

Money in the wardrobe

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

One of the newer areas of collecting in recent times is vintage and veteran clothing and accessories. These are the classic items of clothing, hand and travel bags and other similar items that have sat in the back of the wardrobe gathering dust.

Now before you all start pulling out your old clothing and trying to get away with wearing them to town, we are not talking about any old clothing. As with other forms of collecting there are a few rules that we need to put into place. First, and by far the most important feature of this form of collecting will be style. This refers to the classic features that separate that good hand bag from the many other “also ran” bags.

To give you a simple example of just how collectable this area has become I will look at the old Cabin Trunk that your grandparents may have used when they did the trip to England by ship back in the 1920’s. Now if you are lucky they may have purchased for the trip the Louis Vuitton cabin trunk, the one that doubled as their wardrobe when on the ship. If they looked after that trunk and it is still in good condition it could sell for up to \$10,000.

The same applies to the old hand bags, brief case, makeup case or item of clothing. Another key feature to this area of collecting, along with style, is the brand name. And that brand name is vital to achieve any value in this area of collecting. Brands like Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Chanel and Prada.

Whether it’s the old hand bag or that 1920’s dress there is a strong collectors market out there looking for that special item.

Next week: Maps

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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