

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Albert Antoine

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Antoine, Albert, 1925-2017
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine,
Dates:	March 18, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:18:51).
Abstract:	Chemist and chemistry professor Albert Antoine (1925 - 2017) taught chemistry at Clark College and researched fuel efficiency, batteries, and jet and rocket propulsion at NASA Lewis Research Center. Antoine became a senior research associate for Cleveland State University, teaching students at the NASA Lewis Research Center. Antoine was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 18, 2004, in Shaker Heights, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_028
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Chemist and chemistry professor Albert Antoine was born in New York, New York, on January 14, 1925. His parents, Wilhelmina Marie and Emmanuel Evans Antoine, were natives of the British West Indies. Antoine received his elementary and secondary school education in the New York Public Schools, having attended P.S. 184, Cooper Junior High School and Townsend Harris High School, where he earned his high school diploma in 1941. He went on to earn his B.S. degree from the City College of New York and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Ohio State University. Before earning his Ph.D., Antoine was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944 and was trained in the Army Specialized Training Program, where he took courses in civil engineering.

In his early career, Antoine taught chemistry at Clark Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia during the 1953/1954 school year. In 1954, he became a research chemist at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA). Antoine worked at the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio where he researched jet and rocket propulsion, fuel efficiency for aircrafts, alternate fuel sources, batteries, and fuel cells. In 1983, Antoine became a senior research associate for Cleveland State University teaching students at the NASA Lewis Research Center.

Antoine was featured in "Black Contributions to the Engineering and Science Fields at NASA Lewis Research Center" and "Blacks in Science: Astrophysicist to Zoologist" by Hattie Carwell. He was also listed in "American Men of Science". Over the years, his professional activities included service on intergovernmental technical review and technical evaluating committees, membership in the American Chemical Society and publishing and lecturing on his research. Antoine also worked with many public service and non-profit organizations, including the Cleveland International Program, the Council for Careers in Science, the Rotary Club, and the Creative Writing Workshop Projects, which was founded by his wife, June Sallee Antoine.

Antoine passed away on August 11, 2017 at the age of 92.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Albert Antoine was conducted by Regennia Williams on March 18, 2004, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Chemist and chemistry professor Albert Antoine (1925 - 2017) taught chemistry at Clark College and researched fuel efficiency, batteries, and jet and rocket propulsion at NASA Lewis Research Center. Antoine became a senior research associate for Cleveland State University, teaching students at the NASA Lewis Research Center.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Antoine, Albert, 1925-2017

Williams, Regennia (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Antoine, Albert, 1925-2017--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Lewis Research Center

Occupations:

Chemist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, March 18, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, Section A2004_028_001_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?
Albert Antoine was born on January 14, 1925 in New York City. His mother,

Wilhelmina Marie Antoine, was born in 1904 and his father, Emmanuel Evans Antoine, was born in 1896. Both of his parents grew up in the British West Indies but moved to New York, New York for opportunities for a better life. His family attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The church community was very strong but the rules were very strict as the church forbade dancing, and there were dietary restrictions like not eating pork or shellfish. The rules relaxed over time and the family danced on his older brother's, Lawrence Nathaniel Antoine, twenty-first birthday in 1944. During elementary school at Public School 184 and Cooper Junior High School, his mother always encouraged him to get good grades. Antoine attended Townsend Harris High School, which was a preparatory school for City College of New York.

Seventh-Day Adventists United States.

African American families--New York (State)--New York.

African Americans--Religion.

African American students--Education (Secondary).

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, Section A2004_028_001_002, TRT: 0:28:46 ?

Albert Antoine says he received a high quality education at Townsend Harris High School that prepared him well for life. He lived far away and took the train to attend high school and City College of New York. Most of his fellow students commuted as well, so there was a limited sense of community. Antoine joined the Frederick Douglass Society where he and other black students learned about African American history. He was drafted into the Army at the end of college and trained to be an infantry replacement for the 92nd Division, however, he was never sent into combat. The Army tested him and he qualified for the Officers Candidate School and the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). Antoine chose the ASTP because it provided language or engineering training. He asked to have language training, but the Army sent him to Ohio State University to study civil engineering.

African American students--Education (Secondary).

African American soldiers.

Army Specialized Training Program (U.S.).

Engineering--Study and teaching.

African American students--Education (Higher).

Ohio State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, Section A2004_028_001_003, TRT: 0:29:18 ?

Albert Antoine served in a segregated military during World War II because black chemists were not allowed in the chemical warfare units. Antoine and a few other black soldiers accidentally desegregated a restaurant at Ohio State University by sitting down at the lunch counter and eating without realizing they were not allowed. After the military and after obtaining his Ph.D. degree, Antoine experienced more racism during his job search. He applied for a job through the mail and the company paid for his flight to come interview in person. When he arrived, they were shocked he was black and did not offer him the job. Antoine went to Clark College to teach chemistry, in Atlanta, Georgia. He enjoyed teaching and taught for one year but left to find a job in research.

African American chemists.

World War, 1939-1945.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, Section A2004_028_001_004, TRT: 0:29:22 ?

Albert Antoine started as a research chemist at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, NACA, which was the predecessor of NASA. It

changed from NACA to NASA when space research was added in the 1960s. Antoine's research focused on fuel efficiency for aircraft, alternate hydrocarbon fuels, alternate fuel sources, and batteries and fuel cells. He worked at NASA for forty-two years, the last thirteen as an employee of Cleveland State University as a research associate at the NASA Laboratories. Antoine has four children, and though he did not push them toward the sciences, they all became engineers; a chemical engineer, a civil engineer, a mechanical engineer and an electrical engineer. He has five grandchildren. Even though he is retired, Antoine still reads chemical news magazines and research about renewable energy sources.

African American chemists--United States.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Cleveland State University--Faculty.

African American families--United States.

African American engineers--Ohio--Cleveland.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Antoine, Section A2004_028_001_005, TRT: 0:21:45 ?

Albert Antoine narrates his photographs.