

Lalique Glass

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

René Lalique was a Paris born jeweller and glass designer, and one of my favourite collectables. He specialised in beautiful art glass from the 1920's and 1930's. The designs include birds, flowers, fish and reptiles. Depending on the design and the original date of manufacture, these items can today sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

The question may well be asked, how do I identify a piece of Lalique from any other glass from the same period. All Lalique pieces from the glass vases through to his original jewellery items are signed. These signatures, especially on the glass items, can be very difficult to find, but are usually on the lower rim of the vase or bowl.

Most of his pieces were either a clear, frosted or opaque glass, but the much more collectable and higher priced items are those in stronger colours like fire engine red, electric blue, emerald green and the rarest of all, purple. If a clear fish design vase sells for \$1000, the same vase in red will bring \$3000 to \$4000.

Many of his works were also decorated with a hand applied stain decoration. This was used to highlight the appearance of the item. We do see from time to time these lovely original items that have been cleaned in the misconception that they were just dirty, reducing their value by as much as 50 per cent.

One of the key factors in collecting any form of glass, including Lalique, is condition. The \$3000 or \$4000 red vase we mentioned earlier will reduce to \$300 or \$400 if the item is even slightly chipped. It is this part of collecting that I enjoy, one minute you have a fabulous collector's item, the next minute you have a vase for putting flowers in.

Next week: Collectable accessories.

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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