

Vintage finds

By JESSEY BEH

THERE was a time when buying anything second-hand was taboo unless you could not afford to buy it new. These days, discerning consumers are turning to the pre-owned market for good bargains. Where can the savvy watch shopper on the lookout for a really good buy go for well kept pre-owned pieces? Here are some great shops worth checking out.

Bonfield Traders

48 Tanglin Halt, Road #01-329

Website: www.bonfield.com.sg

Owner Eric Ong is a true blue watch connoisseur. In the business for over 20 years, he knows what makes a watch an art piece — from the exterior case, strap and dial to the interior mechanisms and springs that make a watch tick.

"Some people think that watches are all machine-made these days, but you still need the human touch to make it perfect. And it is this human touch that turns a watch into an exquisite piece of art," he said.

Bonfield is one of the few shops islandwide that offers a full suite of in-house repair and restoration services (particularly for premium watches), including polishing, tooling and plating.

Mr Ong is also a trained jeweller, fully certified by the Gemmological Institute of America (GIA). From next year, Bonfield plans to make available certificates of authentication that will attach a value to your timepieces, so that you can insure them against loss or damage.