

The New York Public Library Photographs and Prints Division. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Guide to the

The Malcolm X collection: photographs

1950s-1964

Sc Photo The Malcolm X Collection

Processed by Mary Yearwood in 2004.

Summary

Creator: X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

Title: The Malcolm X collection: photographs

Date: 1950s-1964

Size: 6.12 linear feet (23 boxes). 2168 photographic prints: gelatin silver, b&w; 26 x 21 cm. and smaller. 127 photographic prints: color; 13 x 18 cm. and smaller. 799 photographic slides: color; 5 x

5 cm. 692 photographs: negative

Source: Estate of Betty Shabazz, December 2002

Abstract: Chronology originally published in finding aid for the Malcolm X Collection: Papers, by Andre Elizee et al., 2004 The collection (1950s to mid-1960s) consists of personal photographs of Malcolm X and family, documents many of Malcolm X's activities with the Nation of Islam, and also documents some of the activities of the Nation of Islam, from the 1950s to the mid-1960s. Because of Malcolm X's multiple roles as the national spokesman for the Nation of Islam and minister of several mosques, mainly Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 (Harlem, New York), he is depicted throughout all three series. The collection does not document Malcolm X's activities after he left the Nation of Islam.

Conditions Governing Access:

Due to conservation considerations, slides and negatives are not currently available to researchers.

Conditions Governing Use: Reproductions, including scans, photographs, and photocopies, are prohibited.

Preferred citation: The Malcolm X collection: photographs, Photographs and Prints Division. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Mary Yearwood in 2004.

Separated Materials:

Forms part of the Malcolm X Collection. Microfilm of the papers can be found in the Manuscripts and Rare Books Division (Malcolm X collection: papers, 1948-1965). Audio and film material can be found in the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division (Malcolm X audio and moving image collection).

Creator History

Chronology originally published in finding aid for the Malcolm X Collection: Papers, by Andre Elizee et al., 2004

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 (Muhammad 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 sixweek 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

The photographs form part of the Malcolm X collection, stored initially in the Shabazz family home in Mount Vernon and later sold at a storage auction in Miami. The Shabazz family regained control of the collection after cancellation of the public auction by Butterfields Auctioneers in Los Angeles, and in 2002 deposited the collection at the Library for a period of 75 years.

Scope and Content Note

The collection (1950s to mid-1960s) consists of personal photographs of Malcolm X and family, documents many of Malcolm X's activities with the Nation of Islam, and also documents some of the activities of the Nation of Islam, from the 1950s to the mid-1960s. Because of Malcolm X's multiple roles as the national spokesman for the Nation of Islam and minister of several mosques, mainly Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 (Harlem, New York), he is depicted throughout all three series. The collection does not document Malcolm X's activities after he left the Nation of Islam.

The Shabazz Family series consists of personal photographs of the Shabazz family; some members of the Little family; friends and associates; and views of travel. The series includes snapshot portraits of Malcolm X and his wife, Betty Shabazz, together, and with their children (1964); individual and group portraits of daughters Attallah, Qubilah and Ilyasah, at home (ca. 1960-1964); candid portraits of Malcolm X carrying his daughter Ilyasah (1964); candid portraits of Malcolm X and his family visiting boxer Muhammad Ali at his Florida training camp (1964), that include views of Ali with friends and fans; two candid shots of Malcolm X in Africa (ca. 1964); and portraits of African-American expatriates and

visitors, and views of crowds, possibly photographed by Malcolm X during his visits to various African countries, particularly Nigeria and Ghana (ca. 1964).

The Malcolm X Activities series depicts many of his activities as national spokesman for the Nation of Islam and minister of Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 (Harlem, New York), from the mid-1950s to 1964. Malcolm X's post-Nation of Islam activities are not depicted in the photograph collection. The series includes portraits of Minister Malcolm X; views of Minister Malcolm X addressing Muslim rallies, mainly in Harlem; as a speaker and participant at several college and university sponsored debates and lectures; at various radio and television appearances; speaking at church gatherings; and meeting with other individuals, including fellow Muslims. Of note are views of Minister Malcolm X addressing various Muslim rallies held mostly in front of Lewis Michaux's National Memorial African Bookstore in Harlem (ca. 1960-1963); during a debate at Howard University, Washington, D.C., which includes Howard president James M. Nabrit and activist Bayard Rustin (ca. 1961); and before and during a WMCA radio debate on "The Barry Gray Show," which includes activist James Farmer and actor Ossie Davis, in New York (1962). Among those depicted with Malcolm X are politicians J. Raymond Jones and Percy Sutton, ministers Louis X (Farrakhan), Eugene Bullock and David Licorish, attorney Paul Zuber, activists Anna Arnold Hedgeman and Lewis Michaux, author James Baldwin, musician Babatunde Olatunji, and journalists George Schuyler and Gabe Pressman.

The Nation of Islam series depicts some of the organization's ministers and other officials, activities, and events, from the 1950s to the early 1960s. The series consists of formal and candid portraits of Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad, his family, and members of the organization; views of Muslim mass rallies; activities and views of various mosques and Muslim-owned businesses in different cities, which are also depicted in a collection of color slides; and portraits of the key individuals and views of the activities surrounding some legal cases involving Nation of Islam members. Included are formal and candid portraits of Elijah Muhammad (ca. 1950s-1960s); Elijah Muhammad at his first press conference (n.d.) and addressing Muslim mass rallies; views of Elijah Muhammad and audience members at various Muslim mass rallies, including Washington, D.C. (1961), the Savior's Day Convention, Chicago (1961), Detroit (1962) and Philadelphia (1962); views from Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 and Restaurant No. 7 (Harlem, New York) where Malcolm X was minister (1960s); portraits of Minister Louis X (Farrakhan), minister of Mosque No. 11 (Boston), and his family (ca. 1960s); and exterior and interior views of the "Muhammad Speaks" newspaper offices in New York. Included in this series are views of the facilities, instructors and students at the University of Islam, No. 2, Chicago (ca. 1950s), and stills from a performance of Minister Farrakhan's play "Orgena" (n.d.), depicted in color slides.

Of special note are a number of images documenting the Ronald Stokes police brutality case in Los Angeles, from 1962-1963. Depicted are views of evidence of the police raid on Muhammad's Mosque No. 27 (Los Angeles); morgue photos of the fatally shot mosque member Ronald Stokes; portraits and candid shots of the mosque members who were arrested, after their release from police custody, in the hospital displaying their injuries, and meeting, probably, with legal counsel; views of anti-police brutality rallies; and views of Stokes's funeral at Mosque No. 27, the funeral motorcade, and Stokes's burial. Also depicted are candid views of Muslims, Minister Malcolm X and members of the press gathered outside and inside the Los Angeles County Courthouse during the legal proceedings; group portraits and candid shots of the defendants arriving at the courthouse; and views inside the courthouse of the defense attorneys, the defendants' families and supporters, the jury for the Coroner's inquest, and the police officers involved in the case.

Among those depicted in the Nation of Islam series are Minister Malcolm X, Wallace Deen (Warith Deen) Muhammad, radio minister Elder Lightfoot Michaux, Minister John Shabazz of Muhammad's Mosque No. 27 (Los Angeles), and NAACP Los Angeles Branch president Edward Warren.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American business enterprises

African American families

African Americans -- Religion

African Americans -- Social life and customs

African Americans -- Travel -- Africa

Black Muslims

Black nationalism -- United States

Demonstrations -- California -- Los Angeles

Demonstrations -- New York (State) -- New York

Forums (Discussion and debate)

Mosques

Muslims -- United States

Police brutality -- California -- Los Angeles

Radio programs -- New York (State) -- New York

Religious gatherings

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Black-and-white negatives

Contact sheets

Dye coupler prints

Gelatin silver prints

Group portraits

Portrait photographs

Slides (photographs)

Snapshots

Names

Ali, Muhammad, 1942-2016

Angelou, Maya

Davis, Ossie

Du Bois, Shirley Graham, 1896-1977

Elijah Muhammad, 1897-1975

Farrakhan, Louis

Gray, Barry, 1916-1996

Haggins, Robert L., 1922-2006

Howard, C.P. (Charles P.)

Jones, J. Raymond (John Raymond), 1899-1991

Layne, Cecil

Michaux, Lewis H., 1885-1976

Michaux, Lightfoot

Muhammad, Warith Deen, 1933-2008

Nabrit, James M. (James Madison), 1900-1997

Shabazz, Attallah

Shabazz, Betty

X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

Yearwood, Lloyd

Nation of Islam (Chicago, III.)

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b. 1 f. 4	Betty Shabazz 1960s-1970s
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	The Malcolm X collect
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Mosques

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Nation of Islam (cont.)

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Contact Sheets (cont.)

Nation of Islam (cont.)

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- b. 20 f. 17 John F. Kennedy motorcade rounding 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, Harlem, NY 1960s
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Slides

Owing to preservation considerations, access to slides in the Malcolm X Collection is closed to researchers.

- b. 21 The Trial (Orgena) -- Play by Louis X (Farrakhan) -- Stills from production (36 photographic slides)
- b. 21 Orgena I -- Stills from production; views of theatre lobby and NOI members (36 photographic slides)
- b. 21 Orgena II -- Stills from production; views of audience (19 photographic slides)
- b. 21 Mosque No.11, Boston (36 photographic slides)

Minister Louis X and Capt. Joseph of Mosque No.7 in supermarket; Minister Louis X and family at home; Exterior views of Muhammad's Mosque No. 11; Black or Muslim-owned businesses: supermarket, produce market, used-car dealership, dry cleaners

b. 21 Mosque No.11, Boston (32 photographic slides)

Black-owned businesses: dry cleaners, laundry, bakery; Men's FOI classes or meetings; Women's MGT classes or meetings; Min. Louis X addressing male members; Muslim-owned restaurant

b. 21 Boston airport (18 photographic slides)

Arrival of Elijah Muhammad and party, including Min. Malcolm X, at Boston airport

b. 21 Loose slides (27 photographic slides)

Billboard advertising 3-day revival and Malcolm X appearance after African trip, March 27, 1960; Mosque No. 6, Baltimore, Maryland; Minister of Mosque No. 6; Views of North African or Middle Eastern country, probably taken by Min. Malcolm; Muslim Girls Training and General Civilization Class instruction(?); NOI Ministers; Min. Malcolm X having tea with Muslims in North Africa or the Middle East; Muslim women; Elijah Muhammad and entourage disembarking from plane in Detroit; Sign in Arabic advertising Elijah Muhammad's visit; Malcolm X at Egyptian pyramids, 1959

- b. 21 [Mosque] No. 7, New York -- Fruit of Islam 1950s (36 photographic slides)
 Fruit of Islam members (Mosque No. 7) at prayers, drilling and taking classes; Captain Joseph,
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- b. 21 Mosque No. 7, New York 1959 (36 photographic slides)
 Members dining and conversing; Muslim women serving meals at Mosque No. 7.
- b. 21 New York -- MGT dinner, Bronx 1959 October 24

No. 7 members conversing at MGT (Muslim Girls Training) dinner at private home in the Bronx, New York, October 24, 1959, Captain Joseph and Louis X in attendance.

- b. 21 New York -- MGT dinner, Bronx 1959 October 24 (32 photographic slides)
 NOI members dining and socializing; Restaurant No. 7 members dining and socializing;
 Framed portrait of Wallace Fard; Painting of a Muslim horseman
- b. 21 African Heritage & Stormville (36 photographic slides)

African Heritage bazaar: view of musicians and African style dancing; Crafts, foods and other items for sale; Visitors to bazaar; Captain Joseph, Capt. of Fruit of Islam, Mosque No. 7; Three Muslim women during out-of state trip; Exterior view of Creek Haven prison

b. 21 Mosque No. 12, Philadelphia

Minister Wallace Muhammad of Mosque No. 12; Members of Mosque No. 12; Views of audience; Musicians performing on stage; Mosque No. 12 bazaar jewelry, cakes and pies for sale; Furniture display; Louis X's record, *A White Man's Heaven is a Black Man's Hell* for sale; exterior of The Nile restaurant

Slides (cont.)

b. 22 Mosque No. 27, Los Angeles (36 photographic slides)

Minister John Shabazz and family; residence and car; Minister Lucius Bey of Washington, DC addressing gathering; NOI ministers and Supreme FOI Captain Raymond Sharrieff; views of audience; potential members-candidates for membership writing letters to Elijah Muhammad; men receiving instruction; Min. John Shabazz addressing gatherings.

b. 22 Mosque No. 27, Los Angeles

Muslim women; bake sale; Min. Malcolm X at Los Angeles radio station; Muslim bakery; Min. John Shabazz and others; Min. John Shabazz meeting with six men; views of building under renovation; Minister John Shabazz other Muslim men and women; Captain Joseph of Mosque No.7 and Minister Bey of Washington, DC; New York FOI Captain Joseph and Supreme FOI Captain Raymond Sharrieff.

b. 22 Mosque No. 2, Chicago 1950s

Grocery, restaurant, bakery and Barbershop; Minister visiting supermarket and bakery; No. 2 Barbershop; Elijah Muhammad getting a haircut and shoeshine.

b. 22 School No. 1, Chicago 1950s (34 photographic slides)

Exterior view of Muhammad's Mosque of Islam (Muhammad's Temple) No.2, Chicago; exterior view of the University of Islam No. 2, Illinois, in adjoining building; interior of the University of Islam showing male and female students -- teenagers and younger; Minister holding meeting with two men; views of hallway of University of Islam; chemistry class; girls in typing and sewing class; students studying; male and female students in class; elementary class, male and female; girls' class; group portrait of girls; boys and girls looking at photographs; teacher working with students.

b. 22 School No. 2, Chicago: The Messenger 1950s (32 photographic slides)

Students praying; individual students posing under portrait of Elijah Muhammad; view of the national (insignia) and portrait of Elijah Muhammad; Elijah Muhammad being interviewed; students boarding school buses; Elijah Muhammad conversing with man outside apartment building; bakery and employees; Elijah Muhammad meting with minister; headshots of Elijah Muhammad; Elijah Muhammad's son?; portrait of Elijah Muhammad wearing eyeglasses; unidentified men meeting with Elijah Muhammad at home.

b. 22 Chicago department store 1950s (33 photographic slides)

Temple No.2 Exclusive Wear -- exterior; window displays; sales staff; display cases and other views of clothing and accessories; minister visiting store; Sister Ethel Sharrieff behind jewelry counter; views of customers.

b. 22 Chicago 1950s (36 photographic slides)

Wallace Muhammad praying with wife?; Muslim women at podium; scenes from unidentified play; Muslim men; Clara Muhammad being greeted by female members; view of Clara Muhammad seated at table with unidentified Muslim woman; view of Clara Muhammad seated at table with daughter Ethel Sharrieff and others; Ethel and Raymond Sharrieff; Clara Muhammad being presented with corsage.

b. 22 Mosque No. 1, Detroit -- Luncheonette 1950s (36 photographic slides)

Exterior view of Mosque No.1 and School: Minister Philbert standing outside with other members; Muslim school girls in class; elementary class of boys and girls; teenage male and female students studying; close-ups of female students; students in library; University of Islam No.1 school buses; student viewing drawing of a mosque

b. 22 Mosque No. 1, Detroit -- Luncheonette 1950s (36 photographic slides)

Exterior and interior views of Mosque No.1; students inside and outside of luncheonette; male and female members in mosque; MGTGCC members clothed in red; Minister Philbert seated on platform with other members, shaking hands with unidentified man; Minister Philbert meeting with office staff or members; view of office and secretary?

b. 22 Mosque No. 8, San Diego 1950s (36 photographic slides)

Exterior and interior views of Mosque No. 8, San Diego; NOI Supreme Captain Raymond Sharrieff and Captain Joseph of Mosque No. 7 with minister (?) outside mosque; NOI members selling Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch newspaper; NOI member holding copy of Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch advertising Minister Malcolm X's Los Angeles appearance; Captains Sharrieff and Joseph, Minister Lucius Bey of Washington, DC and San Diego minister (?) outside mosque; Min. Malcolm X and Captain Raymond Sharrieff posing outside house; street scenes; Captain Sharrieff and others examining movie projector; Minister with Capt. Sharrieff and othe at podium; Mmmbers in restaurant; group portraits of Muslim youth.

Slides (cont.)

b. 22 Mosque No. 8, San Diego; Hollywood 1950s (28 photographic slides)

Children dining in restaurant; Captain Joseph and Captain Sharrieff in restaurant; view of anniversary cake, possibly for Mosque No. 8?; Captains Sharrieff and Joseph, Minister Lucius Bey of Washington, DC and San Diego minister (?) posing with shoe repair store owner; Minister examining Mexican handicrafts; views from the freeway showing NBC Studios (Hollywood), Capitol Records, CBS and The Palladium; view of unidentified house; two ministers posing before Capitol Records building; view of building in the Middle East, possibly taken by Minister Malcolm X.

b. 23 Negatives

Owing to preservation considerations, access to negatives in the Malcolm X Collection is closed to researchers.