

COLLECTOR'S LUCK

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Collector's luck by Alice van Leer Carrick

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ALICE VAN LEER CARRICK

**COLLECTOR'S
LUCK**

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A charming Sheraton secretary — a delicate piece with tambour doors and beautiful marquetry — filled with rare lustre pitchers.

COLLECTOR'S LUCK

OR

A Repository of Pleasant and Profit-
able Discourses Descriptive of
the Household Furniture
and Ornaments of
Olden Time

*What toil did honest Curio take,
What strict inquiries did he make,
To get one medal wanting yet,
And perfect all his Roman set!
'Tis found! and oh! his happy lot!
'Tis bought, locked up, and ne'er forgot.
—Prior.*

By ALICE VAN LEER CARRICK

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TO ORDE AND ALICIA

PREFACE

I WANT to write another dedication as well: to times past and gone; to the men and women who lived then; and to these old things that are the tangible, present symbols of their faraway lives. Do you know, I often find collectors learning history from a little, personal angle that more academic scholars oftentimes overlook. How else could I have known with such happiness my adored Horace Walpole or gossiping Pepys? Margaret Winthrop and Eliza Pinckney stretch sisterly hands across the years to me, and I count among my intimates Judge Samuel Sewall and worthy Cotton Mather.

For, if you collect the right way, — and there *is* but one right way, — you cannot help absorbing the politics and art and religion of your chosen period. Collecting is n't just a fad; it is n't even just a "divine madness": properly interpreted, it is a liberal education.

And so to these old days and ways that have been my kindest guides, and to the readers who have walked with me awhile in this pleasant *pays bleu*, I rededicate "Collector's Luck."

A. V. L. C.

WEBSTER COTTAGE
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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