

**AARON FRICKE PAPERS**

**1980-1991**

Collection number: GLC 24

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

San Francisco Public Library

2005

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Provenance**

The Aaron Fricke Papers were donated to The San Francisco Public Library by Aaron Fricke in 1994.

### **Access**

The collection is open for research and available in the San Francisco History Center on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Main Library. The hours are: Tues.-Thurs. 10a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 12 noon-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 12 noon-5 p.m.

### **Collection Number**

GLC 24

### **Size**

1 cu. ft.

### **Processed by**

Timothy T. Wilson

### **Date Completed**

Finding aid updated June 2005

### **Preferred Citation**

[*Identification of item*], Aaron Fricke Papers (GLC 24), The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA.

### **Conservation Note**

During processing, the entire collection was refoldered and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. All metal fasteners were removed and replaced with plastic clips where necessary.

## BIOGRAPHY

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 CONTENT

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 NOTE

The material is arranged into three series: Correspondence, Subject Files and Works.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

**SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1980-1991.**  
8 folders

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**SERIES 2: SUBJECT FILES, 1980-1990.**  
9 folders

**SERIES 3: WORKS, 1980-1994**  
42 folders

Arranged alphabetically by title and then chronologically within each title.

This series contains drafts of a few short essays, and drafts and proofs of Fricke's two books *Reflections of a Rock Lobster* and *Sudden Strangers*. The drafts of *Sudden Strangers* comprise the largest portion of this series.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Correspondence.**

Alyson Publications, 1980-1981  
Barry, James, 1982  
Circular Letter from Aaron Fricke and Paul Guilbert to "Friends," 1980  
[Fragment of a letter by Aaron Fricke], n.d.  
Fricke, Walter, 1988, 1991  
Gordon, S. Gerald, 1980  
    Pettine, (Judge)  
Guilbert, Paul, 1980-1981, n.d.  
Swearingen, Michael L., 1990  
    St. Martin's Press

**Series 2: Subject Files**

Barry, James [photograph], 1980  
Clippings, 1980, 1989-1990  
"Gay Terms," n.d.  
"Interview Material to Study," 1980, 1982  
[Notes on activities] "5/6 through 6/6/1980"  
"Personal 10/18," [1987?]  
"Personal 9/23," [1988]  
"Personal 12/3/88," 1988  
Sketch of Aaron Fricke by J.C., n.d.

**Series 3: Works**

"Cross Country" [essay], [198-]  
[Cyprus College Newspaper articles. Drafts], 1985  
"Essay" [on being a homosexual], [1980?]  
"Growing Up in Cumberland RI and the Prom," 1980  
"Notes for 'Disease or Way of Life,'" [198-]  
*Reflections of a Rock Lobster : a story about growing up gay*  
    [Notes for Reflections of a Rock Lobster], n.d.  
    Chapter outline, [1980]  
    "Dream Chapter," n.d.  
    Notes on Chapters, "Interview," n.d.  
    Notes on Court Test, n.d.  
    Notes on Press coverage; Fricke's interview notes; Criticism, 1981  
    Page Proofs, [1981?]  
    "Screenplay / Book," 1980  
    "Used Material for Book," 1993, n.d.

**Series 3: Works (continued)**

- Sudden Strangers: the story of a gay son and his father* (Walter Fricke, coauthor)  
“Shadows of a Reflection,” n.d.  
“Growing Together, or Father Yet Closer,” Drafts, 1981, n.d.  
[Sudden Stranger] Drafts, [1983?]-1984  
Draft Chapters, 1984-1985  
[Sudden Strangers] Outline, 1985  
“Growing Together. Final Chapter Work,” 1985-1986, 1989  
“Growing Together. Understanding the Future,” [1987]  
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Revised drafts, 1988-1989 (7 folders)  
Growing Together. Outlines, 1989  
Growing Together. Preliminary Outline, 1989  
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Typed chapters, [1989] (2 folders)  
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Typed draft, [1989]  
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Excerpts of Walter Fricke’s chapters  
[Growing Together / Sudden Strangers] Final Stuff, [1989]  
Growing Together. 2 computer disks, n.d.  
[Sudden Strangers]. “Re-write St. Martin’s” [1989?]-1990  
[Sudden Strangers]. “Re-write, Final rewrite that Dad Saw...” [1989?]-1990  
[Sudden Strangers]. Typescript, 1990  
Sudden Strangers. Press Release, 1991  
“To Sir, Fuck You,” [1980]  
“Wacky” magazine/newsletter