

John F. Nash, Jr., Mathematician, High School Trigonometry Test (Facsimile) A&M 4742

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circa 1942-1945



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John F. Nash, Jr., Mathematician, High School Trigonometry Test (Facsimile) A&M 4742

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Biographical / Historical

Johnathan Forbes Nash, Jr. (1928-2015) was a mathematician who made notable contributions to game theory, for which he earned multiple awards, including the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994. He was born in Bluefield, a city in Mercer County in southern West Virginia, in 1928 and attended Beaver High School from circa 1941-1945. To supplement his education, he also took classes at Bluefield College (now Bluefield State University), the historically Black college located in Bluefield. Nash moved away in 1945 to attend the Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he graduated in 1948 with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in mathematics. In 1950, he earned his PhD from Princeton University, after which he took a job at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the mathematics department. Nash's life has been documented in Sylvia Nasar's 1998 biography, *A Beautiful Mind*, which was then adapted into a 2001 Academy Award winning film by the same name.

Scope and Contents

Facsimile of a high school trigonometry test taken by John F. Nash, Jr., sometime during his time at Beaver High School in Bluefield, West Virginia, circa 1942-1945. These four pages are high-resolution facsimiles of the original material, which include Nash's work, as well as a note from his teacher, Mr. Durr [possibly Vernon Dunn?], encouraging him that "I think you will really go places," but that his talent will be wasted if he is not more careful organizing his work. These were donated after the original was sold at auction in 2019.

Keywords

Mathematics

Bluefield (W. Va.)