

APR 5 1957

Date April 15, 1957

Mr. Hugh Everett presented to the Department of
Physics in candidacy for the degree of Doctor
of Philosophy a dissertation with the title:

On the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics

Written under the direction of Professor J. A. Wheeler

The Department appointed Professors Wheeler

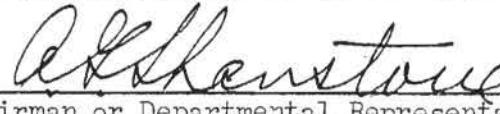
and V. Bargmann to read this dissertation, and, after
consideration of their report, the Department hereby recommends to the Faculty

the acceptance of the dissertation. Estimate of the dissertation:

The thesis offers a statement of the principles of quantum mechanics in a form that makes no direct use of the usual observation postulate. Instead, it derives the usual statistical features of quantum mechanics from a formalism which uses the wave equation alone (plus a natural definition of an observer system). This work is almost completely original with Mr. Everett both as to the formulation of the problem and its solution. It is too early to assess its final contribution to physics, but there is a distinct possibility that Everett's work may be a significant contribution to our understanding of the foundations of quantum theory. Though his final thesis is a condensation of an original draft of roughly three times the length, it is clearly written and logically presented.

The Department desires to hold the Oral Examination of the candidate

on April 23, 1947 at 2 P.M. in Palmer 222



Chairman or Departmental Representative

Two copies of the dissertation have been submitted to the Department. The Department assumes the responsibility for transmitting these copies to the Acquisitions Department of the University Library immediately upon completion of the Oral Examination. Before the Oral Examination can be authorized, the candidate must present to the Office of the Graduate School a receipt from the Controller of the University for the payment of the diploma fee of \$15., and the \$25. publication fee. (This latter fee, not refundable, is used to make the results of his research available to the scholarly world through publication of his dissertation by microfilm and printing the abstract.) The Department is requested to notify the candidate of these conditions. When these conditions have been met, the Department will be notified that it is authorized to hold the examination.

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Date April 23, 1957

Mr. Hugh Everett was examined orally by the Department
of Physics
on April 23, 1957. In the judgment of the Department
he sustained the examination, and is hereby recommended for the degree
of Doctor of Philosophy.*

His principal examiners were Professors J. A. Wheeler, V. Bargmann,
H. W. Wyld, and R. H. Dicke.

Estimate of the quality of performance of the candidate:

The candidate passed a very good examination. He dealt with
a very difficult subject and defended his conclusions firmly,
clearly, and logically. He shows marked mathematical ability,
keenness in logic analyses, and a high ability to express himself well.

Final Rating:

- Excellent
- Very Good X
- Good
- Passing
- Failed

David R. Hamilton

Departmental Representative

*If the candidate did not sustain the examination, the Dean of the Graduate School should be so informed by letter.

Mudd