

**Model Train Sets**  
**Weekly Times Column**  
**By Warren Joel**

Many of you may have your original model train set from when you were a child that could be worth big dollars. As with any collectable there are elements of collecting and collectability that are always present.

With trains it is about condition and rarity. Model trains are by no means a rare collectors' item. Probably the most common of all the model train sets would be the Hornby series of trains. There were literally tens of thousands of these produced for the worldwide market. But in amongst all those trains there will be some one-offs or country specific trains.

A quick look at the internet at any of the auction sites will show there are literally hundreds of model railway train sets for sale. So we need to look beyond the standard issue to try to find the more valuable items. Whether the train set is electric or mechanically wound up a generic train or a more exact scale model of an actual train will have enormous influence on the sale price. For example a scale model of the Southern Aurora (Australian) will have a higher collector value here than overseas.

What every collector is trying to find is the custom made, limited edition boxed set. The highest price paid for a model train set was for a custom made Lionel American train, originally made for a wealthy New York gentleman. That sold for in excess of \$250,000. Little things will make a big difference to the value like having the original boxes for the locomotives and cars, adding thousands of dollars to the right set.

Now before you all rush out and spend your inheritance ninety percent of the train sets sitting in the bottom of the cupboard will be worth less than a hundred dollars. Even with all the tracks, signals, switch gear etc the price for most will be only a few hundred at best.

*Next week: Cricket Bats.*

**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](mailto: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 2002 different areas of collectables.

[www.byjoel.com.au](http://www.byjoel.com.au)