Finding Aid to the Eldridge Cleaver Photograph Collection, 1966-circa 1982

Finding Aid written by Chris McDonald
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/
© 2007
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.
Collection Summary

Collection Title: Eldridge Cleaver photograph collection
Date (inclusive): 1966-circa 1982
Collection Number: BANC PIC 1991.078
Extent: Number of containers: 10 boxes, 1 oversize folder (circa 1,720 photographic prints, circa 480 negatives, circa 440 slides). 7 digital objects (7 images)
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/

Abstract: Collection consists primarily of snapshots of Eldridge Cleaver's career from the mid-1960s to the early 1980s. Earliest materials relate to his affiliation with the Black Panther Party. Also contains photographs taken during his exile abroad from 1968 to 1975. The majority of photographs was taken after Cleaver's 1975 return to the United States and relate primarily to his activities in conservative politics and the evangelical Christian movement.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in

Physical Location: COLLECTION STORED, IN PART, OFF-SITE: Advance notice required for use.

Access
Collection is open for research, with the following exceptions: RESTRICTED NEGATIVES: Use of negatives only by permission of the appropriate curator. Inquiries concerning these materials should be directed, in writing, to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library.

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or reproduce must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the user. See: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/reference/permissions.html.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Eldridge Cleaver Photograph Collection, BANC PIC 1991.078, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Alternate Forms Available
Digital reproductions of selected images are available.

**Related Collections**
Eldridge Cleaver Papers BANC MSS 91/231 c.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog
Allende Gossens, Salvador, 1908-1973--Pictorial works
Axelrod, Beverly--Pictorial works
Carmichael, Stokely--Pictorial works
Cleaver, Eldridge, 1935--Pictorial works
Cleaver, Kathleen--Portraits
Colson, Charles W.--Pictorial works
Newton, Huey P.--Portraits
Stapleton, Ruth Carter--Pictorial works
Black Panther Party--Pictorial works
African Americans--Photographs
Evangelists--California--Photographs
Gay pride parades--California--San Francisco--Photographs
Political activists--California--Photographs
China--Pictorial works
Korea--Pictorial works
Vietnam (Democratic Republic)--Pictorial works

**Acquisition Information**
The Eldridge Cleaver Photograph Collection was transferred from the Eldridge Cleaver Papers, which were given to The Bancroft Library by Eldridge Cleaver in November 1990. Subsequent additions were received in later years.

**Accruals**
No additions are expected.

**Arrangement**
The collection has been divided and stored by medium: photographic prints, slides, and negatives. Images are arranged chronologically, followed by categories representing miscellaneous, often undated activities and themes (e.g. speaking engagements, press conferences, portraits, and family).

**Processing Information**
Processed by Chris McDonald.

**Biographical Information**
Leroy Eldridge Cleaver was born on August 3, 1935 in Wabbaseka, Arkansas. In 1956 his family moved to Los Angeles. During his youth he was convicted for various theft and drug offenses and spent time in reformatories and the California State Prison at Soledad. In 1958 he was convicted of assault and spent 8 years in the San Quentin and Folsom prisons. During this period of incarceration he became a member and minister of the Nation of Islam and a follower of Malcolm X. With the assistance of attorney and lover Beverly Axelrod, Cleaver had several of his prison writings published in the left-wing periodical *Ramparts*. The support which his writings earned him from the U.S. intellectual community was influential in gaining Cleaver’s release from prison in 1965. In 1967, while living in the San Francisco Bay Area, Cleaver married Kathleen Neal, an activist in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. That same year he befriended Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, co-founders of the Black Panther Party, and soon became the Party’s Minister of Information. The following year Cleaver published *Soul On Ice* -- a collection of essays named Book of the Year by the *New York Times* -- and ran as a candidate for the U.S. Presidency for the Peace and Freedom Party. Later that year Cleaver and fellow Black Panther Bobby Hutton were involved in a shootout with Oakland Police. Hutton was killed and Cleaver was charged with murder. While awaiting trial, Cleaver fled to Cuba. He would spend the next seven years in exile, living also in Algeria and Paris during that time. During his exile, Cleaver formed the International Section of the Black Panther Party in Algeria; met with political leaders in North Vietnam, North Korea and China; quickly became disillusioned with Marxist-Leninist beliefs; and eventually broke ties with the Black Panthers. During this time he and Kathleen had two children, Antonio Maceo and Joju. While in Paris, Cleaver experienced a spiritual transformation which led to his conversion to Christianity and conservative politics. In 1975 Cleaver negotiated with the F.B.I. for his return to the United States as a prisoner. In 1977,
finding aid to the eldridge cleaver photograph collection, 1966-circa 1982

after his renunciation of his earlier political activity and his release from prison, he founded the Eldridge Cleaver Crusades, an evangelical Christian movement. Cleaver would later have affiliations with Sun Myung Moon’s Collegiate Association of Research Principles and the Mormon Church. In the 1980s Cleaver ran two unsuccessful campaigns for U.S. Congress. He later became addicted to crack cocaine and was arrested on several drug-related charges. In 1987 Kathleen Cleaver divorced him. In the 1990s Cleaver kicked his addiction and worked as a diversity consultant for the University of La Verne in Southern California. Eldridge Cleaver died May 1, 1998.

[Biographical information abridged from that of the finding aid for the Eldridge Cleaver Papers, BANC MSS 91/231 c.]

Scope and Content of Collection

Collection consists primarily of snapshots of Eldridge Cleaver’s career from the mid-1960s to the early 1980s. Earliest materials relate to his affiliation with the Black Panther Party and include snapshots, portraits and negatives of party leaders such as Alprentice “Bunchy” Carter, John Higgins, Stokley Carmichael and attorney Beverly Axelrod. Also contains photographs taken during his exile abroad from 1968 to 1975, including his stays in Cuba, Algeria and France; visits to China, North Korea and North Vietnam; and a meeting with Chilean President Salvador Allende. The majority of photographs was taken after his 1975 return to the United States and relate primarily to his activities in conservative politics and the Evangelical Christian movement, including speaking engagements at various California churches and universities. Approximately fifty snapshots of a San Francisco Gay Pride Parade, dated June 1977, are included. Also contains photographs of his wife Kathleen Cleaver and children Antonio Maceo and Joju, various friends, and such associates as Huey Newton, Charles Colson and Ruth Carter Stapleton.

Prints

Note
Please note: some prints taken during Cleaver’s exile from 1968-1975 were printed a number of years after his return and bear laboratory date markings to that effect.

PIC_box 1
Black Panther Party 1966-1971
PIC_box 1
Black Panther Party: people, campaigns
PIC_box 1
Beverly Axelrod 1967
PIC_box 1
Eldridge Cleaver and Beverly Axelrod
PIC_box 1
Black Panther Party: Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter portrait 1969
PIC_box 1
Exile: Cuba and Algeria 1968-1969
PIC_box 1
PIC_box 1
Exile: U.S. People’s Anti-Imperialist Delegation tour of North Korea, China and Vietnam 1970

Physical Description: 5 folders

box 1, folder 12

Physical Description: 1 photograph
Scope and Content Note
Eldridge Cleaver with raised fist in a trench, North Vietnam.
Additional Note
Caption from back of print.

box 1, folder 12

Physical Description: 1 photograph

box 1, folder 12

Physical Description: 1 photograph
box 1, folder 12  Eldridge Cleaver in China. 1970  BANC PIC 1991.078--PIC ark:/28722/bk0016w1b50
   Physical Description: 1 photograph

box 1, folder 12  Eldridge Cleaver walking along path in China. 1970  BANC PIC 1991.078--PIC ark:/28722/bk0016w1b61
   Physical Description: 1 photograph

PIC_box 2  Exile: U.S. People's Anti-Imperialist Delegation tour of North Korea, China and Vietnam 1970
   Physical Description: 3 folders

PIC_box 2  Exile: Salvador Allende's visit to Algeria 1972 December
PIC_box 2  Exile: Paris street scenes circa 1973-1975
PIC_box 2  Exile: Paris portraits 1974
PIC_box 2  Exile: Paris portraits; preparing to return to U.S. 1975
box 2, folder 7  Eldridge Cleaver in front of press clippings on wall of room in Paris. 1975
   BANC PIC 1991.078--PIC ark:/28722/bk0016w1b73
   Physical Description: 1 photograph
   Additional Note
   Photo by David Graeme-Baker, Sipa Press.

box 2, folder 7  Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver entering American Embassy with lawyer Carl Salans, Place de Madeleine, Paris. 1975
   BANC PIC 1991.078--PIC ark:/28722/bk0016w1b8n
   Physical Description: 1 photograph

PIC_box 2  Meeting press upon return to U.S. 1975
PIC_box 2  Alameda County Jail 1976
PIC_box 2  Press conference after release from prison 1976 August 13
PIC_box 2  Pamphlet: "Eldridge Cleaver at Exile's End" 1976
PIC_box 2  Church: "25 Years of Miracles" 1976
PIC_box 2  Church: Eldridge Cleaver baptism circa 1977
PIC_box 2  Church: Youth For Christ rally, San Diego 1977 February 25
PIC_box 2  Church: speech at St. Stephen's, San Diego 1977 July
   Physical Description: 3 folders

PIC_box 2  Church: Melodyland Christian Center, Anaheim, with Rev. Ralph Wilkerson and Charles Colson 1977 August
PIC_box 2  Church meetings 1977 August
PIC_box 2  Church: Chico testimony 1977
PIC_box 2  Church: "Eldridge Cleaver Crusades" 1977
PIC_box 3  Church meetings [from disassembled album] circa late 1970s
PIC_box 3  Miscellaneous church meetings and speeches late 1970s - early 1980s
   Physical Description: 5 folders

PIC_box 3  Hope College speaking engagement 1977 October
PIC_box 3  Speaking engagement: Prison Fellowship Banquet, Denver 1977 October 15
PIC_box 3  Speaking engagement: Oahu Prison 1978 February
PIC_box 3  Miscellaneous speaking engagements circa late 1970s
PIC_box 3  Speaking engagement: San Jose circa 1981
PIC_box 3  Speaking engagement: San Jose State University 1982
PIC_box 3  Miscellaneous speaking engagements circa early 1980s
   Physical Description: 2 folders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIC_box 4</th>
<th>Interview: “Meet the Press” 1976</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Miscellaneous interviews 1970s-1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Interview with KCBS and others at home 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>4th of July Political Campaign late 1970s?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Clothing store circa 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Gay Pride Parade, San Francisco circa 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver office? circa 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 4</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver office “Going-Away Party” for staff member 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Family: children Joju and Maceo late 1960s-early 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Family and friends 1960s - 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Huey Newton [unidentified event] 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver and Ruth Carter Stapleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver and Sen. Frank Church at Vanderbilt University 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver with Charles Colson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver with others, unidentified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver portraits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 5 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC_box 5</td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver miscellaneous snapshots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AX_box 1</td>
<td>Proofs: Korea, Vietnam, China 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proofs: Algeria, including Allende visit (Dec. 1972) and family 1972 December, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proofs: France circa 1973 - 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eldridge Cleaver filling out papers at American Embassy in Paris to return to U.S. 1975 November 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enlarged snapshots: Eldridge Cleaver Crusade, clothing shop 1977 circa 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unidentified church events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathleen Cleaver at a protest and Black Panther Party rally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portraits, Paris 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proofs: portraits circa 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portraits: Eldridge Cleaver speaking circa 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S.F. Examiner portraits 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes a letter from the photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unidentified construction site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eldridge Cleaver family
Scope and Content Note
Homemade poster found with items in AX box folder Eldridge Cleaver family.

Slides
PIC_box 6 Chico testimony 1977
PIC_box 6 Speech at St. Stephen's 1977 July
PIC_box 6 Gospel concert, Center of Hope Church, Oakland Calif. 1977 August
PIC_box 6 Eldridge Cleaver at Christian Businessmen's Club 1977 August
PIC_box 6 Eldridge Cleaver Crusade 1977 August- October
PIC_box 6 Melodyland with Charles Colson 1977 September
PIC_box 6 Hope College visit with Charles Colson 1977
PIC_box 6 Unidentified speaking engagements
PIC_box 6 Campaigns?
   Physical Description: 2 folders
PIC_box 6 Eldridge Cleaver at unidentified events and at his office
   Physical Description: 3 folders
PIC_box 6 Los Altos home with family 1977 August

Negatives
Note
Prints are available for many negatives. Roll numbers noted on negative sleeves are transcribed from original negative envelopes.

NEG_box 1 Black Panther Party: Stokely Carmichael and Eldridge Cleaver speaking at U.C. Berkeley
NEG_box 1 Exile: Asia (N. Korea, Vietnam, China) 1970
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2 Exile: Asia (N. Korea, Vietnam, China) 1970
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2 Exile: N. Korea: birthday party for Maceo Cleaver given by Madame Kim Il Sung 1970
NEG_box 2 Exile: Family in Algeria circa 1969-1973
NEG_box 2 Exile: Salvador Allende in Algeria 1972 December
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2 Exile: Paris circa 1973-1975
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2 Church: Youth for Christ rally, San Diego 1977 February 25
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2 Church: Portland, Ore. 1977 April
NEG_box 2 Church: Mother's Day, San Francisco Christian Center 1977 May 9
NEG_box 2 Church: St. Stephen's, San Diego 1977 July
   Note
   [some prints available]
NEG_box 2

**Church: Cleaver Crusades 1977**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Church: Mt. Hermon**

NEG_box 3

**Church: San Francisco Christian School**

NEG_box 3

**Church: Paradise Baptist Church**

NEG_box 3

**Church: National Evangelical Convention San Francisco**

NEG_box 3

**Church: Cow Palace, San Francisco, meeting**

NEG_box 3

**Church: Vancouver B.C. and Seattle**

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: Vanderbilt University 1977 March**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: Prison Fellowship Banquet, Denver 1977 October 15**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: Hope College, Mich. 1977 October**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: U.S. out of El Salvador 1981**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Yosemite vacation, miscellaneous speeches circa 1981**

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: U.C. Davis**

NEG_box 3

**Speaking engagement: Father's Day**

NEG_box 3

**Unidentified speeches**

NEG_box 3

**Press conference on civil rights suit**

NEG_box 3

**Gay Pride Parade, San Francisco**

Note

[prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Kathleen Cleaver speaking**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Family: Joju and Maceo**

Note

[some prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Eldridge Cleaver home, Los Altos, Calif.**

NEG_box 3

**Eldridge Cleaver and unidentified friends**

NEG_box 3

**Eldridge Cleaver and Ruth Carter Stapleton**

Note

[prints available]

NEG_box 3

**Unidentified events**
NEG_box 3

Portraits

Note

[some prints available]