

Collecting French Glass
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

Over the next few weeks we will start to look at different areas of collecting more closely. This week we will look at one of my personal favourites: French Glass.

French collectable glass has been around for many hundreds of years but I would like to concentrate on 19th and 20th Century. During this period the French produced many thousands of items from many different factories. Names like Baccarat, Galle, Daum and Lalique.

Each of these factories produce many different styles, ranging from the more common domestic items like ash trays to the most collectable and expensive handmade glass. Baccarat still produces collectable glass for the home, including candlesticks and decorative items.

Galle and Daum from the early 20th century have become some of the most expensive collectable glass. Both factories produced multi coloured glass in multi layers, which was then worked by hand. Lalique probably produced the largest number of items and has become very collectable.

How do you know you have a collectable item? All of the factories signed their work, from a simple single word engraved into the base to large and bold names that form part of the decoration. But you need to know that as these items have gained in value, many good fakes have come onto the market in the last 20 years.

One of the most important things to know about collecting glass is that it must be perfect. A simple chip on the rim of a Lalique vase will reduce the value by 95%. I know the vase was designed to hold flowers and it looks so good, but you must be very careful. If you want to ensure its long term collecting value maybe don't use it as a vase!

Next week: Photography for the collector

Warren Joel

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

www.byjoel.com.au