Finding aid to the Harvey Milk Letters to Joe Campbell, 1961-[1971]

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
2006
Title: Harvey Milk Letters to Joe Campbell,
Date (inclusive): 1961-[1971]
Collection Identifier: GLC 20
Creator: Milk, Harvey
Physical Description: 61.0 folders
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org
Abstract: This collection contains 59 letters and cards from Harvey Milk to Joe Campbell; most were written after their romantic relationship ended.
Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
The library holds copyright for letters written by Harvey Milk. 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], Harvey Milk Letters to Joe Campbell (GLC 20), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
The collection was donated to the San Francisco Public Library in two accessions. Joe Campbell donated 29 letters in 1993; Callie Angell, of the Andy Warhol Film Project, donated an additional 32 letters and transcripts in 2006.
Related materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also the Harvey Milk Letters to Susan Davis Alch (GLC 19), the Harvey Milk Archives--Scott Smith Collection (GLC 35) and the Randy Shilts Papers--The Mayor of Castro Street series (GLC 43), Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Biographical note
Harvey Milk, a San Francisco politician and gay rights activist, was born in Woodmere, New York on May 22, 1930. Joe Campbell was born on November 4, 1936. Milk and Campbell met at Riis Park Beach, Queens, New York in July 1956 and their relationship lasted into 1962. Much later Milk later moved to San Francisco, entered politics, and was assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone in 1978.
In the 1960s Campbell was a member of the Andy Warhol crowd and was dubbed the "Sugar Plum Fairy" by Dorothy Dean, a friend from that set. Campbell appeared in the Warhol film My Hustler (1965) as the character Sugar Plum Fairy, and Lou Reed's Walk on the Wild Side (1972) contains a reference to Campbell by that moniker as well.
Later Joe Campbell had a significant relationship with Oliver "Bill" Sipple, a former Marine. Sipple came into the public eye in 1975 for thwarting an assassination attempt on the life of Gerald Ford. Joe Campbell died on October 2, 2005.
Scope and Contents
This collection contains 59 letters and cards from Milk to Joe Campbell; most were written after their relationship ended and contain a "-san" suffix to both of their names. In many of the earlier letters, Milk tells how much he still cares for Campbell and how hurt Milk is that Campbell does not return his feelings. The letters from San Juan, Puerto Rico and Miami detail Milk's unsuccessful attempts to find work. The later letters contain advice for Campbell and his lover Oliver "Bill" Sipple, Milk's day-to-day activities with Jack Galen McKinley, reviews of opera and other musical events, and remarks on police harassment of gays and gay bars. About 10 are greeting cards for birthdays or Valentine's Day.
The collection also contains the transcript of one letter from Dorothy Dean to Joe Campbell, and one folder of letters which are edited transcripts of portions of the Milk letters.
Arrangement note
The letters are arranged in chronological order. Square brackets indicate dates supplied by the archivist; some dates are approximations, others are drawn from postmarks or the contents of the letter. Undated letters and cards are filed at the end.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Campbell, Joe -- Correspondence
Milk, Harvey -- Correspondence
Gay men--United States--Biography

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**Folder 1**
Harvey [Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell], 1961 November 27 postmark

**Folder 34**
Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Frank Campbell, Nashville, TN, 1961 November 29 postmark

**Folder 2**
Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Campbell, Nashville, TN, [1961 December 1] Friday am

**Folder 3**
New York Times, 1961 December 29

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**Folder 4**
Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Frank Campbell, Nashville, TN, 1961 December 30 postmark

**Folder 5**

**Folder 6**
Nashville Tennessean, 1962 July 29

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**Folder 7**
Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1962 August 23] Thursday

**Folder 8**
Christmas card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], 1962 [December]

**Folder 9**
H[arvey Milk], New York, NY to [Joe] Campbell, [New York, NY], 1963 January 10

**Folder 10**
Harvey [Milk], San Juan, PR to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY], [1963 March 6?] Wed.

**Folder 11**
Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1963 March 6] Wed. night

**Folder 12**
Harvey [Milk], San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, 1963 March 6 Wed. after talking with you

**Folder 13**
Harvey [Milk], [San Juan, PR] to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY], [1963 March 7?] Again Thursday

**Folder 14**
Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1963 March 8] Friday

**Folder 15**
Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co., San Juan, PR to Joseph Campbell, New York, NY, 1963 March 8

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**Folder 16**
Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, 1963 March 10

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**Folder 17**
Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe [Campbell, New York, NY], [1963 March 10] Sunday night

**Folder 18**
Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Frank Campbell, New York, NY, 1963 March 19 postmark

**Folder 19**
Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1963 March 29]

**Folder 20**
Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1963 April 5]

**Folder 21**
Harvey [Milk], [Miami Beach, FL] to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY?], [1963 April 9?] Tuesday 7:30

**Folder 22**
Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, [1963 April 11] Thursday

**Folder 23**
Harvey [Milk], Miami, FL to Joe F. Campbell, New York, NY, 1963 April 20 postmark
| Folder 25 | Harvey Milk to Joe [Campbell], [1963?] Wednesday at work |
| Folder 26 | Harvey Milk to Joe [Campbell], [1963?] |
| Folder 27 | Harvey [Milk], [New York, NY] to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL?], [1964/5? March 21/22?] Sunday |
| Folder 28 | Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Campbell New York, NY, [1964 May 21] |
| Folder 29 | Harvey [Milk] to Joe Frank [Campbell], [1964 November 4] |
| Folder 30 | General note |
| Folder 31 | Birthday note. |
| Folder 30 | Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joseph Campbell and Oliver Sipple, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 1965 February 26 postmark |
| Folder 31 | Galen [McKinley] and Harv[ey Milk] to Joe Campbell, 1965 May 17 postmark |
| Folder 32 | General note |
| Folder 32 | Postcard forwarded to Jamaica, Long Island, New York. |
| Folder 32 | G[alen McKinley] and H[arvey Milk] to [Joe] Campbell and [Bill] Sipple in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, [1965?] |
| Folder 33 | General note |
| Folder 33 | Postcard of Palm Beach, Florida. |
| Folder 34 | Greeting card from Harvey [Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Campbell, New York, NY, 1966 October 3 postmark |
| Folder 35 | Harvey [Milk], [Dallas, TX] to Joe [Campbell], [CA?], [1967?] Tuesday |
| Folder 36 | Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell], New York, NY, [1967?] |
| Folder 36 | General note |
| Folder 36 | Fragment. |
| Folder 37 | Christmas card from Harvey [Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Campbell, San Francisco, CA, 1968 December 12 postmark |
| Folder 38 | [Harvey Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Frank Campbell, San Francisco, CA, 1968 December 25 |
| Folder 39 | H[arvey Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell], [196-] Monday |
| Folder 40 | Harvey [Milk], Waldorf-Astoria, New York, NY to [Joe Campbell], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL?], [196- Jan.-Feb.] Sunday night |
| Folder 41 | Harvey [Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL], [196-?] Tuesday |
| Folder 42 | Harvey [Milk], [New York, NY?] to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL], [196-?] Friday |
| Folder 43 | [Harvey Milk] to [Joe] Campbell, Fairfax, CA, 1970 December? 4 postmark |
| Folder 43 | General note |
| Folder 43 | Postcard with Harvey’s? new address. |
| Folder 44 | Dorothy Dean to Joe Campbell, [1971] |
| Folder 44 | General note |
| Folder 44 | Re: seeing Harvey Milk and Jack Galen McKinley and the production of Lenny. |
| Folder 45 | "Edited version of Joe Campbell’s letters,” 1962-1964, [1971], undated |
| Folder 45 | General note |
| Folder 45 | Transcripts of letters, some are from the earlier accession. |
| Folder 46 | Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], undated |
| Folder 46 | General note |
| Folder 46 | Re: break-up and gay relationships. |
Folder 47  Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], undated
General note
Re: packing for trip to Mexico City.

Folder 48  [Joe Campbell’s mother? to Joe Campbell?], undated
General note
Letter mentions his father and Christmas, an interview with President Kennedy and Premier
Kruschev’s son-in-law in the Russian newspaper Izvestia.

Folder 49  [Harvey Milk] “Hellouminum!” card undated
General note
Card with picture of Kodak Cavalcade slide projector and the note “I’ll buy you a car for
Xmass if you’ll buy me this for Xmass & I don’t mean the cup of coffee.”

Folder 50  Halloween card from “Bunny Bumper,” undated
Folder 51  Valentine’s Day card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], [February 14]
Folder 52  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 53  “The Lost Children of Joesan” by Harvey [Milk], undated
Folder 54  [Harvey Milk to Joe Campbell], undated
General note
“Mounstrous Ogre,” “Hellouminum! I could eat you Upuminum!”

Folder 55  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 56  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 57  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 58  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 59  Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell], [November 4]
Folder 60  Valentine’s Day card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], [February 14]
Folder 61  Greeting card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell], undated