

Collectable accessories – cash in the bag!

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

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In recent times we have seen an enormous increase in the number of fashion items that have now become very collectable. As the retail price of designer women's handbags and accessories escalates the second hand market for these items is on the move.

The same rules of collecting apply, whether it is a handbag or an antique clock. Probably the single biggest driver of this market is brand names. Prada, Louis Vuitton, Hermes and Chanel are just a few of the major fashion houses producing these highly sought after items. Other factors, equally important, include rarity of design, quantity in circulation and condition.

If you can access these items on the cheap then the chances are they are not the real thing. If you have travelled overseas, especially into Asia, you will be aware of the street vendor selling the 'genuine' handbag or watch. As the price for the original designer labels continues to climb the quality and availability of the fake or replicas is ever increasing. The internet is awash with these replicas, much to the chagrin of the original fashion houses. When in doubt as to the authenticity I would recommend seeing the original shop receipt.

I recently saw in a catalogue overseas a good example of this collectors' market. An original 1920's Louis Vuitton cabin trunk, the type your parents may have used on their cruise, sold for over \$7,000. If you think about the cabin trunk it will have very little use for modern travel, except those who maybe do the world cruise (with a valet to carry it).

Next week: Car memorabilia.

Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to hwtvaluations@byjoel.com.au I will access the item and respond.

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Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

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