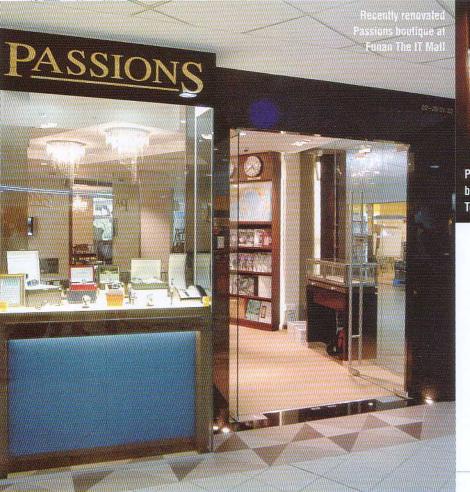
SECOND HAND

PHOTOS SIDNEY TEO & ALBERT TAN

Pre-owned watches are very much a part of watch collecting, as **Bernadette Png** finds out about assessing these hidden gems.

Watch collecting has evolved into a revolution that's benefited both aficionados and industry players. With the watch market developing at a rapid rate, the buying and selling of watches is now a multi-billion dollar industry. According to the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, the Swiss watch indus-

try is worth CHF11.1 billion. Recent trends like the rising popularity of complications and tourbillons have proved that the market is indeed becoming more educated in their search for quality watches. And the pre-owned watch market may have gained a foothold due to the current industry boost.





According to Dr Bernard Cheong, the pre-owned watch market is a serious market that is still in its infant years, unlike stamp collecting, which has been around longer. Dr Cheong explains that watch manufacturers are meeting the demand for original watches and not catering to the specific needs of the resale market. In addition, auction houses like