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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
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Guide to the

Malcolm X manuscripts

circa 1963-1965

Sc MG 951

The Malcolm X Manuscripts were acquired through the generosity of Katharine J. Rayner.

Processed by Cheryl Beredo and Serena Torres in 2018.

Summary

Creator: X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

Title: Malcolm X manuscripts

Date: circa 1963-1965

Size: 1.37 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Guernsey's, September 2018.

Abstract: Partial manuscript, fragments, and unpublished chapter of The Autobiography of Malcolm X.

Conditions Governing Use: Further restrictions on reproductions may apply.

Preferred citation: [Item], Malcolm X manuscripts, Sc MG 951, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Cheryl Beredo and Serena Torres in 2018.

Related Materials:

The Malcolm X collection (Sc Micro R-6270), Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Chronology

1925 Malcolm X is born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska.

1947 Joins the Nation of Islam while serving an 8 to 10 year prison sentence in Massachusetts jails on charges of grand larceny and breaking and entering.

1952 Released on parole, travels to Detroit, where he works for a time as a furniture salesman and at the Ford Motor Company.

1953 Moves to Chicago and studies for the Nation of Islam ministry under Elijah Muhammad's guidance. A declassified FBI memorandum notes that he became the subject of a security investigation and of a Communist Card Index.

1954 Becomes Minister of Muhammad's Temple of Islam in Harlem. Is instrumental over the next several years in building the Nation of Islam into a mass organization. A November 10 FBI report notes that "Subject is single and travels a lot" between Chicago, Detroit, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia.

1957 Police beating of NOI member Hinton Johnson in New York. Gains notoriety for his deployment of a disciplined contingent of Black Muslims in front of the Harlem police precinct where the victim was detained.

1958 Marries Betty X Saunders.

1959 Television documentary "The Hate That Hate Produced" is aired, propelling the organization into the national limelight. Travels to the Middle East, West Africa and the Sudan, to lay the groundwork for Elijah Muhammad's Middle East tour later that year.

1960 Family moves to East Elmhurst, Queens. Lectures on college campuses, speaks at Unity Rally in Harlem, debates Bayard Rustin on the radio. Meets with Fidel Castro at the Theresa Hotel in Harlem. Launches Muhammad Speaks newspaper in New York.

1961 As National Representative of Elijah Muhammad, travels to California and later to the Deep South. Lectures at Brown, Harvard and Howard Universities. Debates National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Secretary at Yale University. Leads protest march in front of the United Nations following assassination of Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. Substitutes for Elijah Muhammad in weekly radio broadcast, "Muhammad Speaks. "

1962 Debates Bayard Rustin and other civil rights personalities on "Integration vs. Separation". Returns to West Coast to lead NOI response in the police killing of L. A. Mosque Secretary Ronald Stokes. Assumes leadership of Philadelphia Mosque. Cancels all his college and university appearances in the fall on orders from Elijah Muhammad. Travels to Buffalo and Rochester, NY, to lead in legal defense of Muslim inmates denied the right to practice their faith, and to organize against police brutality.

1963 Leads Black Muslim demonstration in Times Square. Speaks at Harlem rally with Dick Gregory and Adam Clayton Powell in support of civil rights struggle in Mississippi. Serves as Interim Minister of Washington, DC Mosque. Begins work on Autobiography with Alex Haley. Denounces the March on Washington as a farce. Delivers speeches "The Black Revolution" and "Message to the Grassroots". Suspended and silenced for "Chicken Coming Home to Roost" remark, following President Kennedy's assassination.

1964 Vacations in Miami with his family on invitation from Cassius Clay (Mohammad Ali). Officially leaves Nation of Islam, citing pressures from "officials" within the organization. Files certificate of incorporation for the Muslim Mosque, Inc. Delivers speech "The Ballot or the Bullet". Leaves on a six-week trip to the Middle East and Africa. Launches the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Leaves on a four-month trip to the Middle East and Africa. Addresses meetings in Paris and London. Speaks at rally

in Harlem in support of Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

1965 Speaks at several OAAU rallies in Harlem. Flies to Los Angeles in late January to meet with two former secretaries filing paternity suits against Elijah Muhammad. Travels to Selma, Alabama, on February 4, and the next day to London. East Elmherst home firebombed in the early morning of February 14. Flies the same day to Detroit where he gives his last major speech at a public rally. Addresses an OAAU rally at the Audubon Ballroom on February 15 and is evicted from his Queens home the next day. Gunned down at the Audubon Ballroom on February 21 while addressing an OAAU rally.

Custodial History

Estate of Alex Haley; Sold by Kimball M. Sterling, Inc, October 1992; Gregory Reed Collection; Purchased by NYPL from Guernsey's, in 2018.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of a partial manuscript, a series of fragments, and two versions of an unpublished chapter of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, as told to Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* was published posthumously by Grove Press in 1965.

The 243-page partial manuscript includes handwritten corrections and notes by Malcolm X and collaborator Alex Haley, and consists of seven chapters: "Nightmare," "Mascot," "Homeboy," "Laura," "Harlemite," "Trapped," and "Icarus."

This collection contains thirteen fragments. One is an 8-page fragment of the chapter "Hustler," and a 6-page fragment includes text also featured in the unpublished chapter, "The Negro." The remaining fragments are short notes and drafts by Malcolm X written or typed on small pieces of paper.

Two versions of an unpublished chapter, "The Negro," are included in this collection. The first is a heavily-edited 45-page version; the second is a clean, typescript of 25 pages.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American intellectuals
African Americans -- Political activity
African Americans -- Religion
Autobiography -- African-American authors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Manuscripts for publication
notes
Typescripts

Writings (documents)

Names

Haley, Alex

X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

Container List

- b. 1 The Autobiography of Malcolm X partial manuscript
"Nightmare" (44 pages), "Mascot" (35 pages), "Homeboy" (37 pages)
- b. 2 The Autobiography of Malcolm X partial manuscript
"Laura" (34 pages), "Harlemite" (28 pages), "Trapped" (15 pages), "Icarus" (50 pages)
- b. 3 The Autobiography of Malcolm X fragments
"Hustler" (8 pages), untitled fragments (9 pages)
- b. 4 The Autobiography of Malcolm X "The Negro"
(25 pages)
- b. 5 The Autobiography of Malcolm X "The Negro"
(46 pages), untitled fragments (6 pages)