

What is worth collecting now?

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

Over the last few weeks we have looked at the trends in the market and what is not collectable. So what will be the next trend in collecting? To find the next trend in the market let's have a look at what has been a collectable in the past. The overriding factors in collectability are design, quality and limited production. One big clue in the trends going forward will be how we live and the style of houses we choose to live in. Large pieces of Victorian mahogany furniture worked well in a Victorian home, but not quite as well in a modern home or inner city unit.

We are choosing to live a very different life style to our parents. The formal dining room and front lounge room have been replaced with much more informal living spaces. And the clutter of a Victorian house has been replaced with much cleaner lines of modern living. Now we still want to sit down to a meal but not in the front room. This is where the refectory table and chairs come into fashion. In collecting furniture practical will be the overriding influence. A classic example of this is the American Cutler roll top desk that your father or grandfather had in the office. Twenty years ago that desk would sell for \$5,000, now the exact same desk might sell for \$2,000 - if you're lucky. Why? Simple reason, where do you put the computer, and how do you plug it in.

Size will be an important factor in what to collect. I know there are large new homes being built but we are tending to live in homes with smaller spaces. Small practical pieces of furniture will be one area to look going forward. I will go back to my simple rules of collection, buy what you like, that is limited edition, that is hard to find and in good condition.

Next week: What is the right one for you?

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.

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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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