

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Jim Mason

Papers Relating to *Animal Factories*, 1975 – 2000

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Summary

Main Entry:	Mason, Jim
Title:	Papers Relating to Animal Factories, 1975 – 2000
Size:	1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)
Source:	Gift of Jim Mason, October 2000
Abstract:	Collection consists of Jim Mason's papers relating to <i>Animal Factories</i> , an expose of the factory farming industry he co-authored with Peter Singer. Papers include correspondence and related materials; royalty agreements and statements; photographs documentation; book proposal with photographs; manuscript; uncorrected proof; publicity materials; lecture notes; hardcover edition with author's annotations; Japanese edition; and clippings.
Special formats:	Photographs

Related Materials Note

Photographic materials from *Animal Factories*, including negatives, contact sheets, prints and slides, can be found in the New York Public Library's Photography Collection. These materials include photographs taken by Jim Mason and Joseph Keller, the freelance photographer Mason engaged to help him with the book. Prints supplied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture may also be found with author's photographs. Among the materials in the Photography Collection are many photographs taken by Mason and Keller which ultimately did not appear in *Animal Factories*.

Biographical Note

James Bryan Mason was born in Superior, Wisconsin on September 30, 1940. At the age of one, he and his family moved to Missouri where they took up farming on land near his mother's hometown. Living in rural Missouri, Mason grew up around the traditional farming techniques soon to be overtaken by the intensive farming practices he would write about in *Animal Factories*. Eventually, Mason's family gave up farming. His father became an inspector for a local milk processing plant and his mother became a teacher in the local public school system. When Mason finished high school, his parents moved to Florida.

Mason started college at the University of Washington in St. Louis. He spent two years there in the pre-med track before transferring to the University of Florida to complete his third year. Dissatisfied with his studies, Mason dropped out of college and spent the next two years traveling in New York and New England before being drafted into the U.S. Army. When he completed his military service, Mason returned to college at the University of Missouri where he finished his undergraduate degree and went on to earn his law degree. In 1969, Mason moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut to take a job as a staff attorney with a legal services project. He started his own law practice in Bridgeport in 1973, while devoting some of his free time to social and environmental activism.

In 1974, Friends of Animals President Alice Herrington introduced Mason to Peter Singer, then a visiting professor of philosophy at New York University. At the time, Singer was working on *Animal Liberation*, a book that was shortly to become a seminal work in the animal rights movement. Mason helped arrange for Singer to visit factory farming facilities in New York and Connecticut. Although Singer touched upon factory farming in *Animal Liberation*, both Mason and Singer thought the subject merited further exploration.

By 1975, when Mason and Singer began seriously discussing the possibility of collaborating on a book-length treatment of factory farming, Singer had returned to his native Australia to take a teaching position at La Trobe University in Victoria. Because of the constraints imposed by distance, Singer agreed to advise Mason on the organization and content of the book, while Mason agreed to do the bulk of the research. With little journalism or writing experience, Mason was eager to have the input of an established author in the field. Singer was willing to offer editorial advice, but refused any share of the profits from the sale of the book.

Mason began his research on factory farming by versing himself in the professional literature of agribusiness. He subscribed to farming magazines and requested information from agricultural schools and government agencies. To complement this course of study, Mason traveled around the U.S. and Canada visiting intensive farming facilities and agricultural research centers. Such extensive field work afforded Mason and Joseph Keller, the freelance photographer who traveled with him on some occasions, the opportunity to photograph the practices of the factory farming industry in action.

Published in *Animal Factories*, these photographs would provide the most hard-hitting evidence of factory farming's impact on animal welfare, human health and the rural way of life.

After much correspondence with Peter Singer, Mason finally settled upon a desired organization and format for his research. He assembled a proposal and manuscript that emphasized the photographic content of the book. Through his agent, Jennifer Gerard Maric, Mason and his collaborators secured a contract with Crown Publishers. *Animal Factories* was first published in 1980 and was reissued as a revised edition in 1990.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of Jim Mason's papers relating to *Animal Factories*, a book he co-authored with the bioethicist Peter Singer. First published by Crown in 1980, *Animal Factories* provides a critical overview and photographic documentation of factory farming practices in North America. Materials in the collection span the period of 1975 – 2000 and include the following types of documentation: correspondence with Mason's collaborators, agents, publisher and others; royalty agreements and statements; documentation relating to the photographs that appear in the book; the book's proposal, manuscript and uncorrected proof; publicity materials for the book's promotion; Mason's lecture notes for presentations on factory farming; a copy of the book with annotations by Mason identifying the photographs; a Japanese edition of the book; reviews of the book; and articles on the subject of factory farming.

Arrangement Note

The collection is arranged in 6 series:
Correspondence and Related Materials, 1975 - 2000
Royalty Agreement and Statements, 1978 - 1999
Photographs Documentation
Publication Materials, 1978 - 1991
Lecture Notes, 1978 - 1991
Published Materials, 1976 - 1999

Container List

Series I. Correspondence and Related Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Correspondence with Peter Singer (1975 – 1982; 1995)
1	2	Correspondence with Joseph Keller (1982 – 1998)
1	3	Correspondence with literary agents and potential publishers (1976 – 1993)
2	1	Correspondence with Crown Publishers (1979 – 1983)
2	2	Correspondence with Crown Publishers (1984 – 2000)
2	3	Correspondence with blurb writers, prospective (1980 – 1990)

Series II. Royalty Agreement & Statements

2	4	Author Agreement (1978)
2	5	Royalty Statements from Crown (1980 – 1999)

Series III. Photographs Documentation

2	6	Permissions for photographs used in <i>Animal Factories</i>
2	7	Permissions for photographs owned by Mason, used in other publications (1988 – 1993)
2	8	Photocopies of photographs

Series IV. Publication Materials

3	1	Proposal (May 1978)
3	2	Manuscript (April 1979)
3	3	Uncorrected proof
3	4	Publicity (1979 – 1991)

Series V. Lecture Notes

3	5	Presentations on factory farming (1978 – 1988)
3	6	Presentations on factory farming (1988 – 1991)

Series VI. Published Materials

4	1	Hardcover U.S. edition annotated as photo key
4	2	Paperback Japanese edition
4	3	Reviews (1980 – 1991)
4	4	Articles (1976 – 1999)