



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

Guide to the

**Allan Malcolm Morrison papers**

1940-1968

Sc Micro R-3537

Processed by Debra Carter.

## Summary

**Creator:** Morrison, Allan, 1916-1968

**Title:** Allan Malcolm Morrison papers

**Date:** 1940-1968

**Source:** Gift of Ruth Attaway, 1976. SCM 77-62.

**Abstract:** Correspondence, writings, speeches, research files on notable persons and organizations, personal papers and speeches, news clippings, and printed material (chiefly political) relating to Morrison's career and interests. Includes material from his experiences as the first black correspondent for STARS AND STRIPES during World War II, and with the NEGRO WORLD DIGEST, THE PEOPLE'S VOICE, EBONY, DOWNBEAT, the Johnson Publishing Company, Symphony of the New World, and HARYOU-ACT, a Harlem youth program. Also includes writings and speeches of other authors.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers are restricted to microfilm copy.

**Preferred citation:** Allan Malcolm Morrison papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Debra Carter; machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

### Separated Materials:

The following items were removed from:

*Name of Collection/Papers*Allan Morrison

*Accession Number*SCM 77-62 (MG 33)

*Donor:*Ruth Attaway

*Date received:*1976

*Date transferred:*May 15, 1978

The item (s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

*span class="emph">Schomburg Library:/span>*

Three cartons and one archives box of newspaper clippings and one carton of printed material and pamphlets to the Vertical File, concerning politics and race relations.

*span class="emph">Schomburg Art and Artifacts Division:/span>*

One *Harlem for Quality Education* button.

*span class="emph">Schomburg Photographs and Print Division:/span>*

One (1) box of photographs

## **Creator History**

Allan Malcolm Morrison was born on November 26, 1916 and died on May 22, 1968. Morrison is most widely known for his inexhaustible work as a newsman and journalist. A man of superb wit and expansive memory he also displayed a unique expertise in the world of entertainment.

Allan Morrison appears to have been born and raised in Toronto, Canada, although an undated resume in his personal file states his birthplace as Rochester, N.Y. In 1939 Morrison moved to New York City where he, along with George Norford and W. Cummings compiled the first and last issues of the short lived *Negro World Digest*.

During World War II he served in the U.S. Army, rising to rank of sergeant and becoming the first Negro war correspondent of *Stars and Stripes*. He first joined Johnson Publications in January of 1946, in Chicago. He left to return to New York in 1947 where he edited Harlem's *The People's Voice*. In 1948 he became the New York editor of *Ebony* magazine and later the Editorial Bureau Chief of Johnson Publishing Company. He was married to actress Ruth Attaway.

Morrison's other accomplishments include co-hosting a WLJB jazz program along with George Schuyler. He also served as Board Chairman of the New World Symphony. A widely known jazz and classical music authority, Morrison was a frequent contributor to *Downbeat* magazine. Allan Morrison was also Steering Committee Chairman of Haryou Act, Inc., a massive youth program in Central Harlem.

Morrison's various assignments took him all over the world. Among his many talents and interests he was also considered a great cricket and art buff. He was honored on many occasions by organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Overseas Press Club for his achievements in journalism as well as in the field of human relations.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Allan Morrison, 1940-1968, have been divided into six series: *Personal Papers*, *Correspondence*, *Writings and Speeches*, *Printed Material*, *Research File*, and *Photographs*.

**Arrangement:** Papers organized into six series: I Personal Papers; II Correspondence; III Writings and Speeches; IV Printed Material; and V Research File

## Key Terms

### Occupations

African American journalists  
Journalists  
Music critics

### Subjects

African American periodicals  
African Americans -- Music  
African Americans -- Social life and customs  
African Americans in the newspaper industry

### Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Economic conditions  
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs  
United States -- History -- World War, 1939-1945 -- African American troops

### Names

Morrison, Allan, 1916-1968  
Symphony of the New World (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 r. 1    **Personal Papers** 1961, Oct 14-1967, Mar. 16, n.d

The *Personal Papers*(1961-1967, n.d.) include a resume and various certificates of merit. Morrison's private address book is also a part of this file.

### Correspondence

The *Correspondence*,1940-1968, consists largely of letters to Morrison from various business associates, covering all facets of his interests and career. A number of personal letters as well as several pieces of miscellaneous general correspondence are also included.

#### Incoming

- b. 1 f. 2 r. 1        1940, Dec. 19-1963, Jan. 25  
b. 1 f. 3 r. 1        1963, Feb. 6-1964, June 17  
b. 1 f. 4 r. 1        1964, June 23-1968, Jan. 25, n.d  
b. 1 f. 5 r. 1        **General** 1940, June 26-1967, June 9, n.d

### Writings And Speeches

The *Writings and Speeches*,1940-1967, include those by Morrison and other authors. Some writings appear to be anonymous but could have been written by Morrison. A piece of sheet music by Andres Witlay can also be found along with miscellaneous undated notes. The Armed Forces material included in this file consists mostly of *Stars and Stripes*correspondence and articles. There are also a number of typescripts.

- b. 1 f. 6 r. 1        **By and about Morrison** 1961, June 20-1967, June 17, n.d

#### Other authors

- b. 1 f. 7 r. 1        1946-1966, Feb 20  
b. 1 f. 8 r. 1        1966, Oct 7-1967, May 21, n.d  
b. 1 f. 9 r. 1        **Anonymous Authors** 1962, Nov. 22-1966, n.d  
b. 1 f. 10 r. 1       **Miscellaneous Notes** n.d.

#### Armed Forces

- b. 2 f. 1 r. 1        1940, Oct. 16-1957, n.d  
b. 2 f. 2 r. 2        n.d

### Printed Material

The *Printed Material*,1955-1967, is comprised of press releases, reports and pamphlets, largely political in nature.

- b. 2 f. 3 r. 2        **Miscellaneous Printed Material** 1956, Aug.-1965, June 24, n.d  
b. 2 f. 4 r. 2        **Press Releases** 1955, Dec. 22-1967, Sept 1, n.d

### Research File

The *Research File*,1951-1968, appears to be the result of the collection of materials by Morrison and his staff as the basis for particular stories. For the most part his subject headings have been retained, the individual folders have been arranged alphabetically, and the contents of each folder are in chronological order. The folders include printed material, newspaper clippings, and correspondence as well as some handwritten notes to and from Morrison and his associates.

- b. 2 f. 5 r. 2        **Ailey, Alvin** 1964, Oct. 6-1965, June 3, n.d  
b. 2 f. 6 r. 2        **Aldridge, Ira** 1960, Feb. 20-1966, Mar. 31 n.d  
b. 2 f. 7 r. 2        **Art c.** 1964  
b. 2 f. 8 r. 2        **Ba'Hai** 1966, Apr. 18-29  
b. 2 f. 9 r. 2        **Baker, Josephine** 1951, Dec. 10-1951, Dec., n.d  
b. 2 f. 10 r. 2       **Barnes, Ernie** 1966, Nov. 18-26

Research File (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 11 r. 2 Bearden, Romare  
1960, Jan. 24  
1967, Oct. 27, n.d
- b. 2 f. 12 r. 2 Birkett Laboratories 1964, Feb. 4
- b. 2 f. 13 r. 2 Black Power (typescript) 1967, Oct. 6
- b. 2 f. 14 r. 2 Black Power 1960, July 28-1966, July 22, n.d
- b. 2 f. 15 r. 2 Blackburn, Robert 1964, May 22
- b. 2 f. 16 r. 2 Braithwaite, William Stanley 1955, July 1, n.d
- b. 2 f. 17 r. 2 Burton, Alton A. 1964, Mar. 2
- b. 2 f. 18 r. 2 Cambridge, Godfrey 1967, Aug. 23
- b. 2 f. 19 r. 2 Celestial Choral Ensemble 1966, Nov. 1 - c. 1966
- b. 2 f. 20 r. 2 Computronics 1963, Oct. 31, n.d
- b. 3 f. 1 r. 2 Conductors 1964, Dec. 13-1966, May 25, n.d
- b. 3 f. 2 r. 2 Coordinated Community Service 1963, Apr., n.d
- b. 3 f. 3 r. 2 DeBronce, Mario 1952, Mar. 30-1967, Feb. 23, n.d
- b. 3 f. 4 r. 2 *Drum (magazine)* 1960, May 12-1966, July 15, n.d
- b. 3 f. 5 r. 2 Expo '67 1967, Jan. 23-1967
- b. 3 f. 6 r. 2 Harlem: Planning the End of the Ghetto 1963, Dec. 11-1967
- b. 3 f. 7 r. 2 Housing 1967, Feb. 5, June 19
- b. 3 f. 8 r. 2 Jackson, Jesse 1968, Mar. 21
- b. 3 f. 9 r. 2 Kennedy, Jay Richard 1965, July 16-1966, Apr. 2, n.d
- b. 3 f. 10 r. 2 Lady Trucker 1960, Dec. 29-1961, July 13, n.d
- b. 3 f. 11 r. 2 Ledbetter, Huddie (Leadbelly) 1964, July 31
- b. 3 f. 12 r. 2 McDonald, Henry 1964, Aug. 6, c.1964
- b. 3 f. 13 r. 2 Makeba, Miriam 1964, July-1965, Oct. 28, n.d
- b. 3 f. 14 r. 2 Malcolm X 1964, Mar. 8-1966, May 22, n.d
- b. 3 f. 15 r. 2 Montgomery, Wes 1967, June 28
- b. 3 f. 16 r. 2 Negro Poets 1963, Mar.-1965, June, n.d
- b. 3 f. 17 r. 2 Negro Press 1956, June 23-1960, Jan. 22, n.d
- b. 3 f. 18 r. 2 Negro Revolution n.d.
- b. 3 f. 19 r. 3 114th Street Project 1965, Feb. 11-1967, Jan. 15
- b. 3 f. 20 r. 3 117th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 1963, Aug.-1964
- b. 3 f. 21 r. 3 Operation Reclaim 1966, Nov. 3-1967, Jan
- b. 3 f. 22 r. 3 Oxtoby, David 1964, Mar. 28-post 1965
- b. 4 f. 1 r. 3 Pioneer Tutorial Program 1966, May 19
- b. 4 f. 2 r. 3 Police Athletic League 1966, Apr. 20-1967
- b. 4 f. 3 r. 3 Prince Thunder 1966, Apr. 2
- b. 4 f. 4 r. 3 Private Preparatory Schools 1964, Feb. 1-c. 1964, n.d
- b. 4 f. 5 r. 3 Project Headstart 1967, May 5-Aug. 1, n.d
- b. 4 f. 6 r. 3 Rooney, Pat, Sissle, Noble, and Blake, Eubie 1961, Oct. 21-29, n.d
- b. 4 f. 7 r. 3 Simpson, Merton n.d.

Research File (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 8 r. 3     *Stay 'Til Morning* 1961, June 9-1964, Aug. 26  
                    Stockbridge
- b. 4 f. 9 r. 3         1963, May 3-1964, n.d
- b. 4 f. 10 r. 3        n.d
- b. 4 f. 11 r. 3        Symphony of the New World 1965, Mar. 16-1966, n.d
- b. 4 f. 12 r. 3        Theater in the Street 1963, Sept. 6-1967, July 29, n.d
- b. 4 f. 13 r. 3        United States Information Agency 1964, Apr. 13-1964, Sept. 24, n.d
- b. 4 f. 14 r. 3        University Settlement House 1966, July 29-Aug. 19
- b. 4 f. 15 r. 3        Utterbach, Clinton 1964, June 24-July 7
- b. 4 f. 16 r. 3        Young Black Athletes 1966, Mar. 7-May 6, n.d
- b. 4 f. 17 r. 3        Young, Whitney 1963, June 3-1964, Nov. 14

Photographs

The *Photographs* are a miscellaneous collection, dealing mostly with the entertainment industry. One folder is devoted to Cannonball Adderley. In addition, a folder of photographs devoted to cricket illustrates Morrison's avid interest in that sport. The photographs have not been microfilmed and have been transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division at the Schomburg Center.

- b. 5 f. 1 r. 3     Adderley, Cannonball
- b. 5 f. 2 r. 3     Cricket
- b. 5 f. 3 r. 3     Miscellaneous Entertainment
- b. 5 f. 4 r. 3     Miscellaneous