

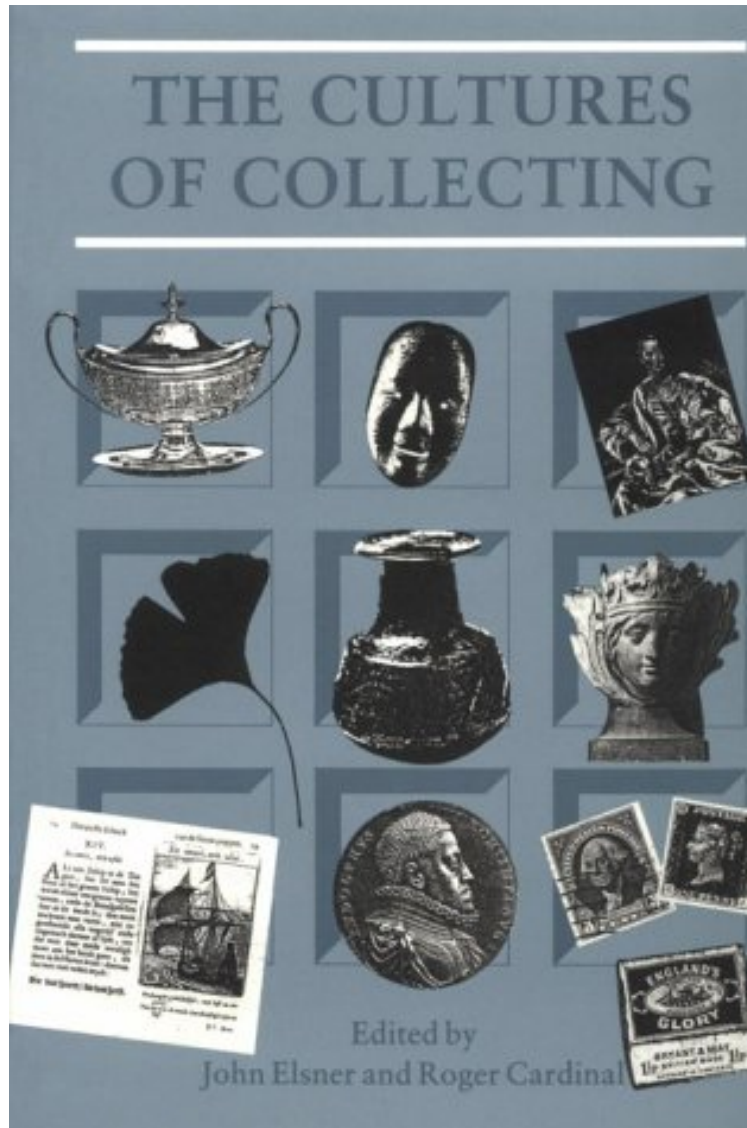
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(Mobile pdf) The Cultures of Collecting

## The Cultures of Collecting

**From Harvard University Press : The Cultures of Collecting** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cultures of Collecting:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerVery interesting18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant essays on collectingBy David AdamsThere are a number of essays in this book that makes it worth reading. My favorites are:1. The System of Collecting by Jean Baudrillard - " (collections) constitute themselves as a system, on the basis of which the subject seeks to piece together his world . . ."2. Collecting and Collage-making: The Case of Kurt Schwitters by Roger Cardinal3. A Collector's Model of Desire: The House and Museum of Sir John Soane by John Elsner. If you are a rabid collector of anything, you will delight in this

ULTIMATE collection in which a man turned everything he did and his very house into a museum. He made multiple catalogs of his "collection" throughout his life and arranged and rearranged until his death. It's an amazing story. There are 12 essays in all, including one on Freud's statue collection, Cook's collection from his Pacific voyages, and collections of the Austrian Habsburgs. I found it a fascinating read. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. artprofBy art profI concur with the post above, about the binding and gluing on the softcover edition. It's an otherwise five-star book that's very poorly made, as a softcover.

This book traces the psychology, history and theory of the compulsion to collect, focusing not just on the normative collections of the Western canon, but also on collections that reflect a fascination with the "Other" and the marginal the ephemeral, exotic, or just plain curious. There are essays on the Neoclassical architect Sir John Soane, Sigmund Freud and Kurt Schwitters, one of the masters of collage. Others examine imperialist encounters with remote cultures the conquistadors in America in the sixteenth century, and the British in the Pacific in the eighteenth and the more recent collectors of popular culture, be they of Swatch watches, Elvis Presley memorabilia or of packaging and advertising. With essays by Jean Baudrillard, Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, Nicholas Thomas, Mieke Bal, John Forrester, John Windsor, Naomi Schor, Susan Stewart, Anthony Alan Shelton, John Elsner, Roger Cardinal and an interview with Robert Opie.

From Library JournalThe editors have assembled a series of essays on the human propensity to collect and organize whose very diversity of style makes it hard to decide of what value it would be to most libraries. Written by scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, the essays wander superficially through art history, psychoanalysis, literature, world history, and pop culture. Some of the entries are interesting, but most are simply incomprehensible. Too often the bad ones are written in an opaque, academic style that tells little about how certain collections were amassed or what made them noteworthy as collections. Except for scholars used to struggling with "profes-sorspeak," most readers will find this book to be indecipherable and not particularly enlightening. Not recommended. Margarete Gross, Chicago P.L. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. a brilliant book ... a good read. Analysis of the relationship of collecting to identity, memory, and psychosexual development raises fascinating questions. The Modern it is by challenging and expanding upon previous ideas and histories of collecting that the book offers ways of rethinking not only the nature of collecting but also the nature of museum practice. Art History Informative and thought-provoking stuff The Independent About the Author John Elsner is a Lecturer in Classical and Early Christian Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London.