

Maps

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

During a recent valuation I was doing for an estate in regional Victoria it occurred to me that one of their most valuable items was on the wall in front of them all the time.

Maps have always been a highly sought after collector's item that is often overlooked. But, like all areas of collecting there are some very clear rules that need to be followed. Top of the collectors' tree would be 18th Century maps of early Australia. These are easily recognisable because Tasmania is attached to mainland Australia, as Bass Strait had not been discovered yet. As these early maps are very collectable, they are also the map that has been copied the most.

Condition is a major factor in any collectable's value. Maps originate from two main sources, the first are wall maps or charts, the second are maps that come out of early books. If you have a close look at the map and you can see fold lines it is very possible that it has been removed from a book.

There are a large number of early English and European maps that have made their way to Australia. Many of these are also high on the collectors' wish list, but again there are lots of reproductions.

Along with the large scale maps of Australia, the more local regional maps are also sought after. If you had an early original street map of Geelong, or the original plan of a subdivision for Geelong this would be a valuable collection item. The earlier the map the more collectable it is going to be.

Next week: Kerosene Lamps

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.

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