

GOOD LIVING

Collecting

These dowel-mounted prints don't need frames.



SCHOOL YOURSELF

Science teachers know them as chalk-plate charts. But we have another word for them: art.

These educational scrolls, designed to be written on (and erased) like a chalkboard, were first produced in Germany in the late 1800s. By the 1920s, education companies throughout Europe and the U.S. were hiring artists with a background in natural history to make their own. Rebecca Rubel—whose Windsor Place Antiques, in Brooklyn (windsorplaceantiques.com), specializes in the prints—says the most collectible are vintage pieces from the French company Dr. Auzoux and Germany's Jung-Koch-Quentell. Most contemporary versions from Europe and the U.S. are digitally screened onto fabric; the more valuable vintage ones are printed on paper, then backed with canvas. They show the beautiful patina of years of labeling and erasing, rolling and unrolling.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BURCU AVSAR

- Prices range from \$200 to \$700. When looking online, try these search terms: Dr. Auzoux, Jung-Koch-Quentell, and vintage educational chalk-plate chart.