

HARVEY MILK

LETTERS to JOE CAMPBELL

1961-[1971]

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

San Francisco Public Library

Call Number: GLC 20

Extent: 61 items

Access: Available during the San Francisco History Center's hours: Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am-6 pm; Friday 12 noon-6 pm; Saturday: 10 am-6 pm; Sunday 12 noon-5 pm

Copyright: The library holds copyright for letters written by Harvey Milk.

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:

GLC 19 Harvey Milk—Susan Davis Alch Correspondence

GLC 35 Harvey Milk Archives—Scott Smith Collection

GLC 43 Randy Shilts Papers. The Mayor of Castro Street series

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 & CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains 59 letters and cards from Milk to Joe Campbell; most dated are 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. Undated letters and cards are filed at the end. An asterisk "*" indicates that the date is an approximation.

CONTAINER LISTING

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1961 November 27 postmark	Harvey [Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell]
2	[1961 December 1] Friday am	Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Campbell, Nashville, TN
3	1961 December 29	<i>New York Times</i> [clipping re: lines for Radio City Music Hall]
4	1961 December 30 postmark	Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Frank Campbell, Nashville, TN
5	*[1961/1962?] Thursday night	Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Campbell, Nashville, TN
6	1962 July 29	<i>Nashville Tennessean</i> [clipping re: Hugh Shivers' reunion]
7	[1962 August 23] Thursday	Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
8	1962 [December]	Christmas Card. Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
9	1963 January 10	H[arvey Milk], New York, NY to [Joe] Campbell, [New York, NY]
10	[1963 March 6?] Wed.	Harvey [Milk], San Juan, PR to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY]
11	[1963 March 6] Wed. night	Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY

- 12 1963 March 6 Wed. after talking with you Harvey [Milk], San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
- 13 *[1963 March 7?] Again Thursday Harvey [Milk], [San Juan, PR] to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY]
- 14 [1963 March 8] Friday Harvey Milk, San Juan, PR to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
- 15 1963 March 8 Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co., San Juan, PR to Joseph Campbell, New York, NY re: job reference for Harvey Milk
- 16 1963 March 10 Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY [telegram with draft of Joe's response on the back]
- 17 [1963 March 10] Sunday night Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe [Campbell, New York, NY]
- 18 1963 March 19 postmark Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Frank Campbell, New York, NY
- 19 [1963 March 29] Harvey [Milk], Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
- 20 [1963 April 5] Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
- 21 *[1963 April 9?] Tuesday 7:30 Harvey [Milk], M[iami] B[each, FL] to Joe [Campbell], [New York, NY?]
- 22 [1963 April 11] Thursday Harvey Milk, Miami Beach, FL to Joe Campbell, New York, NY
- 23 1963 April 20 postmark Harvey [Milk], Miami, FL to Joe F. Campbell, New York, NY
- 24 [1963 August 12] Monday Harvey [Milk], New York, NY to Joe Campbell New York, NY
- 25 [1963?] Wednesday at work Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 26 [1963?] Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 27 *[1964/5? March 21/2?] Sunday Harvey [Milk], [New York, NY] to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL?]
- 28 [1964 May 21] Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Campbell New York, NY
- 29 [1964 November 4] Harvey [Milk] to Joe Frank [Campbell] birthday note
- 30 1965 February 26 postmark Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joseph Campbell and Oliver Sipple, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- 31 1965 May 17 postmark Galen [McKinley] and Harv[ey Milk] to Joe Campbell. Postcard forwarded to Jamaica, Long Island, New York
- 32 n.d. [1965?] G[alen McKinley] and H[arvey Milk] to [Joe] Campbell and [Bill] Sipple in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Postcard of Palm Beach, Florida
- 33 1966 October 3 postmark Harvey [Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Campbell, New York, NY [greeting card]
- 34 1967 November 29 postmark Harvey Milk, New York, NY to Joe Frank Campbell, Nashville, TN
- 35 *[1967?] Tuesday Harvey [Milk], [Dallas, TX] to Joe [Campbell], [CA?]
- 36 *[1967?] Fragment. Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell], New York, NY
- 37 1968 December 12 postmark Harvey [Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Campbell, San Francisco, CA [Christmas card]
- 38 1968 December 25 [Harvey Milk], Dallas, TX to Joe Frank Campbell, San Francisco, CA
- 39 *[196-] Monday H[arvey Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell]
- 40 *[196- Jan.-Feb.] Sunday night Harvey [Milk], Waldorf-Astoria, New York, NY to [Joe Campbell], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL?]
- 41 *[196-?] Tuesday Harvey [Milk], New York, NY to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL]
- 42 *[196-?] Friday Harvey [Milk], [New York, NY?] to Joe [Campbell] and Bill [Sipple], [Ft. Lauderdale, FL]
- 43 1970 December? 4 postmark [Harvey Milk] to [Joe] Campbell, Fairfax, CA postcard with Harvey's? new address
- 44 [1971] Dorothy Dean to Joe Campbell re: seeing Harvey and Jack and the production of *Lenny*
- 45 1962-1964, [1971] n.d. "Edited version of Joe Campbell's letters..." Transcripts of letters, some are from the earlier accession.
- 46 n.d. Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell] regarding break-up and gay relationships
- 47 n.d. Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell] regarding packing for trip to Mexico City

- 48 n.d. [Joe Campbell's mother? To Joe Campbell?] letter mentions his father and Christmas, an interview with President Kennedy and Premier Kruschev's son-in-law in the Russian newspaper *Izvestia*
- 49 n.d. [Harvey Milk] "Hellouminum!" 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"
- 50 n.d. Halloween card from "Bunny Bumper"
- 51 n.y. [February 14] Valentine's Day card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 52 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 53 n.d. "The Lost Children of Joesan" by Harvey [Milk]
- 54 n.d. "Mounstrous Ogre," "Hellouminum! I could eat you Upuminum!" [Harvey Milk to Joe Campbell]
- 55 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 56 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]
- 57 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell]
- 58 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell]
- 59 n.y. [November 4] Birthday card from Harvey [Milk] to [Joe Campbell]
- 60 n.y. [February 14] Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]. [Valentine's Day card]
- 61 n.d. Harvey [Milk] to Joe [Campbell]. [Greeting card]