

Treasure from page 15D

From the photo, there appears to be another impress mark near the rear of the lion, which isn't clear in the photo. If this is in fact a shield with a lowercase letter, the piece can be further dated as having been made from 1902 to 1914. A lowercase letter "c" indicates 1902, "d" indicates 1903, and so on to an "o" for 1914. The numbers probably indicate mold and/or pattern numbers. Most English pottery and porcelain can be identified in a similar manner. This is a very collectible piece, and if in good condition could be priced around \$850 to \$950 at retail.

Nancy and Frank Boos are with the Frank H. Boos Gallery, an appraisal firm and auction house at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills that has been in the auction business for more than 30 years. Do you have an item you would like to know about? Send in a good photo of it, along with its description (including size, working parts, etc.) and any known provenance (history) to *Treasure Search*, The Eclectic Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Include your name, community and phone number.

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Hold your camera properly



MONTE NAGLER

How you hold your camera when you photograph is important to obtaining sharp pictures. Camera movement during exposure is one of the most frequent causes of unsharp photos. Too often, I've seen amateur photographers jerk the shutter release button and what could be a prize-winning picture is hopelessly lost to camera jiggles.

There are some simple techniques you can follow when not using a tripod to minimize the shakes and maximize the chances of steady and sharp pictures.

To start with, hold your camera in a way that's both comfortable and steady. If right-handed, grasp the right side of your camera in your right hand with your forefinger gently resting on the shutter release. Cup the camera body in your left palm with your fingers on the focusing ring. For left-handers, just reverse the positions.

Keep your arms and elbows against your body, not suspended in air. Stand firmly on the ground with your feet slightly wider than shoulder width. Hold your camera tightly against your

face, take a breath, hold it, and gently squeeze the shutter release. Chances are you'll make a picture free from camera movement.

Even try bracing yourself against a nearby tree or set your camera atop a fence post or car roof to improve sharpness.

What shutter speed should you use? It depends on the size of the lens you're using. A general rule is to use a shutter speed equal to or faster than the focal length of the lens. For example, use a shutter speed of 1/60 second or faster when using a normal 60mm lens. A 1/250 second speed should be used with a 200mm lens and a 1/15 second or faster with a 17mm wide angle lens.

With zoom lenses, this guideline still holds true. Just use a shutter speed close to wherever you've set your zoom.

A golfer will practice his or her swing and how to properly hold the club. A marksman will practice squeezing the trigger. Photographers, too, should practice their handling and shooting techniques.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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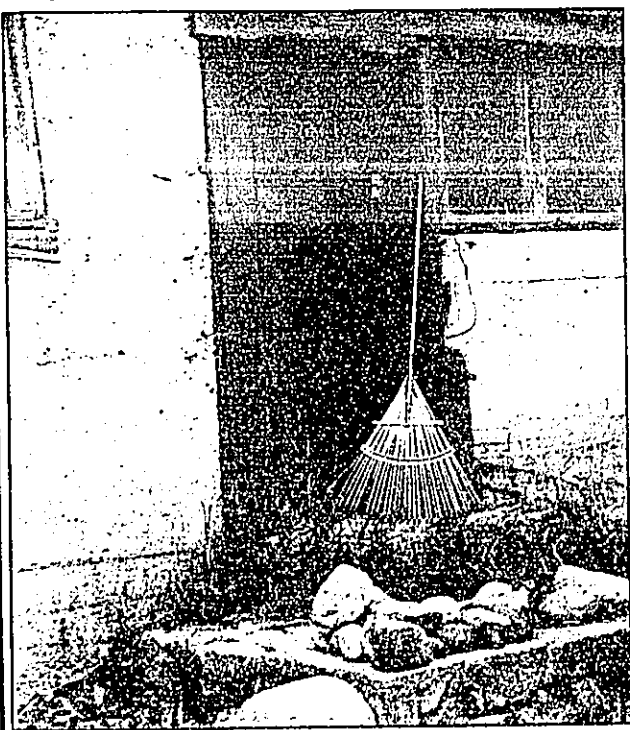
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Steady does it: Holding his camera steady produced this razor-sharp photograph for Monte Nagler. This scene was taken on a charming farm near Northport, Mich.