

Swords And Guns
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

byjoel

There is a highly valuable collectors' market out there for many types of swords and guns. By now there should not be too many of grandfather's old "22" or shot gun sitting on top of the wardrobe in the spare bedroom, but we still manage to turn up some interesting finds from time to time. For both these collectors' items the law in Victoria has changed in recent times that make it much harder to hold and even harder to collect.

With guns it is all about who made it and what it was used for. At the very top of the tree would be the beautifully made English shotgun "Gus" by makers like Purdy, Greener and Hollis & Hollis. The right pair of shot guns by Purdy could sell for over \$50,000, with the other makers not too far behind. With the rifles again it will be about who made them, but they don't tend to sell for anything like the money shot guns sell for.

The collecting of swords falls into two distinct areas - the first being navel and military swords used by an officer in one of the services, the second being Japanese Samurai swords. With the military swords the value will not only be about the sword and who made it, but also whose sword it was. The more important the officer, the more the sword will be worth.

The Samurai swords tend to fall into two distinct types. The first are the Japanese officer swords, captured during the Second World War. The second type, and much more valuable, will be the much earlier sword. Most of the captured swords sell for around \$2,000 but the earlier swords, pre WW11, can sell for \$10,000 plus.

The collecting of both these items requires you to know what the current law is, in relation to keeping them and display these items.

Next week: Clothing, Bags and Shoes.

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 35 different areas of collectables.

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