

Burton, Doug, Papers

Doug Burton Papers

1962, 1977-1979



Title Statement

Burton, Doug, Papers Doug Burton Papers, 1962, 1977-1979 Ms.2020.001

Author: Clare Carter, Student Worker, and LM Rozema, Archivist

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specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2020.001

Unit Date

1962, 1977-1979

Unit Date

(bulk 1978-1979)

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains Doug Burton's papers and memorabilia from a Pratt-funded Virginia Tech engineering trip to the USSR and Finland taken in March 1979. It primarily consists of VT trip handouts, maps, a newspaper, Moscow Olympics souvenirs, some books, and a transcript of Doug Burton's diary.

Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Doug Burton Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in July 2019.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Doug Burton Papers commenced and completed in January 2020.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Doug Burton Papers Ms2020-001, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

John Lee Pratt (an industrialist who provided financial support for Virginia Tech as early as 1957) died in 1975, leaving in his will approximately \$12 million for Virginia Tech, half to be used to support programs within the College of Engineering. In his will, Pratt specified that the funds had to be put towards the support of research and scholarships. It was decided that the Pratt funds were going to be put towards four distinct programs: one half towards a scholarship program, one fourth towards a graduate fellowship program, one eighth used for the funding of international travel for faculty, and the remaining one eighth for a study abroad program for undergraduate students. One of those study abroad trips was one taken from March 16 to March 30 in 1979 to the USSR, and documented in Doug Burton's diary, as seen in this collection.

Biographical Note

Thomas Douglas (Doug) Burton graduated from Virginia Tech in 1980 with a B.S. in electrical engineering. While a student, Burton was one of about 30 students and professors to visit the USSR and Finland in the Spring of 1979 as part of a study abroad trip for the Virginia Tech College of Engineering. Following graduation, Burton joined Bell Telephone Labs and earned a master's at Cal Tech. He later worked for GE, Otis Elevators, and other companies, before returning to Blacksburg, Virginia, to join Luna Technologies and Luna Innovations in 2001. He retired in January 2019.

Scope and Content

This collection contains trip handouts, three books, the Pratt report of the trip, Moscow Olympics souvenirs, "The Truth" Russian newspaper, brochures and maps, a hotel card, "Love an Engineer" button, a Russian receipt, and digital copies of photos, letters, and Doug Burton's diary.

Keywords

Students and alumni

University Archives

University History

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. College of Engineering (1964-)

Existence and Location of Copies

Much of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Doug Burton Papers by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Trip Correspondence and Summary

Unit Date 1978-1979

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Russia Trip Guidelines

Unit Date 1979, undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Excerpts from Doug Burton's Diary (Pratt Report)

Unit Date 1979-03-16-1979-03-30, 1979-06-07

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Hotel Card

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Russian Receipt

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Russian Newspaper

Unit Date 1979-03-27

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Trip Maps

Unit Date 1977-1978

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Digital Copies of the Trip's Photos

Unit Date 1979

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

"Love an Engineer" Button

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"Next Time You go to Russia" Guidebook

Unit Date 1977

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Russian Dictionary

Unit Date 1962

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

"The Russians" by Hedrick Smith

Unit Date 1976

box 1

Moscow Olympics Souvenirs

Unit Date undated

box 1