Summary

Creator: Nation of Islam (Chicago, Ill.)

Title: Nation of Islam membership roster

Date: 1964 - 2011

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Purchased in 2018 from Guernsey's.

Abstract: Nation of Islam membership roster consists of a membership rosters (names and positions), as well as documents that serve as a guide to practicing Islam. These documents include lessons, articles, prayers, rules of conduct, laws of Islam, physical and mental guidelines, correspondence from Mosque no. 15 in Atlanta, GA, and divine sayings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

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

Preferred citation: [Item], Nation of Islam membership roster, Sc MG 955, 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

The Nation of Islam was founded in Detroit (Mosque No. 1) in the early 1930s. Elijah Muhammad, its spiritual and supreme leader, established the group's headquarters in Chicago (Mosque No. 2) with significant chapters in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. Malcolm X, Muhammad's most famous disciple, helped build the Nation of Islam into a national membership organization, from which
he resigned in 1964. After Muhammad's death in 1975, his son Warith Deen Muhammed (Wallace Muhammad) steered the group closer to traditional Islamic beliefs and practices, and renamed it the World Community of al-Islam in the West, and later the American Muslim Mission. A dissident group led by Louis Farrakhan broke away from Muhammed in 1978, and reconstituted the Nation of Islam along the original teachings of Elijah Muhammad.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains 2 membership rosters (names and positions) from 1975, as well as documents that serve as a guide to practicing Islam. These documents include lessons, articles, prayers, rules of conduct, laws of Islam, physical and mental guidelines, correspondence from Mosque no. 15 in Atlanta, GA, and divine sayings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

**Arrangement:** Items are arranged chronologically.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
- African Americans -- Religion
- Black Muslims -- History
- Muslims -- United States

**Names**
- Elijah Muhammad, 1897-1975
- Farrakhan, Louis
- Nation of Islam (Chicago, Ill.)