

The Illustrated History of Paris in Diable à Paris (1845-6)

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Abstract

One of the most important publishers of illustrated literature in Nineteenth-Century France, Pierre-Jules Hetzel (1814-1886) published in 1845-6 *Diable à Paris* about multiple types of Parisians and the life in the city, which conformed to the trend of “physiology” books popular in the 1840s. Two essays of historian Théophile Lavallée, “History of Paris” and “Geography of Paris”, which served as the introduction of *Diable à Paris*, were abundantly illustrated with hundreds little wood-graving images, called “vignettes”, composed by Romantic landscape artist Jean-Jacques Champin. These images presented Paris as a city full of historical monuments and picturesque views, which well demonstrated the Romantic ideas about history and national heritages. By publishing this kind of illustrated books, Hetzel devoted himself to the vulgarization of sciences and popular educative readings and continued to collaborate with Lavallée in the publication of illustrated *History of Paris* (1852) and *Géographie illustrée de la France et de ses colonies* (1867-8).