Finding Aid to the Allan Francovich Papers PFA.MSS.002

Kerwin So
BAMPFA Film Library
2005
Allan Francovich was born on March 23, 1941, in New York City. The son of a mining engineer, Francovich grew up in Bolivia and Peru and learned to speak many languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. He attended the University of San Marcos in Lima before going on to Notre Dame University, where he earned a B.A. in English, Romance and Slavic Languages. In Paris, at the height of the French New Wave in cinema, he studied Comparative Literature and Drama at the Sorbonne, as well as Russian and Serbo-Croatian at L'Ecole des Langues Orientales. He later obtained an M.A. in Dramatic Arts from the University of California in Berkeley. A prolific writer, Francovich also translated books, poetry, and plays from many languages into English. He was an American Film Institute Fellow in 1969, and an American Federation of Arts Fellow in 1970. In addition to working as a film director, Francovich also had experience as an actor, theatrical lighting designer, and camera man. Francovich was best known for his independent documentaries, including *On Company Business* (1980), a documentary on the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. foreign policy; *The Houses are Full of Smoke* (1987), a three-part documentary on the death squads in Central America; and *The Maltese Double Cross* (1994), a documentary on Pan Am's infamous flight 103, which crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. His films have aired on numerous television channels including PBS, the BBC, Swedish Television, and Canal 13 in Mexico, as well as at myriad international film festivals, garnering multiple awards. *On Company Business* was selected as the best documentary film at the Berlin Film Festival in 1980, and also received the Jury Prize for documentary at the Leipzig Film Festival. It was further chosen as one of the ten best films shown at the Sydney Film Festival in Australia. *The Maltese Double Cross* won First Prize for documentary at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Francovich died on April 17, 1997, of natural causes. At the time of his death, he was working on a short film on art collector and philanthropist Dominique de Menil (with the Centre Pompidou), as well as an investigation of the Olof Palme assassination and several screenplays.
Box 1

**Series 1. Scripts, production materials, and reviews 1973-1994, undated**

- Physical Description: 23 folders
- Arrangement
  - Arranged alphabetically by project title, with each type of document housed in separate folders per project title as needed.
- Scope and Contents
  - This series contains scripts and manuscripts, production materials, and film reviews. This series also includes documents related to projects that were not produced. Several productions directed or co-produced by Francovich are not represented in this collection. They are *The Lobster Pot* (1968), *Chile in the Heart* (1978), *Dark Passage* (1990), and *Murder in Mississippi* (1991).

**Box 1, Folder 1**

*Broken Threads and Dead Sons Make the Cloth [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 2**

*Dominique de Menil Project [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 3**

*La Durée Poignardée (or Time Daggered) [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 4**

*Geronimo [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 5**

*Gladio: The Ringmaster 1992*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 6**

*Gorilla Gumbo (or Bugs Goes to War) [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 7**

*The Houses are Full of Smoke [1 of 4] 1987*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 8**

*The Houses are Full of Smoke [2 of 4] 1987*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 9**

*The Houses are Full of Smoke [3 of 4] 1987*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 10**

*The Houses are Full of Smoke [4 of 4] 1987*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 11**

*Leviticus [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 12**

*The Lottery of Babylon [unproduced] undated*

- Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1, Folder 13**

*The Maltese Double Cross 1994*

- Physical Description: 1 folder
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Mind the Gap [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | No Coward Soul [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Olof Palme Project (a.k.a., Northern Lights) [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | On Company Business 1980  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | The Republic [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | San Francisco Good Times 1973  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Shadow Play: Indonesia’s Years of Living Dangerously [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Shirley [unproduced] [1 of 2] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Shirley [unproduced] [2 of 2] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | The Treasure of the Isle of Mist [unproduced] undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 2 | Series 2. Articles and essays 1969-1997, undated  
|      | Physical Description: 2 folders  
|      | Arrangement  
|      | Arranged alphabetically.  
|      | Scope and Contents  
|      | This series contains published and unpublished articles and essays written by Francovich. |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Articles and essays [1 of 2] 1967-1997, undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1 | Series 3. Correspondence 1972-1997, undated  
|      | Physical Description: 1 folder  
|      | Arrangement  
|      | Arranged chronologically.  
|      | Scope and Contents  
|      | This series contains letters written by and to Francovich, and printed emails among family members. |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Correspondence 1972-1997, undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 1 folder |
Box 2


Physical Description: 1 folder

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents
This series contains handwritten notes, poems, notebooks, personal inventories, cancelled checks, and a birth certificate.

Box 2, Folder 4

Personal papers 1962-1997, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 2

Series 5. Interviews and clippings 1981-1997, undated

Physical Description: 1 folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents
This series contains interviews with Francovich, general articles on his work, and obituaries.

Box 2, Folder 5

Interviews and clippings 1981-1997, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 2


Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents
This series contains documents written about family, material written by Cuban photographer, Chinolope, catalogs, a Pacific Film Archive retrospective calendar, and other miscellaneous items.

Box 2, Folder 6

Materials collected by or about Francovich [General] [1 of 2] 1981-1998, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 2, Folder 7

Materials collected by or about Francovich [Chinolope writings] [2 of 2] 1981-1998, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 2

Series 7. Photos and audio 1941-1997, undated

Physical Description: 8 folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by film title.

Scope and Contents
This series contains photographs from the filming of *The Houses are Full of Smoke* and *On Company Business*, as well as miscellaneous personal and tour photographs sorted by decade. There is also an audiocassette tribute to Francovich from April 1997 narrated by David Ben Areagh. Each folder contains a summary.

Box 2, Folder 8

Photos from *The Houses are Full of Smoke* 1984

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 2, Folder 9

Photos from *On Company Business* approximately 1960s-1970s

Physical Description: 1 folder
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 10</th>
<th>Miscellaneous photos approximately 1940s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Miscellaneous photos approximately 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Miscellaneous photos approximately 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>Miscellaneous photos approximately 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 14</td>
<td>Miscellaneous photos 1980s-1990s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td>&quot;Tribute to a Fallen Leader&quot; [audiocassette] 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 folder audiocassette</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>