Summary

Creator: Organization of Afro-American Unity

Title: Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) collection

Date: 1963-1965

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Purchase from Peter Bailey, December 2004.

Abstract: The Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) was a Black nationalist organization launched by Malcolm X in 1964. The OAAU was a secular institution that sought to unify 22 million non-Muslim African Americans with the people of the African Continent. It was modeled after the Organization of African Unity (OAU), a coalition of 53 African nations working to provide a unified political voice for the continent. The collection includes various OAAU and Malcolm X-related documents, such as two statements issued by Malcolm X in Cairo, August 1964; a typed article that Malcolm X reportedly gave to Peter Bailey, editor of the OAAU newsletter Blacklash, at the Hotel Theresa the day before his assassination; and interview transcripts, press releases, and other printed matter. Also included are Bailey’s holograph, “Thoughts Written down Immediately after Bro. Malcolm's Assassination”; a two-page statement by Ella Collins, President of OAAU, Inc., announcing “A ten year economic program based upon 360 degrees of knowledge” and the organization’s new motto, “Black Ism” (1965); and writings by Carlos Moore and Lebert Bethune of the Afroamerican Committee in Paris about Malcolm X's banning by the French government and his subsequent assassination.

Preferred citation: [Item], Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) collection, Sc MG 752, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English


Separated Materials: Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs
Creator History

The Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) was a Black nationalist organization launched by Malcolm X in 1964. The OAAU was a secular institution that sought to unify 22 million non-Muslim African Americans with the people of the African Continent. It was modeled after the Organization of African Unity (OAU), a coalition of 53 African nations working to provide a unified political voice for the continent.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes various OAAU and Malcolm X-related documents, such as two statements issued by Malcolm X in Cairo, August 1964; a typed article that Malcolm X reportedly gave to Peter Bailey, editor of the OAAU newsletter Blacklash, at the Hotel Theresa the day before his assassination; and interview transcripts, press releases, and other printed matter. Also included are Bailey's holograph, "Thoughts Written down Immediately after Bro. Malcolm's Assassination"; a two-page statement by Ella Collins, President of OAAU, Inc., announcing "A ten year economic program based upon 360 degrees of knowledge" and the organization's new motto, "Black Ism" (1965); and writings by Carlos Moore and Lebert Bethune of the Afroamerican Committee in Paris about Malcolm X's banning by the French government and his subsequent assassination.

Key Terms

Subjects
Black nationalism

Names
Bailey, A. Peter
Moore, Carlos
X, Malcolm, 1925-1965
Organization of Afro-American Unity
Container List

b. 1 f. 1  Speeches and press releases 1964-1965
           Also includes some flyers and invitations.

b. 1 f. 2  Carlos Moore on Malcolm X (from St. Clair Drake papers) undated

b. 1 f. 3  Transcript of American Experience 1963 June 16

b. 1 f. 4  Ella Collins (OAAU, Inc.)

b. 1 f. 5  Printed matter (cartoon and article) on Malcolm X

b. 1 f. 6  OAAU materials from Doxey Wilkerson 1964