

Toys

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

Children's toys are one of the more highly specialised areas of collecting. By their very nature a child's toy has been used, played with, left on the floor and generally had a hard time from the young owner. But, if you have been lucky enough to be given a toy as a youngster and for some reason it has remained in pristine condition you may have a collectors' item on your hands.

So what are the collectable toys? Again, the same simple rules of collecting apply. The mass production match box toy in poor order and condition will not sell for very much but the limited edition 007 Bond guy, still with its original box, can sell for hundreds of dollars. It is not only the male toys that are collectable, as the girls share in this area of collecting too. An original Barbie doll with its box and accessories is also a valuable collectors' item.

One favourite collectable that keeps showing up from time to time is the Meccano set. Meccano was the original construction system using reusable building parts, from the 1900's. A complete box set of one of Meccano's more complicated assemblies can bring over \$1,000.

As time goes on and as the age of the toys increase so will their value. Grandfather's original monopoly set with its caste lead pieces will have a collectors' value. Like so many other areas of collecting this is a highly specialised field with few of the major auction houses conducting toy sales. This will make it a little bit harder to find your buyer.

Next week: Football and cigarette cards.

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 2002 different areas of collectables.

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