

Model Boats and Ships
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

byjoel

During some recent valuations I have come across a number of collections of model boats and ships that have been quite valuable.

One of the earliest forms of model ships were known as ships in bottles. Before TV, radio and the internet many idle hours were spent in the manufacture of these models. No more evident than in ships in bottles. The fascination of how anyone could painstakingly build a model ship through the neck of a bottle only adds to the value today. These can be worth in the order of \$3,000-5,000.

Scale model ships in glass cases have become collectors' items in the 21st century. The most collectable of these ships are the old three and four masted square riggers. The intricate nature and the attention to detail in the rigging of these old ships created beautiful works of art. Many of these models will have taken years to finish, a true labour of love.

In the late 19th and early 20th century the models in cabinets gave way to the three-dimensional diorama or picture ship. These are still highly collectable but not as valuable as early models. In more recent times we see simple hull designs in three dimensions in picture frames. This is probably the lower end of the collectors' market. These bring around \$2,000.

These model ships should not be confused with functional pond yachts. These models were designed for use on the still waters of a pond before the days of remote controls. There are some beautiful hand-made timber pond yachts that will sell for many thousands of dollars, up to \$5,000.

Even the old model with all its rigging damaged and sails missing is still worth something to the collector, if only for spare parts.

Next week: The changing face of my desk.

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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