

## **Cricket Bats**

**Weekly Times Column**

**By Warren Joel**

One of the most popular forms of collectables is signed cricket bats. Now, it is not the bat that is the collectable part but the signatures of the players. At the top of the collecting tree will be bats actually used by players in scoring record runs. The bat used by Sir Donald Bradman when he scored one of his many record- breaking innings will be worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Closely followed will be the signed collectors' bats. The value of these is determined by who signed the bat. As a collector we need to be careful here as many of the current signed bats that are "limited edition" may not have the same collectability as the older and more rare bats. Some of the most valuable bats come out of the famed Bodyline series. A signed bat of the Australian team from one of those matches is in the top order of collecting bats.

The most valuable bat from this series (one I have never seen) would be one signed by both Australian and English cricket teams. The strong feeling generally between the two teams means that if one team signs a bat the other will not sign it.

Condition does play a part in the collectability and value of these bats. But it is not the condition of the bat but the condition of the signatures that will influence the value. A lovely old signed bat that has had a modern lacquer finish to preserve the signatures will be worth less than the same bat un-lacquered. And worse, will be where someone has overdrawn the signatures to stop them fading.

If you are lucky enough to have one of these collectors' bats do not let it be used for backyard cricket next summer.

*Next week: Model Ships and Boats.*

### **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 [valuations@byjoel.com.au](mailto:valuations@byjoel.com.au) I will access the item and respond.

### **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.

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