

Violins

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

byjoel

Many of you will have the old violin in the black case on top of the wardrobe, but what is it worth?

There are many thousands of violins out there but very few of them are worth more than a few hundred dollars. Every time I do a valuation day I am usually presented with at least one "Stradivarius" violin. If you were to go on line and search for "Stradivarius" you will come across the most highly prized violin maker in the world.

In fact what you have most likely is the nineteenth century copy of the seventeenth century violin. This is not a fake or forgery but simply an exact copy of the original instrument, including the old paper label inside. If, and I do say if, you were lucky enough to have an original (and I have never seen one in Australia) it will sell for anything up to 2 million pounds. I suggest before you jump on the plane with your violin tucked under your arm and head to the UK you have it assessed in Australia.

Notwithstanding the Stradivarius copies there are a myriad of local and international violin makers that are still highly collectable. To have a collectable violin most will have an original paper label of the maker stuck inside the case. As with any collectable it will then come down to who made it, how old, what condition and how collectable it is.

Next week: Art For Art Sake.

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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