

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Clement C. Clay Papers](#)

CLAY, CLEMENT C., 1905-1978.

Clement C. Clay papers, 1917-1977 (bulk 1925-1970)

3.75 cubic feet (5 boxes, 2 cartons, 1 flat box)

M-0036

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Clement Claiborne Clay, hospital administrator and professor, was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on Dec. 8, 1905 and was raised in Atlanta and Minneapolis. He received his A.B. from Columbia University in 1927 and his medical degree from McGill University in 1932. After an internship at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, NY, he attended the University of Chicago School of Business as a Julius Rosenwald Fellow in Hospital Administration.

After military service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Clay became the founder and first director of the Program in Hospital Administration at the Yale University School of Medicine. In 1954 he was named Associate Professor of Administrative Medicine at the Columbia University School of Public Health and Co-Director of the Graduate Program in Hospital Administration. He became sole Director of the program in 1961 and was made a full professor in 1965.

Clay retired in January 1970; he died January 16, 1978.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in six series: I. Subjects & Correspondence; II. Diaries & Notebooks; III. Ephemera & Juvenilia; IV. Photographs; V. Oversize, Printed Material & Artifacts; VI. Oversize Photographs & Certificates.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Correspondence, largely incoming; photographs; notebooks and diaries; military service records; ephemera; and artifacts documenting the life of Clement C. Clay. There is almost nothing relating to his work as Director of Columbia's Graduate Program in Hospital Administration and only a few family letters.

While the correspondence dates back to the 1920s, the bulk consists of letters received from former students, colleagues, and friends at the time of Clay's retirement in Jan. 1970. The letters reveal the warm regard in which Clay's students held him. Some of this correspondence is loose, but most is contained in an album created for Clay's retirement dinner (see Box 6).

The single largest topic documented in the papers is Clay's military service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Clay first led Naval Field Medical Photographic Unit #2; near the end of the war he received an executive position aboard the U.S. Naval Hospital Ship *Repose*. Included in the papers are correspondence; reports; official orders; "plans of the day" for the *Repose*; and much printed matter, ephemera, and artifacts.

The papers also include some of Clay's medical school notebooks; several diaries; correspondence, newspaper clippings, and ephemera relating to Columbia and McGill; a childhood scrapbook; and ephemera.

Many of the photographs document medical care in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and were presumably taken by the Field Medical Photographic Unit Clay commanded. There are also many of Clay's retirement dinner. Some of these are loose, but most are in a photo album presented to him after the dinner.

LANGUAGE: English.

PROVENANCE: Transfer from Mailman School of Public Health, 1998 (acc. no. 1998.12.21).

SUBJECTS

Clay, Clement C., 1905-1978.

Columbia University. School of Public Health. Graduate Program in Hospital Administration.

McGill University. Faculty of Medicine.

Hospital ships – United States.

Hospitals – Administration – Study and teaching – United States.

Hospitals, Naval and marine – United States.

Medicine, Naval – United States.

World War, 1939-1945 – Medical care.

Hospital Administration – Education.

Naval Medicine – United States.

Diaries.

Ephemera.

Notebooks.

Photographs.

**Clement C. Clay
Papers, 1917-1977**

Box Fo. Contents

SERIES I: SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- | | | |
|----------|-----|---|
| 1 | 1 | American College of Hospital Administrators: Election of NY Regent, 1970
Columbia University |
| | 2 | Correspondence, 1924, 1927, 1968-1975 |
| | 3 | Ephemera and printed matter, 1920s |
| | 4 | Newspaper clippings, 1920s |
| | | Correspondence |
| | 5 | 1925-1934, 1938-1939, 1945-1967 |
| | 6 | 1969-1977 |
| | | McGill University |
| | 7 | Correspondence, 1929-1932 |
| | 8 | Ephemera and printed matter, 1929-1932 |
| | 9 | Newspaper clippings, 1930s |
| | 10 | Military Service: General, 1942-1945 |
| 2 | | Military Service |
| | 1-4 | General, 1942-1945 |
| | 5 | <i>U.S.S. Repose</i> : Plans of the Day, 1945 |
| | 6 | <i>U.S.S. Repose</i> : Newsletters, menus, and other printed matter, 1945-1946 |
| | 7 | "Paul Jonitz' [nephew?] Essay on <i>U.S.S. Repose</i> ," 1945 |
| | 8 | Ephemera, 1942-1945 |
| | 9 | Retirement: Letters received, 1969-1971 |
| 3 | 1 | Retirement: Letters sent, 1969-1970 |
| | 2 | Retirement Dinner, Jan. 8, 1970: invitation, correspondence |
| | 3 | St. Barnabas Hospital, Minneapolis: Newspaper clippings, 1930s |
| | 4 | St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers, NY: Newspaper clippings & articles, 1930s |
| | 5 | Supper and "Conversat" for students, March, 1970: Invitation, thank you notes |
| | 6 | "Thyroxine": Paper submitted for the Junior Prize, McGill University Medical Society, 1929 |

SERIES II: DIARIES & NOTEBOOKS

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| | 7 | Diary, Oct.-Dec., 1932, kept at St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers, NY while an intern |
| | 8 | Diary, 1942, kept while in military service in the U.S. Navy |
| | 9 | Diary, [1945?], kept by Clay's wife? |

Box Fo. Contents

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| | | McGill University Medical School notes |
| | 10 | Anatomy, probably 1928/29 |
| | 11 | Obstetrics, 1929/30 |
| | 12 | Therapeutics and Surgery, 1929/30-1930/31 |
| 4 | 1 | Notebooks, Miscellaneous, c.1930s-1940s |

SERIES III: EPHEMERA & JUVENILIA

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|--|---|------------------------|
| | 2 | Ephemera, 1920s-1960s |
| | 3 | Juvenilia, 1910s-1920s |

SERIES IV: PHOTOGRAPHS

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| | 4 | Clay, Clement C. : portraits |
| | 5 | Clay, Mary S. : portrait |
| | 6 | Columbia University Hospital Administration Program Conference, May 1975, Dearborn, MI |
| | 7 | Columbia University Master's Program in Hospital Administration: Class & Residents' photos, 1958-c.1970 (with gaps) and undated |
| | 8 | Conference & parties, 1937, 1962, 1975 |
| | 9 | Medical Photography Dept., U.S. Naval Medical School, Bethesda, MD, March 31, 1958 |
| | 10 | Miscellaneous photographs and postcards, c.1930s-c.1940s |
| | 11 | Residents [St. John's Riverside Hospital?], c.1930s |
| | 12 | Retirement Dinner, Jan. 8, 1970 |
| | 13 | U.S. Navy Hospital Ships <i>Repose</i> and <i>St. Olaf</i> , Shanghai, China, Oct. 1945 |
| 5 | 1-2 | World War II: photos of hospital scenes and medical treatment |
| | 3 | World War II: U.S. Naval Field Medical Photographic Unit #2: group portrait, undated |
| | 4 | World War II: "Blowups from 16mm - 'Leinster' - Anzio & Naples," probably 1944 |

SERIES V: OVERSIZE/PRINTED MATERIAL/ARTIFACTS

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|----------|---|
| 6 | Loose in carton: |
| | Scrapbook, c.1917-1920, 1931, 1 v. |
| | Retirement Dinner, Jan. 8, 1970, Photo album, 1 v. |
| | Album of retirement letters, 1969-1970: includes a few earlier letters from grateful students, 1 v. |
| | Student handbooks, Columbia University & McGill University, 1920s-1930s |
| | Stamp Album, 1 v. |

Miscellaneous printed matter

7 Loose in carton:

Medals, military insignia, and other artifacts, including a *U.S.S. Repose* ashtray
U.S. Navy caps
Columbia University pennant and beanie, 1920s

Map Case 2:5: Plaques and awards

SERIES VI: OVERSIZE PHOTOGRAPHS/CERTIFICATES

Oversize Box

Folder

- | | |
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| 1 | 1 Certificates and diplomas |
| | 2 Executive Committee, McGill University Medical Society,
1928/29-1931/32 |
| | 3 U.S. Navy Base Hospital #12, Netley, England: Officers,
undated but from World War II |
| | 4 Photographs, Miscellaneous |

Loose in box: Columbia University diploma, 1927; certificate of emeritus status,
Columbia University, 1975 (in portfolio)