



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

Guide to the

**Ka Morais papers**

1942-1981 [bulk 1970-1981]

Sc MG 493

## Summary

**Creator:** Morais, Ka, 1942-1981

**Title:** Ka Morais papers

**Date:** 1942-1981 [bulk 1970-1981]

**Size:** 1.2 linear feet (3 archival boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Michael Morais, Aug. 1993

**Abstract:** Kenneth Alan (Ka) Morais, African-American photographer and media artist, studied commercial and fine art, photography and film and television in New York and California. Morais' fine art photography includes constructions and photomontages; his documentary work includes images of New York City and abroad. The Ka Morais Papers include family, personal, and professional correspondence. Letters from his brother Michael discuss their collaborations, writing and illustrating poems and other works. Morais' professional papers consist of letters of recommendation, honors and awards, programs and reviews of his exhibits, drawings, and news clippings about him and advertising courses he taught. There are also a few manuscripts by Morais with illustrations (photographs and drawings). Of interest are original and photocopies of letters and postcards written to him by the photographer Ansel Adams, 1975-1981.

**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/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access)

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## Creator History

Kenneth Alan (Ka) Morais, African-American photographer and media artist, studied commercial and fine art, photography and film and television in New York and California. Morais' fine art photography includes constructions and photomontages; his documentary work includes images of New York City

and abroad.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Ka Morais Papers include family, personal, and professional correspondence. Letters from his brother Michael discuss their collaborations, writing and illustrating poems and other works. Morais' professional papers consist of letters of recommendation, honors and awards, programs and reviews of his exhibits, drawings, and news clippings about him and advertising courses he taught. There are also a few manuscripts by Morais with illustrations (photographs and drawings). Of interest are original and photocopies of letters and postcards written to him by the photographer Ansel Adams, 1975-1981.

Also documented is Morais' involvement in the Bahai religion, his period as an English instructor in Japan (Ube Academy of Foreign Languages), and as a volunteer worker at the United Nations refugee camps in Thailand, 1978-1981.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American Bahais  
African American families -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American photographers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Black author  
Photographers -- United States

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Illustrations  
Sketchbooks

### **Names**

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984  
Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984  
Morais, Ka, 1942-1981