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Guide to the

**H. Mack Thaxton papers**

1961-1963

Sc MG 178

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## Summary

**Creator:** Thaxton, H. Mack (Hubert Mack), 1912-1974

**Title:** H. Mack Thaxton papers

**Date:** 1961-1963

**Size:** 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Purchase, Thaxton, Dr. H. Mack, 10/25/77

**Revision History:** This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

**Abstract:** Hubert Mack Thaxton (1909-1974) was a pioneer in theoretical physics. The Hubert Mack Thaxton collection consists of documents relating to Dr. Thaxton's attempts to obtain employment in private industry. Included are resumes, job advertisements, letters of rejection and a form letter from Dr. Thaxton charging racial bias.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], H. Mack Thaxton papers, Sc MG 178, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

## Creator History

Hubert Mack Thaxton (1909-1974) was a pioneer in theoretical physics. Thaxton was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, to Henry and Sarah (Jamison) Thaxton. He attended Howard University, where he earned a bachelor's (1931) in mathematics, physics, and chemistry, and a master's (1933) in mathematics and physics; then the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned another master's in mathematics (1936) and a PhD in physics (1939), making him the fourth African American to receive a PhD in physics. His doctoral thesis concerning the splitting of protons with protons was a largely unexplored phenomenon at the time. Thaxton taught at North Carolina Agricultural and Technology College, Delaware State College, Walter Hervey College in New York City, and City College of New York (CUNY). He taught at CUNY starting in 1946, and was appointed full-time faculty in 1971, but his application for tenure was denied, leading to a protracted legal battle. He also held a number of jobs as a researcher and engineer in industry for companies around New York and New Jersey: Solar

Manufacturing Company (1947-1949), Sperry Gyroscope (1949-1950), Sylvania Electric Company (1950-1952), Balco Research Corporation (1952-1956), Astron Corporation (1956-1960), Curtis-Wright Corporation (1960-1961), Engelhard-Hanovia (1961-1963), and Kollsman Instrument Company (1963-1971). During his career, Dr. Thaxton worked with five Nobel Prize winners and published over 200 articles. Thaxton married Lydia Richardson of Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1941. They had two daughters.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Collection of documents relating to Dr. H. Mack Thaxton's attempts to obtain employment in private industry. Included are resumes, job advertisements, letters of rejection and a form letter from Dr. Thaxton charging racial bias.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American scientists  
African Americans -- Employment  
Discrimination in employment -- United States  
Minorities -- Employment -- United States  
Physicists -- United States  
Race discrimination -- United States  
Scientists -- United States

### **Names**

Thaxton, H. Mack (Hubert Mack), 1912-1974