

Fountain Pens
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

byjoel

My middle daughter recently finished year 12 and my wife and I were going to get her something for passing all her exams and she announced that she wanted a fountain pen that she could keep.

Fountain pens are very collectable depending on all those standard items we look for in any collectable. Who made it, how old is it, is it in good condition and is it fashionable? If you are over the age of about 50 most of you will remember getting your first fountain pen at school, I certainly do. That pen is unlikely to be the collector's pen that we are looking for, as it will be the "cheaper" school pen. What we are looking for are those fine writing instruments that you have been given for the 18th or 21st present, that have sat in the box un-used for all those years.

So what are we looking for and what makes it a special and collectable pen? Brands like Swan, Waterman, Montblanc, Dupont, Parker and Chilton just to name a few. A quick look at the international auction records sees the highest price for a pen in the last 12 months at over \$2,500 US for a single pen. Even having the right brand may not be enough to have it as a collectable item. If the pen is made of solid gold it will clearly be worth more than the same pen in gold plate or plastic.

One of the biggest "value adds" for any item will be who owned the pen or where it may have been used. If you could find the pen that was used to sign the armistice treaty at the end of the second world war that would be worth many thousands of dollars, much more than just the pen.

And just if you are wondering, I do have a fountain pen I use from time to time. I choose not to use it everyday as it is special, and I will keep it for special occasions.

Next week: Selling The Estate Furniture And Effects

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 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 35 different areas of collectables.

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