



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Alex Haley papers**

1967-1990

Sc MG 472

## Summary

**Creator:** Haley, Alex

**Title:** Alex Haley papers

**Date:** 1967-1990

**Size:** 5.96 linear feet (17 boxes)

**Abstract:** Correspondence, interviews, financial records, writings and project files, documenting Alex Haley's activities from 1969 to 1990.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access)

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Alex Haley papers, Sc MG 472, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

## Creator History

African-American historian, author of *Roots*, and co-author of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

## Custodial History

Purchased at the Alex Haley Estate auction in 1992.

## Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, interviews, financial records, writings and project files, documenting Alex Haley's activities from 1969 to 1990. Among the papers are working files for Haley's interviews with Miles Davis, Muhammad Ali (then Cassius Clay), Sammy Davis, Jr., Jim Brown and Quincy Jones, and published in *Playboy* magazine. The correspondence, dating from 1969 to 1990, provides a broad picture of the different types of activities Haley was involved in, such as public speaking and public appearances, the Roots and Kinte foundations, board memberships, projects with Warner Brothers, Disney Corporation and *Readers' Digest*, as well as fan mail relating to Roots and in general. There are also letters from aspiring writers and genealogists seeking advice and assistance, royalty files for *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and correspondence with his literary agent and his publisher. The collection also contains information regarding the foreign editions of *Roots* and a promotion file for Haley's last book, *A Different Kind of Christmas*. In addition there are files from different writing and television projects Haley worked on. These include articles on Leontyne Price and Leadbelly, a television series called "Phone Man," some files related to the production of "Palmerstown," and files for a proposed mini-series, "The China Story." Included in the collection are some files relating to Malcolm X. One file contains copies of letters Malcolm X wrote from Cairo and Mecca in 1964 to Art Peters and M.S. Handler, a reporter who wrote the introduction to the autobiography; two postcards to Haley from Mrs. Betty Shabazz; a copy of a note from Malcolm X advising Haley that he wanted the contract with his publisher amended so that royalties would go to the Muslim Mosque, and in the case of his death, to his wife. Another file deals with an article Haley wrote in 1971, "The Legacy of Malcolm X"; it includes several drafts of the manuscript and a letter from Haley to the editor of *Harper's* magazine, discussing his writing style.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American authors  
African Americans -- Biography  
Black author

### Names

Ali, Muhammad, 1942-2016  
Brown, Jim, 1936-  
Davis, Miles  
Davis, Sammy, Jr., 1925-1990  
Haley, Alex  
Jones, Quincy, 1933-  
Leadbelly, 1885-1949  
Price, Leontyne  
X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

## Container List

### *Playboy interviews*

- b. 1 f. 1-7 **Ali, Muhammad (Cassius Clay) 1964**  
Includes correspondence, manuscript, final queries, fragments, notes, background information, and a notebook.
- b. 1 f. 8-16 **Brown, Jim 1968**  
Includes letters, a notebook, transcript, galley, notes, and various manuscript drafts.
- b. 1 f. 17-23 **Davis, Miles 1962**  
Includes letters, manuscript drafts, notes, printed matter, and published article.
- b. 1 f. 24-39 **Davis, Sammy, Jr 1966**  
Includes letters, introduction and addenda, manuscript drafts, various transcriptions of tape 2, interview questions (some of index cards), notes, and galley proof.
- b. 1 f. 40-42 **Jones, Quincy 1990**  
Includes research material, correspondence, a transcript of questions from 1989, and a manuscript.
- b. 1a f. 1-9 **King, Martin Luther, Jr 1964**  
Includes letters regarding the interview, notebook and notes, speech before the Democratic National Committee (1964), clippings for *Why We Can't Wait*, inserts, draft, and galley.
- b. 1a f. 10-14 **Rockwell, George Lincoln**  
b. 1b  
Includes manuscript draft, paste-ups, articles by Rockwell, American Nazi Party literature, and galley for unidentified writing.
- b. 1a f. 15-22 **X, Malcolm**  
Includes letter to Murray Fisher regarding the interview, notes, a "tentative introduction", various manuscript drafts, excised portions, and a galley.

### **Projects 1960-1984**

- b. 2 f. 1-4 **"Implications of Cassius X"**  
Includes manuscript, drafts, notes, and fragments.
- b. 2 f. 4a-4b **"Imaging"/"Book of Interviews" 1967**  
Includes contract, letter, and notes on interviews.
- b. 2 f. 4c-4d **"Color"**  
Includes articles on mixed races and pigmentation.
- b. 2 f. 5 **"The Sound of Miles Davis" manuscript**
- b. 2 f. 6 **"Miles Davis: The King of Jazz"**
- b. 2 f. 7 **Article on Phyllis Diller**
- b. 2 f. 8 **"Jamie Darling"**
- b. 2 f. 9-11 **"Leadbelly"**  
Includes manuscripts and printed material for an article about the singer.
- b. 2 f. 12-14 **"Palmerstown"**  
Includes correspondence.
- b. 2 f. 15-18 **"Phone Man"**  
Includes script, correspondence, and background information.
- b. 2 f. 19-22 **Leontyne Price 1960-1961**  
Includes background material, manuscript titled "She Prayed to Sing", correspondence, and drafts.

### *Roots 1977-1984*

- b. 2 f. 23 **Royalty statements**
- b. 2 f. 24 **Foreign translations 1977**

Projects (cont.)

Roots (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 25 *Transcription of interview with Quincy Jones regarding scoring Roots television miniseries*
- b. 2 f. 26 Fan letters 1977-1984
- b. 2 f. 27 Letters from children from Chapel Hill, North Carolina 1978
- b. 2 f. 27 "Search for Roots" manuscript
- b. 2 f. 29 Musical production, London
- b. 2 f. 30 Speaking schedules and book promotion
- b. 2 f. 31 Alex Haley Roots Foundation
- b. 2 f. 32-33 Mabel Staupers  
Includes drafts and background information.
- Malcolm X 1964-1971
  - b. 3 f. 1 Research file 1964
  - b. 3 f. 2 *Royalties from Autobiography of Malcolm X*
  - b. 3 f. 3-6 "The Legacy of Malcolm X"  
Includes various drafts, final draft, background information, and letters to *Harper's Magazine*.
  - b. 3 f. 7 Printed matter on Malcolm X
- China project 1984-1985
  - b. 4 f. 1 Charles Jennings Productions
  - b. 4 f. 2-4 Correspondence  
Includes correspondence with Sidney Shapiro.
  - b. 4 f. 5 Charles Jennings Productions' presentation packet to CBS
  - b. 4 f. 6 Cultural outline
  - b. 4 f. 7 Manuscript
  - b. 4 f. 8 Research file and printed material 1984
  - b. 4 f. 9 Notes
  - b. 4 f. 10 "The China Story" scripts
  - b. 4 f. 11 "The Third Time" by Charles Jennings
- b. 5 f. 1 Biographical information
- b. 5 f. 2 Personal finances
- b. 5 f. 3 Speeches and writings
- b. 5 f. 4-6 Daily schedules and itineraries 1988
- b. 5 f. 7 Messages
- b. 5 f. 8 Farm events
- b. 5 f. 9 "Alex Haley: A Study of His Literary Life and Its Impact on the American Culture", by Mary McCauley
- b. 5 f. 10-12 Printed matter about Haley
- b. 5 f. 12a *Ebony* article
- b. 6 f. 1-2 Miscellaneous
- b. 6 f. 3-4 Manuscripts returned 1982-1983
  - b. 6 f. 5 Other people's projects
  - b. 6 f. 6 Notes and originals
- b. 7 f. 1-5 Speaking engagements 1983-1988

Individual and subject files

- b. 8 f. 1 Alamance County, North Carolina
- b. 8 f. 2 American Academy of Achievement 1979-1982
- b. 8 f. 3 Ballou, Dimple
- b. 8 f. 4 Berea College
- b. 8 f. 5 Burton, Levar
- b. 8 f. 6 December Rose
- b. 8 f. 7 Columbus Film Commission 1980-1989
- b. 8 f. 8-9 Dessalines, Anthony 1981-1984  
Includes correspondence.
- b. 8 f. 10 Donaldson, James William
- b. 8 f. 11 Bill Downey (Research) Merger
- b. 8 f. 12 Ofield Dukes and Associates 1977-1981
- b. 8 f. 13 EPCOT - African Pavilion
- b. 8 f. 14 *Essence Magazine*
- b. 8 f. 15 Freighter World
- b. 8 f. 16 Haley/T.A.T. Productions - Kings of the Hill
- b. 8 f. 17 John Hawkins and Associates, Inc. (literary agents) 1980-1987
- b. 8 f. 18 Harvard University 1977
- b. 8 f. 19 Irish trip 1978
- b. 8 f. 20 Israel
- b. 8 f. 21 Johnson Publishing Co 1980
- b. 8 f. 22 Lincoln, C. Eric
- b. 8 f. 23 Mexico
- b. 8 f. 24 Meharry Medical College
- b. 8 f. 25 Morelli, Patrick 1979-1982
- b. 8 f. 26 Mormons 1977-1978
- b. 8 f. 27 Murray family
- b. 8 f. 28 National Historical Society
- b. 8 f. 29 New College of California
- b. 8 f. 30 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- b. 8 f. 31-32 Odyssey House, Inc 1979-1980
- b. 8 f. 33 Pacific Bell, San Ramon, California 1989 October 7
- b. 8 f. 34 Pan African Writers Association
- b. 8 f. 35 Parsons Foundation
- b. 8 f. 36 Puerto Rico 1982
- b. 8 f. 37 *Reader's Digest (published material)*
- b. 8 f. 38 Rubin, Ronald
- b. 8 f. 39 Scott, Betty 1977
- b. 8 f. 40 Sise, Seni
- b. 8 f. 41 Schultz, Michael 1979

Individual and subject files (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 42 Tennessee
  - b. 8 f. 43 Warner Brothers 1978
  - b. 8 f. 44 Wolper/Merging Weekend 1988 October 21-23
  - b. 8 f. 45 Wong, Shirley  
Includes correspondence.
  - b. 9 f. 1 "Beulah Land"
  - b. 9 f. 2-3 CBS  
Includes CBS TV Reading Program.
  - b. 9 f. 4 Committees
  - b. 9 f. 5 Club Leconte
  - b. 9 f. 6 Indians
  - b. 9 f. 7 International African Institute
  - b. 9 f. 8 Japan
  - b. 9 f. 9 Ben Johnson Publishing Co., Columbia, Missouri
  - b. 9 f. 10 King, Woodie
  - b. 9 f. 11 *Knoxville Weekend*
  - b. 9 f. 12 Kossik, Betty
  - b. 9 f. 13 *Ladies Home Journal*
  - b. 9 f. 14 Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee
  - b. 9 f. 15 La Salle, Maureen
  - b. 9 f. 16 Lear, Norman
  - b. 9 f. 17 Los Angeles County Public Libraries
  - b. 9 f. 18 Mount Holyoke College
  - b. 9 f. 19 NABAC and Robert Hooks
- Correspondence
- b. 10 f. 1 1969-1971
  - b. 10 f. 2-5 1972
  - b. 10 f. 6 1973-1974
  - b. 10 f. 7-8 1975
  - b. 10 f. 9 1976
  - b. 10 f. 10 Doubleday 1976-1989
  - b. 10 f. 11 1977
  - b. 10 f. 12 Fan mail 1977-1986
  - b. 10 f. 13 1978
  - b. 10 f. 14 Letters needing translation 1978-1980
  - b. 10 f. 15-16 1979
  - b. 10 f. 17 Mailgrams sent/received 1979
  - b. 11 f. 1-4 1980
  - b. 11 f. 5-6 1981
  - b. 11 f. 7-10 1982
  - b. 11 f. 11-12 1982-1983

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 13-14    1983
- b. 12 f. 1
- b. 12 f. 2-3    1984-1985
- b. 12 f. 4    1987
- b. 12 f. 5-6    1988
- Includes letters from children.
- b. 12 f. 7-8    *A Different Kind of Christmas* 1988
- Includes correspondence with Doubleday and letters received through Doubleday.
- b. 12 f. 9    Letters answered 1989 August-September
- b. 12 f. 10-13   Christmas cards 1987-1989
- Includes cards received, cards to be completed, and a mailing list.
- b. 12 f. 14-15   1989
- b. 12 f. 16-17   1990
- b. 13 f. 1-5
- b. 14 f. 1-2
- b. 14 f. 3    Change of address cards
- b. 14 f. 4-5    Rainbow Travel and Tours
- b. 14 f. 6-13    Leigh Bureau 1976-1986
- b. 15 f. 1-3