

Time for a collectable
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

Wrist watches have become one of the most collectable items over the past few years.

The interest in collectable old wrist watches is growing all the time, but like every collectable you need to know what to look for. And just like collecting vintage cars it is all about who made it and what model. But what do you look for in a collectable wrist watch, or is it sitting in the back of the draw right now?

Let's look at one watch manufacturer, say Rolex, to understand what makes a collector's item. The watch needs to be one of the rarer models, it needs to be attractive, usually made of gold - but not always - and it needs to be going.

There are many other brands of wrist watch that are collectable. Names like Cartier, Piquet, Patek Philippe, IWC, Omega, Girard-Perregaux and Jaeger-LeCoultre, just to name a few. The price for these watches ranges from a few hundred to hundreds of thousands of dollars, for a single watch. And with so many collectables it is the unusual or unique watch that will be worth the most money.

When it comes to the early collectable watches, the man's watch is much more collectable and valuable than the lady's. I think this is because it is one of the few areas where a man can dress up for the special occasion, where a lady can add many items of jewellery. So next time you're looking through dad's old cuff links and dress studs have a look for the dress watch he got for his 21st, it just might be that rare collector's wrist watch.

Next week: Treasures of the clearing sale

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.

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.