

## Rugs

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

The collectability of Persian and Oriental rugs has waned in recent years. For many years rugs were seen not just as a decorator item but also as a serious investment.

The proliferation of the rug shops in most capital cities has seen an enormous increase in the availability of these once rare items. As with any other commodity when supply is increased and demand remains constant, the price must fall. This is the exact scenario that the collectors' rug market is now facing.

Notwithstanding the drop in value there are still gems out there to be found. The first and one of the key factors in the value of any rug will be its condition. Because of their nature (sitting on the floor) they tend to suffer badly from wear and tear. The most common 6 foot by 4 foot rug can be purchased for well under the thousand dollar mark. The larger rugs, up to 5-6 metres square will sell for many thousands of dollars. Perhaps the most expensive will be the hundred percent pure silk rugs, preferably signed within the pattern.

It's not always about the money. With the modern design of homes and polished timber floors the Persian and Oriental rugs can beautifully enhance a room. With the right colour toning and pattern they can be a key feature of any room. I personally find many modern houses and apartments too cold and noisy and the Persian rug can improve both these aspects.

*Next week: The kids inheritance .*

### **Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.**

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### **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.

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