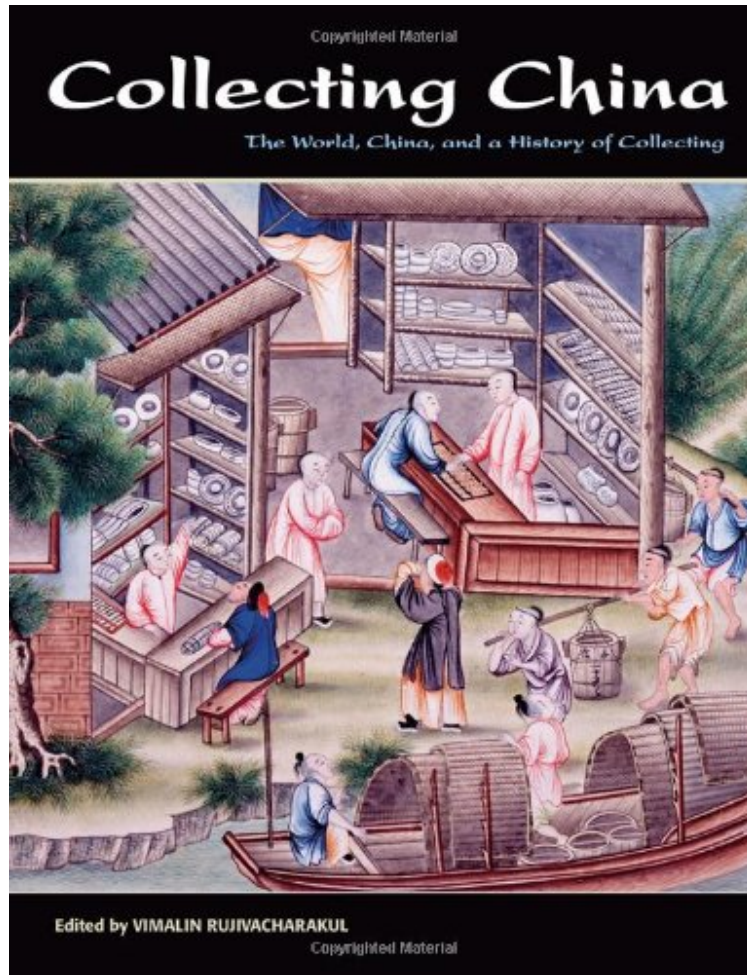


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Collecting China: The World, China, and a Short History of Collecting

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From University Of Delaware Press : Collecting China: The World, China, and a Short History of Collecting before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Collecting China: The World, China, and a Short History of Collecting:

Collecting China: The World, China, and A Short History of Collecting is a unique collection of essays that brings together theories of materiality and what collecting has meant to various peoples over time. Collecting China grew out of a simple question: how does a thing become Chinese? Fifteen essays explore this question from different angles, ranging from close examination of world-renowned private collections (the Rockefellers, the Goncourts, the Walters,

the du Ponts, the Yeh family, and the Getty Research Institute, among others) to critical reinterpretations of historical writings that continue from records of Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty to the story of Robinson Crusoe and the first international exhibition of Chinese art. With accounts that incorporate records normally unavailable to the public, the authors map the vast network of collecting practices in different periods, and demonstrate the ways in which material things produced in China acquire new cultural identities through collecting practices.

An excellent collection of essays that delve both into specific collections and the wider theoretical, cultural, socio-political issues of collecting, national identity, narrative, and art history/museum studies. If you are looking for a more "introduction" to Chinese art or a museum guide, this isn't it -- it's much more complex than that...! But a great collection of essays that make one think and re-think assumptions about China, museums, and definitions of "Chineseness."GOODREADS