHÉRET

number of posters three yards long by one and a half broad are liable to be somewhat in the nature of a white elephant. If they are folded up for the portfolio, each crease diminishes their charm, while to frame them one would require a Gargantuan purse, and a Chicago Exhibition in which to hang

them when framed. The only practical solution of the problem seems to be to mount them on linen like wall-maps with rollers and tape. In this way when rolled up they would not occupy much space, and they could be hung on a wall in the open air on fine days, and seen under the precise circumstances of light and distance which the designer had in view. In their perfect adaptability to the conditions under which they are exhibited no small part of their merit lies. Seen in an ordinary sized room they are liable to be a little too aggressive, for the great patches of bitter red and burning yellow insist on recognition, and the daring of the designs is more likely to be