



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Charles Silverstein papers

1957-2019

MssCol 26970

Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Summary

Creator: Silverstein, Charles

Title: Charles Silverstein papers

Date: 1957-2019

Size: 2.92 linear feet (7 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Abstract: Charles Silverstein is an American therapist, gay activist, and writer. This collection consists of paper materials and photographs with special emphasis on the movement to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and Silverstein's books and general academic research and notes.

Preferred citation: Charles Silverstein papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Creator History

Charles Silverstein (born 1935) is an American therapist, gay activist, and writer. Born in New York City, Silverstein received his PhD in Psychology from Rutgers University in 1974. He was a member of the training program in Gestalt Therapy with Laura Perls at the Gestalt Institute of New York (1967-1969) and later participated in the Sex Therapy Training Program under Helen Singer Kaplan, Cornell Medical School (1978-1980). As a member of the American Psychological Association, Silverstein was involved in the movement to have homosexuality declassified as a mental disorder; the subject was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) in 1973. Silverstein is the author of many books on the subjects of homosexuality and psychology, namely *The Joy of Gay Sex* (with Edmund White, 1977), *A Family Matter: A Parents' Guide to Homosexuality* (1977), *Man to Man: Gay Couples in America* (1981), *Gays, Lesbians and Their Therapists: Studies in Psychotherapy* (1991), *The New Joy of Gay Sex* (co-authored with Felice Picano, 1993), *The Initial Psychotherapy Interview: A Gay Man Seeks Treatment* (2011), and his memoir *For the Ferryman: A Personal History* (2011). As an activist, Silverstein was a member of the Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) and founded the Institute for

Human Identity (IHI) in New York City. He is a recipient of the 2011 Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in The Practice of Psychology from the American Psychological Foundation.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of paper materials and photographs related to Silverstein's work as a psychologist and gay rights activist, with special emphasis on the movement to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). The paper materials consist of correspondence (both personal and professional); journal articles (both by Silverstein and others on related topics); newspaper clippings; book publication information (including contracts, edited copies of *The Joy of Gay Sex*, press releases, release forms, royalties statements, censorship information and reviews); illustrations from *The Joy of Gay Sex*; conference/lecture information; research and professional notes; personal documents (mostly related to travel); and an oral history of Silverstein done in 2019. The photographs are both personal and professional. While all of Silverstein's works are represented, *The Joy of Gay Sex/The New Joy of Gay Sex* makes up the bulk of this side of the collection.

Arrangement: Original received order is maintained whenever possible, as are original folder titles. Occasionally, there is some discrepancy between the original folder title and the contents; this is explained in notes at the folder level.

Key Terms

Subjects

AIDS (Disease)
Gay activists
Gay men -- Health
Gay rights -- United States
Homosexuality

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Business correspondence
Personal correspondence
Photographs

Occupations

Psychologists.

Names

Bell, Alan P. (Alan Paul), 1932-2002
Hermance, Ed, 1940-
Hooker, Evelyn Caldwell
Owles, Jim, 1946-1993
Picano, Felice, 1944-
Silverstein, Charles
White, Edmund, 1940-

Container List

Series I: Correspondence 1990-2012 (3 boxes 1.25 linear feet)

- b. 1 f. 1 Personal Papers and Correspondence 1990-2010
- b. 4 f. 4 Personal 2006-2012
- b. 5 f. 1 Sympathy Correspondence 1993-1994
Correspondence pertaining to the death of Silverstein's partner.

Series II: Written Works 1977-2018 (1 oversize folder, 5 boxes 2.09 linear feet)

The Joy of Gay Sex / The New Joy of Gay Sex

- b. 1 f. 6 *Joy Contracts* 1977
- b. 1 f. 7 *The Joy of Gay Sex Draft with Edits, Part One* 1977
- b. 2 f. 1 *The Joy of Gay Sex Draft with Edits, Part Two* 1977
- b. 2 f. 3 Royalties 2001
- b. 2 f. 6 *Joy Pub* 1992-1993
- b. 2 f. 7 *Sketches for The Joy of Gay Sex and Frank Taylor Art* circa 1977
- b. 3 f. 2 *Joy G.S.* 1977-1979, 1992, 2011, 2016
- b. 3 f. 4 *New Joy* 1990-1999
- b. 3 f. 5 *The Joy of Gay Sex Copy with Edits* circa 1977
- b. 3 f. 6 *Joy -- Legal* 1993-1995
- b. 3 f. 7 *Joy -- Correspondence* 1991-1994
- b. 2 f. 2 *Family Matters -- Book Pub* 1977-1979, 1992
- b. 2 f. 5 Interview BK 2011-2012
Press Release for Silverstein's two APA awards with reference to *The Initial Psychotherapy Interview: A Gay Man Seeks Treatment* and papers relating to that book.
- b. 2 f. 8 Book Contracts 1978-2018
- b. 3 f. 1 Books 1977-2008
- b. 3 f. 3 *Ferryman -- Marketing* 2011
- b. 4 f. 1 *Gays, Lesbians ... Thoughts* 1989-1992
- b. 4 f. 2 *A Family Matter* 1977
- b. 4 f. 3 *Man to Man* 1977-1988, 1980-1981
- b. 7 f. 8 Book Chapter -- "Psychological and Medical Treatments of Homosexuality" 1991
- o. 1 Book Jacket 1999

Series III: Professional Documents 1962-2017 (7 boxes 2.92 linear feet)

Journal Articles/Research

- b. 1 f. 3 Old Papers 1972-1980
Correspondence with Alan Bell, journal articles, articles by Silverstein pertaining to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM).
- b. 1 f. 4 Professional Papers, Research, Correspondence 1972, 1977, 1990-2009
- b. 1 f. 5 Gay Stuff 1973-1993
- b. 6 f. 5 Journal Articles 1962, 1978, 1984-2011
- b. 6 f. 6 Journal Articles 1969-1988
- b. 6 f. 7 Journal Articles, Talk Invitation 1990-1999
- b. 7 f. 1 Journal Articles, Research 2002-2008

Series III: Professional Documents (cont.)
Journal Articles/Research (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 2 Research on Bullying/IHI Correspondence 2001-2013
Conferences/Lectures/Workshops
- b. 2 f. 4 Presentations 2002-2017
- b. 3 f. 8 *Time Out Beijing* 2012
- b. 4 f. 6 Papers/Presentations 1972-2014
- b. 5 f. 4 Workshops and Speeches 1972-1994
- b. 5 f. 5 NYU Training 1986-1994
- b. 5 f. 6 Miami 1994
- b. 7 f. 7 Beth Israel 1994-1995
- b. 4 f. 5 Nomenclature 1972-2009, 1972-1975
- b. 7 f. 3 IHI Personnel Committee Majority Report 1975

Series IV: Interviews 2008-2019 (1 box 0.42 linear feet)

- b. 7 f. 4 Patient Interview/Transcript 2008
- b. 7 f. 5 Silverstein Oral History 2019

Series V: Personal Documents 1986-2016 (3 boxes 1.25 linear feet)

- b. 1 f. 2 Funeral Flyers 1986-2016
- b. 6 f. 1 Vietnam 1997
- b. 6 f. 2 Trip to Vietnam 1997
- b. 6 f. 3 Vietnam 1996-1997
- b. 6 f. 4 China 2011-2012
- b. 7 f. 6 Mortgage 1994-2011

Series VI: Photographs 1957-2008 (2 boxes 0.83 linear feet)

- b. 5 f. 2 Fraternity Photography 1957
- b. 5 f. 3 Photos 1979-2008
- b. 7 f. 9 Photographs 1980, 2005, circa 1980s-2000s
- b. 7 f. 10 Publicity Tour 1977
Pages taken from a photo album. Photographs and itinerary for *A Family Matter*.