



THE PHYSICIAN'S ART

To his classmates, friends, and patients, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Emeritus **HERBERT DURFEE, M.D.'48** has always stood out as a quiet and friendly man, and a consummate medical professional. But a chance discovery by a family member has allowed the world to see another side of Dr. Durfee — a visual artist with an outstanding eye.

From about 1951 to 1953, prior to beginning his decades-long clinical practice in the Burlington area, Dr. Durfee was stationed along with his wife, Elizabeth, at the U.S. Army Airbase in Wiesbaden, West Germany. On occasional trips to other parts of Germany, and to Paris, London, and Italy, Dr. Durfee brought along his Rolleiflex and Rolleicord cameras and photographed the people and places of a Europe where the scars of war were still fresh. An interest in photography ran in the family: his father and fellow College of Medicine alumnus and obstetrician, Herbert A. Durfee, Sr., M.D.'20 took a photograph of every baby he delivered.

After returning to the U.S., the negatives from those European excursions sat in a box for more than 60 years, until discovered by chance by the doctor's son, Eleazer "Lea" Durfee. Working with Vermont photographer Don Ross, Lea Durfee resurrected the artwork that had been hidden for so long. A selection of Dr. Durfee's work opened this year at the University of Vermont Robert Hull Fleming Museum.



At left: Street Pavers, Paris



Sister at Sacré Coeur, Paris

Dr. Durfee's black-and-white images show both his talent for composition — such as his striking photograph of the Eiffel Tower, where the colossal structure itself seems to be out for a stroll on the boulevard — and his deep interest in the people he met in his travels. Those people and places can be visited at length in “Travelers in Postwar Europe: Photographs by H.A. Durfee Jr., 1951–53,” running through June in the Fleming's Wolcott Gallery. **VM**



The Eiffel Tower from Palais de Chaillot



Dr. Durfee at a recent College of Medicine event



Potato Peeler, unknown location, Germany



See more of Dr. Durfee's photography,
Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine