

A Guide to the Alton D. Brashear Collection

Brashear, Alton D. Collection 1935-1955

1935-1955

A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library ACC 136

Virginia Commonwealth University, Tompkins-McCaw Library

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

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Language

English

Physical Characteristics

2.5 linear feet.

Repository

Special Collections and Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donor Unknown. Part of the Tomkins-McCaw Library basement collection.

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Biographical/Historical Information

Alton Dean Brashear was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas on 17 March, 1906. He earned his DDS at Ohio State University in 1932 and interned at the University of Rochester where he earned a masters in anatomy. Brashear taught anatomy at Louisiana State University from 1935 to 1938 when he left to accept a position at the Medical College of Virginia. At MCV, Brashear taught anatomy for over fifty years.

Brashear was a member of the Army Reserve Medical Corps and taught anatomy courses for the Army. When World War II began, Brashear was assigned to the 45th General Hospital, a unit made up from staff of the Medical College of Virginia where he served as Chief of Dental Services. After the war, Brashear wrote a history of the unit titled *From Lee to Bari*.

Brashear was a member of several medical and dental societies including the American Association of Anatomists, American Dental Association and the Richmond Academy of Medicine. An accomplished photographer, Brashear was a member of the Richmond Camera Club and served as a judge in several photograph competitions. He also took many of the photographs included in his book on the history of the 45th General Hospital.

Brashear died in Richmond, Virginia on 30 June 1963 at the age of 57. A postgraduate course in the anatomy of the head and neck, initially taught by Brashear in 1954, was named in his honor by MCV after his death.

Scope and Content

The Alton D. Brashear Collection is primarily the information, documents and materials gathered together to write the history of the 45th General Hospital. This Army medical unit was staffed by faculty from the Medical College of Virginia during World War II. Brashear served as the Chief of Dental Services.

The collection includes official papers, orders, personnel files and other documents relating to the initial training and operation of the hospital unit before and after its deployment to North Africa and Italy. The collection also includes notes and material gathered by Brashear to write the unit's history *From Lee to Bari*, including page proofs and photographic layouts along with donations from Betty Brown and Carrington Williams.

The collection focuses on Brashear's activities encompassing his military service and his association with the 45th General Hospital. Information regarding his post war activities is rare and limited to his academy endeavors.

Arrangement

The collection follows the original arrangement.