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Antiques

Do-It-Yourself Comes to Collector Publishing

By EVE M. KAHN

To help sell books, some collectors are even organizing exhibitions of their treasures. Ira M. Resnick, a real-estate investor and a photographer who owns about 2,500 movie posters printed between the 1910s and 1960s, has published 258 of them in “Starstruck: Vintage Movie Posters From Classic Hollywood” (Abbeville) and is displaying two dozen in a show that opens on Friday in a gallery at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center.

“It’s a financial labor of love,” he said during a recent interview at his Midtown office, under the gaze of John Barrymore as the lead in “Don Juan” in 1926 and as a despairing insane asylum patient in “A Bill of Divorcement,” from 1932.

Mr. Resnick provided the book’s high-resolution photos; in full-page reproductions, Louise Brooks crouches inside a giant red notebook in a 1929 ad for “Diary of a Lost Girl,” and Barbara Stanwyck proffers herself to an Asian lover in a scene from a 1933 box-office bomb titled “The Bitter Tea of General Yen.” Mr. Resnick also financed some publicity for the book and wrote its text (Martin Scorsese provided a foreword), explaining why he spent decades buying at stores with names like Cinemabilia and the Memory Shop.

“These posters let me imagine myself back in the movie palaces, Bijou theaters and fleapits of yesteryear, sharing in the emotional rush of audiences,” he writes.

Mr. Resnick also owns a poster gallery in East Rutherford, N.J., which is for sale. “In a year or two,” he said, he will cull his private collection and put parts of it up for sale. “I plan to keep all the posters I love best,” he said, perhaps lending them to museums or galleries for an expanded version of the Lincoln Center show. “I’m hoping someone will see it and ask, ‘What else have you got?’ ”