

Light fittings?

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

During a recent valuation I was asked by the house owner whether they should sell the light fittings with the house or retain them for use in their next house. It occurred to me that valuation was just one component of what was rather a complicated scenario.

If they were to remove the light fittings from the home there were a number of additional costs to be incurred that needed to be considered. First of all there was the electrician who would be required to disconnect the power; then depending on the size of the light, it may be necessary for large step ladders or even scaffolding to get the light down. Now having got the light down we needed to then put something back up which required purchasing a new light.

You might ask what this has to do with the valuation? If your light fitting has sentimental value you may consider all the above expenses acceptable to retain the fitting. Financially we need to weigh up all these factors before we consider removing the light.

So what are lights worth? Let's forget about modern light fittings and concentrate on the antiques and collectables. The lovely old Georgian cut crystal chandelier with multiple drops and chains could be worth thousands of dollars. Popular during the 1960s and 70s were the Venetian glass chandeliers that arrived in Australia in vast numbers. Now if they are in good condition they are quite a valuable light - up to a couple of thousand dollars.

Probably among the most collectable and valuable will be the French art nouveau and art deco lights that can bring tens of thousands of dollars. If you are lucky enough to have one of these the expense of the replacement light and the additional expenses are well worthwhile. Hope we have thrown some light on the value of lights.

Next week: Outdoor furniture.

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.

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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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