

Digitizing Your Family History Collections

Digitizing Three-Dimensional Objects

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



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Voice of
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Before getting started

- ✓ Choose your hardware
- ✓ Consider your digitization plan
 - ✓ Scanner or camera settings
 - ✓ File formats
 - ✓ File naming
 - ✓ File organization

How do I decide if I should scan or photograph an object?

Scanning

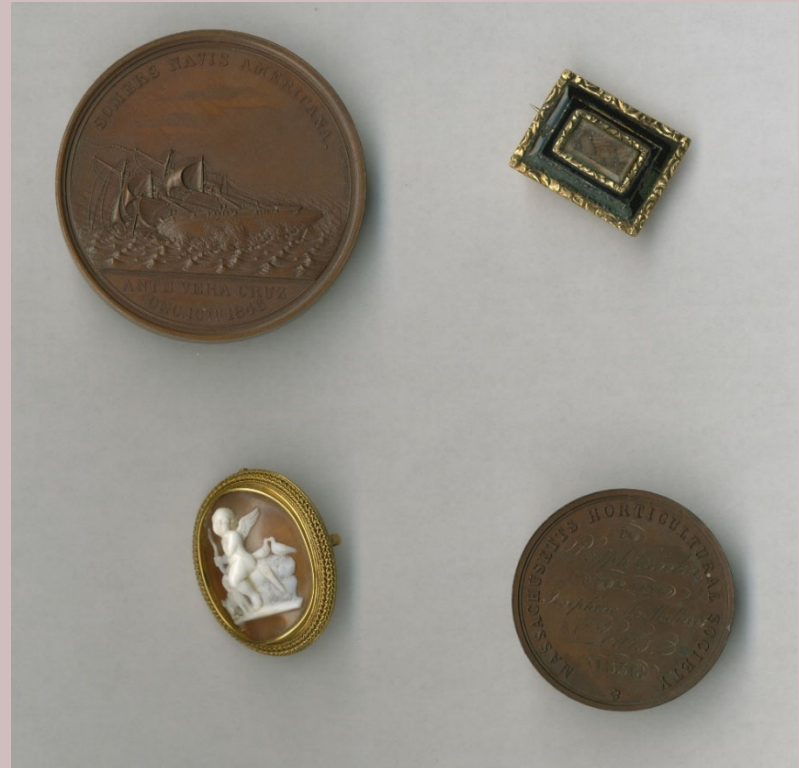
- Object is relatively flat (i.e., coins, pins or medals, some textiles)
- Object will not cause damage to your scanner

Photography

- Object is rounded, or has more than two raised surfaces
- Bulky textiles
- Object could cause damage to your scanner
 - Excessive rusting, flaking, or mold
 - Object has grommets or nails that could scratch the glass of the scanner

Scanning Objects

- Relatively flat objects can be scanned
 - Experiment with background
- Be very careful placing items on the glass
- Close the scanning lid slowly and gently



Object Photography

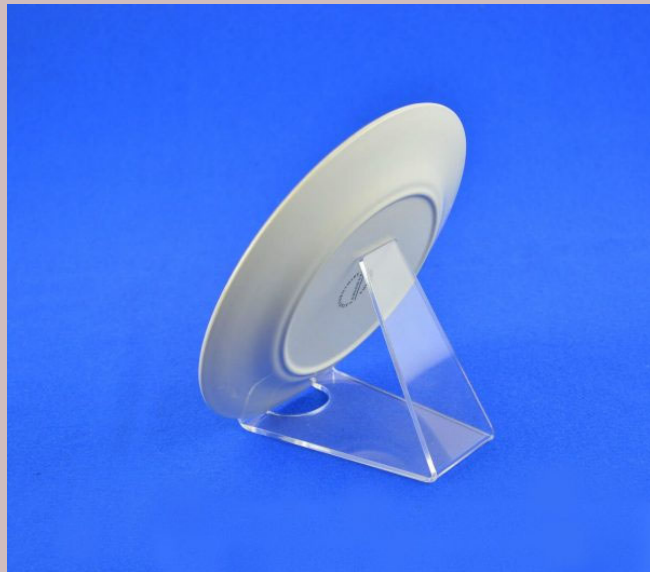
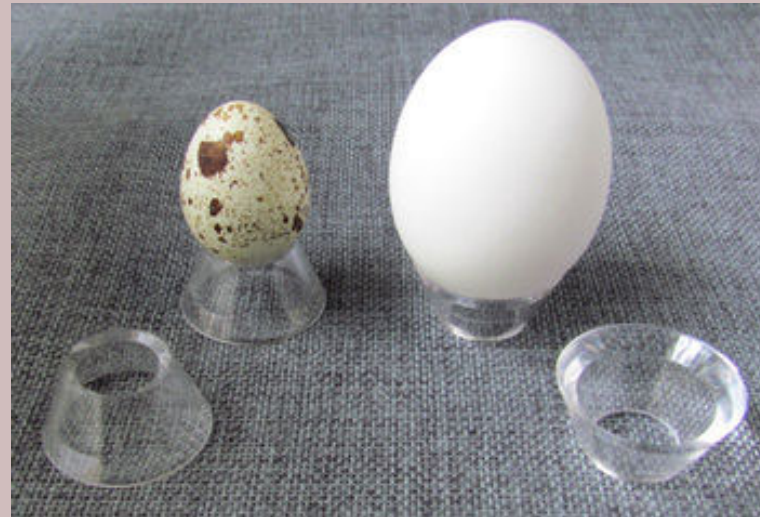
- Lighting and camera set-up depend on the size and shape of the objects.
 - Experiment for the best results.
- Flat objects can be photographed with the same settings used for documents.



Source: Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, *Hood Quarterly*, Winter 2017; <https://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/news/2017/01/hood-home>

Acrylic stands for object photography

- If the object is round or will move if unsupported, consider an acrylic support or stand
- Stands can also be useful if you are worried about damaging fragile objects by laying them flat on a table



- Major archival supply retailers sell acid-free acrylic stands for most objects, common or not

Tip

When using a camera to digitize a 3D object, capture unique attributes of the object.

Digitizing Framed Material

- Sometimes, a photograph or otherwise scan-able material cannot be removed from a frame
 - This can result in severe glaring from a scanner or camera
- Generally, when an item cannot be removed from a frame, a camera is the best tool for digitization
 - Experiment with lighting and angles to reduce glare on glass
- Flat objects can be photographed with the same settings used for documents.

Digitizing Objects with a Cell Phone or Mobile Device



- Follow the same procedures you would if you were using a handheld camera
- Phone-specific tripods or phone-holders can be used
- Phone cameras have timer options
- Flash optional
- Many phones offer direct cloud-storage/back-up of images



THANK YOU!
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Scanning a 3-D Item

Photographing a Framed Item

Photographing a 3-D Item