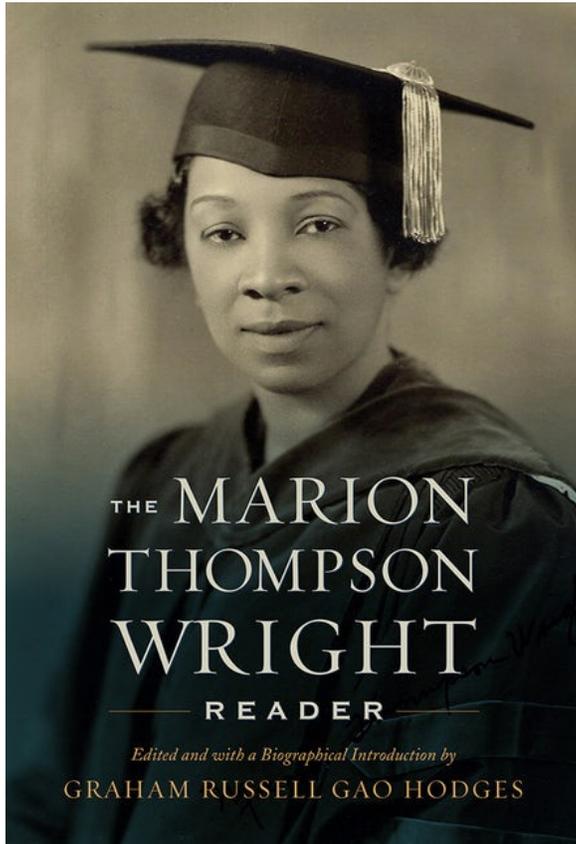


*We're delighted to announce the publication of *The Marion Thompson Wright Reader*! This overdue collection of a range of her writings, an important biographical overview, and a bibliography of her writings is an invaluable resource. Congratulations and our gratitude go to longtime friend of the Price Institute, historian Graham Gao Hodges, Colgate University.*

The Marion Thompson Wright Reader

Edited and with a Biographical Introduction by Graham Russell Gao Hodges



MARION THOMPSON WRIGHT (1902-1962) was a professor of education at Howard University. She wrote *The Education of Negroes in New Jersey* (Teachers College Press, 1941).

GRAHAM RUSSELL GAO HODGES is the George Dorland Langdon, Jr. Professor of History and Africana and Latin American studies at Colgate University. He is the author or editor of sixteen books, including *Slavery and Freedom in the Rural North: African Americans in Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1660-1870*; *Root & Branch: African Americans in New York and East Jersey, 1613-1863*; and *Black New Jersey* (Rutgers University Press).

The Marion Thompson Reader is a scholarly, accessible introduction to a modern edition of Marion Thompson Wright's classic book *The Education of Negroes in New Jersey*. First published in 1941 by Teachers College Press, then reprinted in facsimile by Arno Press in 1971, Thompson's book is long out of print, save for a few print-on-demand services. There are fewer than forty copies of the first edition and about one hundred of the 1971 facsimile in American libraries. Such rarity understates the book's importance. Thompson's book and her life are significant for the histories of New Jersey, African Americans, local and national, women's and education history.

Hodges also seeks out additional material —published writings, portrait and archival photography—to include in the book as additional biographical material. Ultimately Hodges's scholarly edition of Wright's classic book underscores the continued relevance of her work. Wright's study painstakingly showed that even though New Jersey law banning segregation in public education had existed since 1881, segregation in public schools, as elsewhere, existed throughout the state. In cities and towns across the state, African American students were assigned to segregated schools, often close geographically to white institutions but which were miles far below in quality and amenities. There were informal but rigorously enforced bans on black teachers instructing white students. Wright's insights into the locality of segregation remains highly useful as national and state laws forbid school segregation but local school boards find ways to exclude black students in both northern and southern states. Wright's studies show how such de facto segregation gradually controls public education.