Finding Aid to the Aaron Fricke Papers

Finding aid prepared by Tim Wilson
James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4400
info@sfpl.org
2005
Title: Aaron Fricke Papers
Date (inclusive): 1980-1993
Collection Identifier: GLC 24
Creator: Fricke, Aaron
Physical Description: 1 carton (1.0 cubic ft.)
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4400
Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.
Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, subject files, and notes and drafts for Fricke's works, including Reflections of a Rock Lobster and Sudden Strangers.
Access
The collection is open for research. Please call the San Francisco History Center for hours and information at 415-557-4567.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Aaron Fricke Papers (GLC 24), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
The Aaron Fricke Papers were donated to The San Francisco Public Library by Aaron Fricke in 1994.
Biographical Note
Aaron Fricke was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on January 25, 1962. His father, Walter, was a ship captain, and his mother, Loretta Donahue Fricke, a homemaker. Aaron has written two autobiographical books: Reflections of a Rock Lobster: A Story about Growing up Gay (Boston: Alyson, 1981) and Sudden Strangers: The Story of a Gay Son and His Father (New York: St. Martin's, 1991). Sudden Strangers was co-authored with his father Walter. Aaron received his A.A. in 1994 from City College of San Francisco.
Scope and Contents
The collection contains correspondence, subject files, and notes and drafts for Fricke's works, including Reflections of a Rock Lobster and Sudden Strangers. Reflections tells the story of Fricke's desire to take a male date to his high school prom, and details the reactions by his family, the school, and the media. Sudden Strangers, written with his father Walter, describes the changes in their relationship following Aaron's coming out.
Arrangement
The collection is arranged in three series: Series 1: Correspondence; Series 2: Subject Files; and Series 3: Works.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Fricke, Aaron -- Archives
Fricke, Walter
Coming out (Gay men)
Coming out (Sexual orientation)--United States.
Fathers and sons--United States
Gay men--Family relationships
Gay men--United States--Biography

Series 1 Correspondence, 1980-1991
Physical Description: 8.0 folders
Folder 1
Physical Description: 1.0 folder
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Barry, James, 1982</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Circular Letter from Aaron Fricke and Paul Guilbert to “Friends,” 1980</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>[Fragment of a letter by Aaron Fricke], undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Fricke, Walter, 1988 1991</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Gordon, S. Gerald, 1980</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Guilbert, Paul, 1980-1981, undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Swearingen, Michael L., 1990</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td><strong>Barry, James, 1980</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder&lt;br&gt;General Physical Description note: (photograph)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Clippings, 1980 1989-1990</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>“Gay Terms,” undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td><strong>“Interview Material to Study,” 1980, 1982</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>“Personal 10/18,” [1987?]</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>“Personal 9/23,” [1988]</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>“Personal 12/3/88,” 1988</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Sketch of Aaron Fricke by J.C., undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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**Series 3 Works, 1980-1993**
Physical Description: 42.0 folders

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<th>Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>“Cross Country” [essay], [198-]</td>
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<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>[Cyprus College Newspaper articles. Drafts], 1985</td>
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<td>Folder 20</td>
<td>“Essay” [on being a homosexual], [1980?]</td>
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<td>Folder 21</td>
<td>“Growing Up in Cumberland RI and the Prom,” 1980</td>
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<td>Folder 22</td>
<td>“Notes for ‘Disease or Way of Life’” [198-]</td>
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**Reflections of a Rock Lobster : a story about growing up gay**
Physical Description: 9.0 folders

<table>
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<td>Folder 23</td>
<td>[Notes for Reflections of a Rock Lobster] undated</td>
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<td>Physical Description: 1.0 folder</td>
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<td>Folder 24</td>
<td>Chapter outline [1980]</td>
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<td>Folder 25</td>
<td>“Dream Chapter” undated</td>
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<td>Folder 26</td>
<td>Notes on Chapters, “Interview” undated</td>
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<td>Folder 27</td>
<td>Notes on Court Test undated</td>
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<td>Folder 28</td>
<td>Notes on Press coverage; Fricke’s interview notes; Criticism 1981</td>
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<td>Folder 29</td>
<td>Page Proofs [1981?]</td>
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<td>Folder 30</td>
<td>“Screenplay / Book” 1980</td>
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<td>Folder 31</td>
<td>“Used Material for Book” 1993, undated</td>
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Sudden Strangers: the story of a gay son and his father

Physical Description: 26.0 folders

General Note
Walter Fricke, Aaron's father, is coauthor.

Folder 32
“Shadows of a Reflection,” undated
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 33
“Growing Together, or Father Yet Closer,” Drafts, 1981, undated
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 34
[Sudden Stranger] Drafts, [1983?]-1984
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 35
Draft Chapters, 1984-1985
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 36
[Sudden Strangers] Outline, 1985
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 37
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 38
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 39-45
Physical Description: 7.0 folders

Folder 46
Growing Together. Outlines, 1989
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 47
Growing Together. Preliminary Outline, 1989
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 48-49
Physical Description: 2.0 folders

Folder 50
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 51
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Excerpts of Walter Fricke’s chapters, undated
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 52
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 53
Growing Together. 2 computer disks, undated
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 54
Physical Description: 1.0 folder
Folder 55
[Sudden Strangers]. “Re-write, Final rewrite that Dad Saw...” [1989?]-1990
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 56
[Sudden Strangers]. Typescript, 1990
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 57
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 58
Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Folder 59
“Wacky” magazine/newsletter, undated
Physical Description: 1.0 folder