

The MARVIN LIEBMAN COMING OUT CONSERVATIVE COLLECTION

1964, 1990-1992

Collection Number: GLC 23

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marvin Liebman, born in New York City on 21 July 1923, was a public relations consultant and conservative lobbyist. His firm Marvin Liebman Associates, Inc. (1957-1968) provided organizational, fundraising and public relations expertise to the anti-communist and conservative movements in the U.S. and abroad. Its extensive list of clients includes: the Committee of One Million, Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, the American Emergency Committee for Tibetan Refugees, the American-Asian Educational Exchange, the American African Affairs Association, and the American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters.

From 1969 to 1975, Liebman was Managing Director of Sedgemoor Productions in London. During this period, he produced or co-produced nine West-End productions, an equal number of touring or out-of-town productions, two television films, and three feature films.

In 1975, Liebman returned to the U.S. to organize Marvin Liebman Inc., a firm with the same mission as his earlier Marvin Liebman Associates. Among the notable clients were: the Friends of Free China, the Friends of Jim Buckley, the Committee of Single Taxpayers, the American-Chilean Council, the Ad Hoc Citizens Legal Defense Fund for the FBI, Firing Line, and Covenant House.

With the Reagan victory in 1981, Liebman went to Washington, D.C. He was Consultant to the Office of Policy and Planning for Action from June through October 1981, Consultant to the Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Education from October 1981 to February 1982, and Director of the Office of Public Affairs and Director of Special Projects for the National Endowment of the Arts from February 1982 to July 1987. He served as Director of Special Projects and Acting Director for the Office of Public Affairs at the National Endowment for the Arts.

In July 1990, Liebman came out in a letter published in *The National Review* and in an interview published in *The Advocate*. His autobiography, *Coming Out Conservative* (SFPL Call No.: Govt. Info. 320.1/L622c), was published in 1992. A brief account of Liebman's professional activities follows this finding aid. He died on March 31, 1997.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The *Coming Out Conservative* Collection (1964, 1990-1992) contains correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, and typescript drafts relating to Marvin Liebman's coming out letter to the *National Review* in 1990, and his book *Coming Out Conservative* published in 1992.

The collection is arranged into three series:

- Series I Correspondence: 1990-1992
 (3 folders)
- Series II Works by Liebman: 1990-1992
 (15 folders)
- Series III Clippings and Press Coverage: 1964, 1990-1992

(2 folders)

The Marvin Liebman *Coming Out Conservative* Collection complements the Liebman Papers at the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University. That collection documents Liebman's professional activities from 1953 through 1980.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I a - Correspondence to/from Marvin Liebman: 1990-1992 (1 folder) contains letters to Liebman regarding his coming out letter in 1990 and his book in 1992. This folder is arranged alphabetically by last name, with anonymous letters filed in the front. Most of the letters are supportive. Carol Buckley and Priscilla Buckley send editorial comments on his 1991 draft of *Coming Out Conservative*. Betty Berzon's letter of June 13, 1991 contains her comments on the draft of his book and includes clippings gathered by GLAAD. Liebman's responses to letters from Harry Jaffa and Dr. George Mohun to *The National Review* appear in this series. Glen Abel's letter includes a paper on gay inequality.

Series I b - Correspondence to/from *The National Review*: 1990-1992 (2 folders) contains letters directed to *The National Review* concerning Liebman's letter and William F. Buckley, Jr.'s response. This folder is arranged alphabetically by last name, with anonymous letters filed in the front. The prevailing view is that it was inappropriate for *The National Review* to publish the letter, and that Liebman is a "Sodomite," etc. Some letters applaud Liebman's courage. Of interest are the letters from Harry Jaffa and Dr. George Mohun regarding Liebman and his homosexuality. Liebman's responses are filed in Series I a.

Correspondence between Liebman and William F. Buckley, Jr. was separated from the general correspondence by placing it in its own folder. It includes drafts of Liebman's coming out letter and Buckley's comments. This file also includes Buckley's comments on a draft version of *Coming Out Conservative* in 1991, and his review of the published volume in 1992.

Series II - Works by Liebman: 1990-1992 (15 folders) contains typescript drafts of books and statements by Liebman. These files are arranged alphabetically by title. Most of these are preliminary drafts of the book which was ultimately titled *Coming Out Conservative*. In chronological order, these are: "Autobiography" (June 1990), "History...Excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background" (October 1990), *Coming Out Right* (November 1991), *Coming Out Conservative* (March 1992), and *Coming Out Conservative* (bound, [1992]). A copy of Liebman's 1992 statement for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force press conference appears in this series as well.

Series III - Clippings and Press Coverage: 1964, 1990-1992 (2 folders) contains photocopies of newspaper and magazine clippings arranged chronologically. The primary subjects of these items are Liebman's letter to the *National Review* in 1990 and the publication of his book *Coming Out Conservative* in 1992. Gay rights, conservative politics, and anti-gay propaganda are among the other subjects touched upon in the articles. Also included here is a photocopy of "Marvin in Manialand" written by John Gregory Dunne in 1964.

CONSERVATION NOTE

During processing, the entire collection was re-folded and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Metal fasteners were removed and replaced with plastic clips when necessary. All newspaper clippings were photocopied onto Permalife bond paper; the original clippings were then discarded. Other brittle or torn items were also photocopied, and were retained when considered valuable.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE COLLECTION

An interview with Liebman, which was recorded on videocassette, will be transferred to the Moving Image Department of the S. F. Public Library. The tape is labeled "Marvin Liebman, Spring 1993."

PROVENANCE NOTE

The *Coming Out Conservative* Collection was donated by Marvin Liebman in February, 1993 (Accession #1993/1).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Processed by: Timothy T. Wilson, San Francisco, CA. April, 1996.

Series I a - Correspondence to/from Marvin Liebman

Anonymous, A-V (1990-1992)

Series I b -Correspondence to/from *The National Review*

Anonymous, B-W (1990)

Buckley, W[illiam] F., Jr. (1990-1992)

Series II – Works by Liebman

“Autobiography” (4 folders), 13 June 1990. –See also Ser.II “History...Excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background”

Coming Out Conservative (2 folders), March 1992. “Uncorrected ms.”

Coming Out Conservative, [1992]. “Uncorrected ms.” Bound

“Coming Out Right” (5 folders), 3 Nov. 1991. Also titled “Everywhere but Home”

“Everywhere but Home.” See Ser.II, “Coming Out Right”

“History...excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background,” 15 Oct. 1990. –See also Ser.II, “Autobiography”

“Statement...for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Press Conference,” 17 Aug. 1992

Series III - Newspaper and Magazine Clippings

Press Clippings Folder #1 (1964, 1990)

Press Clippings Folder #2 (1991-1992)