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## Raymond Mungo Papers

1966-2008  
6 boxes (3 linear ft.)  
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Read collection overview

Born in a "howling blizzard" in February 1946, Raymond Mungo became one of the most evocative writers of the 1960s counterculture. Through more than fifteen books and hundreds of articles, Mungo has brought a wry sense of humor and radical sensibility to explorations of the minds and experiences of the generation that came of age against a backdrop of the struggles for civil rights and economic justice, of student revolts, Black Power, resistance to war, and experimentation in communal living.

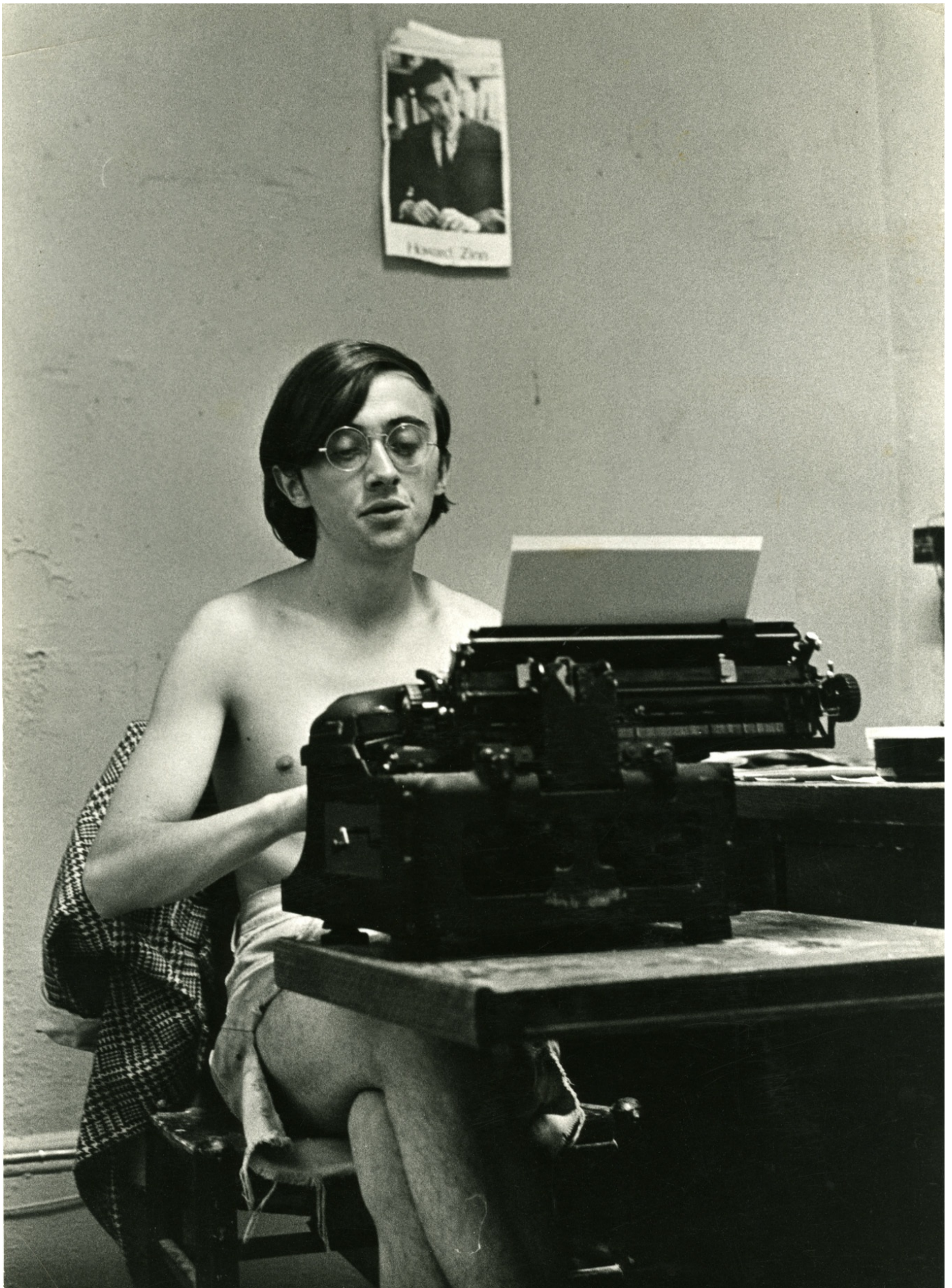
Consisting of the original typescripts and manuscripts of ten of Raymond Mungo's books, along with corrected and uncorrected galleys and a small number of letters from publishers. Among the other materials in the collection are thirteen photographs of Mungo taken by Clif Garboden and Peter Simon during and immediately after his undergraduate years at Boston University; a DVD containing motion pictures of life at Packer Corners in 1969 and 1977; and an irate letter from a writer regarding the status of poems he had submitted to Liberation News Service.

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## Background on Raymond Mungo





Raymond Mungo, 1967

Born in a "howling blizzard" in February 1946, Raymond Mungo became one of the most evocative writers of the 1960s counterculture. Through more than fifteen books and hundreds of articles, Mungo has brought a wry sense of humor and radical sensibility to explorations of the minds and experiences of the generation that came of age against a backdrop of the struggles for civil rights and economic justice, of student revolts, Black Power, resistance to war, and experimentation in communal living.

Raised in a working class family in Lawrence, Mass., and a product of Roman Catholic schools, Mungo emerged as a fully-fledged radical as an undergraduate at Boston University. From the time of his arrival in 1963, he was drawn headlong into the cultural and political ferment, seemingly a step ahead of his peers. A "violent Marxist" as a freshman, and a "friend of the working class," as he later wrote, he was introduced to drugs as a sophomore, and as a junior, he became a leader in the antiwar movement,

working with East Coast Resistance to drive the ROTC from campus and traveling nationally to urge resistance to war.

It was as a writer, as much as an activist, that Mungo gained wide renown. As editor in chief of the Boston University News during his senior year, he became a constant irritant to the university administration, feeding the newspaper on a steady radical diet, and newspapers and writing soon took an even more prominent role in his life. Although initially intending to continue his studies at Harvard, thanks to a substantial fellowship, Mungo's connections with another young journalist and agitator, Marshall Bloom, led him down another path.

During the summer of 1967, Bloom was slated to become Executive Director of the U.S. Student Press Association, but after denouncing its parent organization, the National Student Association, for accepting funds from the CIA, he was voted down. In response, and "because we had nothing else to do," Bloom, Verandah Porche, and Mungo formed the Resistance Press Service, soon renamed the Liberation News Service (LNS), as a radical alternative to the Associated Press. Seeking to create links among anti-establishment presses and provide reliable news for the Movement, the LNS issued semi-weekly packets of hard news and opinion pieces, poetry, photographs, and artwork, covering liberation struggles at home and abroad and a variety of other events that were typically overlooked or distorted by the "straight" media. They were an instant success. From their offices in Washington, D.C., the LNS soon had over 800 subscribers, including many in the underground and college press.

When the LNS relocated to New York during the early summer of 1968, however, the simmering (though sometimes overstated) tensions between "politics" and "culture" in the organization came to a head, and by the end of the summer, Mungo wrote, "our glorious scheme of joining together the campus editors, the Communists, the Trots, the hippies, the astrology freaks, the pacifists, the SDS kids, the black militants, the Mexican-American liberation fighters, and all their respective journals was reduced to ashes" By August, the "Virtuous Caucus" led by Bloom and Mungo had split from the "vulgar Marxists" in New York and headed to communal lives in rural New England.

Worn out by the rancor and divisions, Mungo, Porche, and eight others traveled north to found a commune on 90 acres at Packer Corners, near Guilford, Vermont. In mid-August 1968, Bloom followed his associates northward, taking funds raised from a screening of the Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour to buy a farm in nearby Montague, Massachusetts, lugging the LNS printing press with him, and for over a year, the LNS factions in Montague and New York both produced news packets. The farms at Montague and Packer Corners -- Total Loss Farm -- were tightly connected from the outset, socially and politically, and both became centers for a remarkable number of writers and poets, artists and activists.

Within a year of arriving at Packer Corners, Mungo wrote two important memoirs about his experiences. Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times with Liberation News Service (1970) was "a revealing parable of the split in the psyche of the new left between the fun-loving, fiercely individualistic life-stylers and the ideology-bound collectivists, and all that" according a review in the Village Voice. Appearing only a few months later, and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, Total Loss Farm, which offered a year in the life look at the commune. Both were acclaimed and highly popular, and both have remained in print for decades.

Following the success of his first two books, Mungo left Total Loss Farm and by early 1970, he settled in California to continue writing, spending several years in San Francisco and Carmel before moving to Los Angeles. In a single year in Carmel, 1972, he completed the only screenplay of his career, Between Two Moons, a Technicolor Travelogue as well as his only novel, Tropical Detective Story: The Flower Children Meet the Voodoo Chiefs. His later books, mostly non-fiction, have covered a wide terrain, though all remain true to the essential countercultural values acquired in the 1960s. Among his books are San Francisco Confidential: tales of scandal and excess from the town that's seen everything (1995) and Palm Springs Babylon (1993), a satirical look at the corrupt lives of the film set; Cosmic Profit: How to Make Money Without Doing Time (1980) and No Credit Required (2004), a primer on "how to buy a house when you don't qualify for a mortgage"; Confessions from Left Field: A Baseball Pilgrimage (1983); and three books on becoming a writer. Mungo has also written two memoirs, Return to sender : or, When the fish in the water was thirsty (1975) and Beyond the Revolution: My Life and Times Since Famous Long Ago. In his own words, his literary output has sometimes been more successful, sometimes less, but he has "managed nonetheless a 30 year career in which he never held a 'real' job."

In 1997, Mungo completed a master's degree in counseling and became a social worker in Los Angeles, tending principally to AIDS patients and the severely mentally ill. He and his husband, Robert Yamaguchi, still live.

## Scope of collection

Consisting of the original typescripts and manuscripts of ten of Raymond Mungo's books, along with corrected and uncorrected galleys and a small number of letters from publishers. Among the other materials in the collection are thirteen photographs of Mungo taken by Clif Garboden and Peter Simon during and immediately after his undergraduate years at Boston University; a DVD containing motion pictures of life at Packer Corners in 1969 and 1977; and an irate letter from a writer regarding the status of poems he had submitted to Liberation News Service.

## Inventory

Series 1. Manuscripts

1970-1993

Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times With Liberation News Service

1970

7 folders

Box 1

Famous Long Ago (manuscript), p.1-50

1970

Box 1: 1

Famous Long Ago (manuscript), p.51-100

1970

Box 1: 2

Famous Long Ago (manuscript), p.101-150

1970

Box 1: 3

Famous Long Ago (manuscript), p.151-200

1970

Box 1: 4

Famous Long Ago (manuscript), p.100-215

1970

Box 1: 5

Famous Long Ago (galley proofs)

1970

Box 1: 6

Famous Long Ago (page proofs)

1970

Box 1: 7

Total Loss Farm: A Year in the Life

1970

6 folders

Box 1

Total Loss Farm (manuscript), p.1-50

1970

Box 1: 8

Total Loss Farm (manuscript), p.51-100

1970

Box 1: 9

Total Loss Farm (manuscript), p.101-150

1970

Box 1: 10

Total Loss Farm (manuscript), p.151-173

1970

Box 1: 11

Total Loss Farm (galley proofs)

1970 July 14-20

Box 1: 12

Total Loss Farm (galley proofs)

1970 Aug. 11

Box 1: 13

Between Two Moons: A Technicolor Travelogue

1972

13 folders

Box 2

Between Two Moons (manuscript draft), part 1

1972

Box 2: 1

Between Two Moons (manuscript draft), part 2  
1972  
Box 2: 2  
Between Two Moons (typescript draft)  
1972  
Box 2: 3  
Between Two Moons (setting copy), p.1-50  
1972  
Box 2: 4  
Between Two Moons (setting copy), p.51-100  
1972  
Box 2: 5  
Between Two Moons (setting copy), p.101-144  
1972  
Box 2: 6  
Between Two Moons (master proofs), scenes 1-16  
1972  
Box 2: 7  
Between Two Moons (master proofs), scenes 17-end  
1972  
Box 2: 8  
Between Two Moons (author's proofs), scenes 1-7  
1972  
Box 2: 9  
Between Two Moons (author's proofs), scenes 8-end  
1972  
Box 2: 10  
Between Two Moons (production set), scenes 1-7  
1972  
Box 2: 11  
Between Two Moons (production set), scenes 8-13  
1972  
Box 2: 12  
Between Two Moons (production set), scenes 14-end  
1972  
Box 2: 13  
Green Mountain Post, no. 4  
1972 Summer  
Box 3: 1  
Tropical Detective Story: The Flower Children Meet the Voodoo Chiefs  
1972  
8 folders  
Box 3: 2  
Tropical Detective Story (proposal and outline)  
1972  
Box 3: 2  
Tropical Detective Story (manuscript), p. 1-50  
1972  
Box 3: 3  
Tropical Detective Story (manuscript), p. 51-100  
1972  
Box 3: 4  
Tropical Detective Story (manuscript), p. 101-150  
1972  
Box 3: 5  
Tropical Detective Story (manuscript), p. 151-200  
1972  
Box 3: 6  
Tropical Detective Story (manuscript), p. 200-241  
1972  
Box 3: 7  
Tropical Detective Story (galley proofs), start-Book 1  
1972  
Box 3: 8  
Tropical Detective Story (galley proofs), Book 2-end  
1972  
Box 3: 9  
When the Fish in the Water Was Thirsty  
1975  
4 folders  
Box 3  
When the Fish in the Water Was Thirsty (manuscript), Chapters 1-6  
1975  
Box 3: 10  
When the Fish in the Water Was Thirsty (manuscript), Chapters 7-11  
1975  
Box 3: 11  
When the Fish in the Water Was Thirsty (manuscript), Chapters 12-end  
1975  
Box 3: 12  
When the Fish in the Water Was Thirsty (correspondence)  
1975 June 15  
Box 3: 13  
Cosmic Profit: How to Make Money Without Doing Time  
1980  
9 folders  
Box 3-4  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript), p.1-50  
1980  
Box 3: 14  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript), p.51-100  
1980  
Box 3: 15  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript), p.101-150  
1980  
Box 3: 16  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript), p.151-180  
1980  
Box 3: 17  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript copy), p.1-50  
1980  
Box 4: 1  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript copy), p.51-100  
1980  
Box 4: 2  
Cosmic Profit (manuscript copy), p.101-150  
1980  
Box 4: 3

Cosmic Profit (manuscript copy), p.151-180  
1980  
Box 4: 4  
Cosmic Profit (correspondence)  
1981 July 21  
Box 4: 5  
A Fan's Dream: Confessions From Left Field  
1982  
8 folders  
Box 4  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.1-50  
1982  
Box 4: 6  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.51-100  
1982  
Box 4: 7  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.101-150  
1982  
Box 4: 8  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.151-172  
1982  
Box 4: 9  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.1-50  
1982  
Box 4: 10  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.51-100  
1982  
Box 4: 11  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.101-150  
1982  
Box 4: 12  
A Fan's Dream (manuscript), p.151-172  
1982  
Box 4: 13  
Confessions from Left Field: A Baseball Pilgrimage  
1982  
8 folders  
Box 4-5  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript), p.1-50  
1982  
Box 4: 14  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript), p.51-100  
1982  
Box 4: 15  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript), p.101-150  
1982  
Box 4: 16  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript), p.151-185  
1982  
Box 4: 17  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript, edited), p.1-50  
1982  
Box 5: 1  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript, edited), p.51-100  
1982  
Box 5: 2  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript, edited), p.101-150  
1982  
Box 5: 3  
Confessions from Left Field (manuscript, edited), p.151-172  
1982  
Box 5: 4  
How Many Roads: My Life and Times Since Famous Long Ago  
1990  
12 folders  
Box 5  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.1-50  
1990  
Box 5: 5  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 5: 6  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.101-150  
1990  
Box 5: 7  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.151-200  
1990  
Box 5: 8  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.201-250  
1990  
Box 5: 9  
How Many Roads (manuscript), p.251-300  
1990  
Box 5: 10  
How Many Roads (galley proofs), p.1-50  
1990  
Box 5: 11  
How Many Roads (galley proofs), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 5: 12  
How Many Roads (galley proofs), p.101-148  
1990  
Box 5: 13  
How Many Roads (author's galley), p.1-50  
1990  
Box 5: 14  
How Many Roads (author's galley), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 5: 15  
How Many Roads (author's galley), p.101-148  
1990  
Box 5: 16  
Beyond the Revolution: My Life and Times Since Famous Long Ago  
1990  
9 folders  
Box 5-6  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.1-50  
1990

Box 5: 17  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 6: 1  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.101-121  
1990  
Box 6: 2  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.1-50  
1990  
Box 6: 3  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 6: 4  
Beyond the Revolution (galley proofs), p.101-121  
1990  
Box 6: 5  
Beyond the Revolution (revised galley proofs), p.1-50  
1990  
Box 6: 6  
Beyond the Revolution (revised galley proofs), p.51-100  
1990  
Box 6: 7  
Beyond the Revolution (revised galley proofs), p.101-121  
1990  
Box 6: 8  
No Credit Required: How to Buy a House Without a Job  
1992  
4 folders  
Box 6  
No Credit Required (manuscript), p.1-50  
1992  
Box 6: 9  
No Credit Required (manuscript), p.51-100  
1992  
Box 6: 10  
No Credit Required (manuscript), p.101-150  
1992  
Box 6: 22  
No Credit Required (manuscript), p.151-218  
1992  
Box 6: 12  
Palm Springs Babylon: Sizzling Stories from the Desert Playground of the Stars  
1993  
3 folders  
Box 6  
Palm Springs Babylon (manuscript), p.1-50  
1993  
Box 6: 13  
Palm Springs Babylon (manuscript), p.51-100  
1993  
Box 6: 14  
Palm Springs Babylon (manuscript), p.101-145  
1993  
Box 6: 15  
Reviews  
1970-1990  
7 folders

Materials transferred from UMass Press.

News clippings  
1971-1976  
Box 6: 16

Articles on Mungo; reviews by Mungo.

Reviews: Cosmic Profit  
1980  
Box 6: 17  
Reviews: Famous Long Ago  
1970-1990  
Box 6: 18  
Reviews: Miscellaneous (includes two reviews by Mungo)  
1983-1990  
Box 6: 19  
Reviews: Return to Sender  
1975  
Box 6: 20

Includes some correspondence from readers.

Reviews: Total Loss Farm  
1971  
Box 6: 21  
Series 2. Correspondence and graphic materials  
1966-2008  
Ben-Ami, M. E. letter to Raymond Mungo  
ca.1969  
Box 6: 22

Regarding his poetry submitted for publication to Liberation News Service.

McLean, Evelyn and Don: A Year in Packer Corners and Other Short Films from Long Ago  
2008  
Box 6: 23

Films from 1969-1977. "First time on DVD in celebration of the 40th reunion of Packer Corners Farm, Guilford Vermont, 2008."

Photographs: Boston University  
1966-1967  
8 items  
Simon, Peter (photographer): Boston University News staff. L to r., Joe Pilati, David Chandler, Steve Sluiter, Ed Siegel, Ray Mungo  
ca.1966-1967  
Box 6: 24





Garboden, Clif (photographer): Boston University News staff. Clockwise from left: Steve Davis, Joe Pilati, Clif Garboden, Ray Mungo, Peter Simon. Photo taken (with Peter Simon's camera) by a runaway kid staying at the LNS house in Washington, D.C. The staff were mugging for the camera as "angry young men," echoing how some pundit had recently described Mungo.  
ca.1968 January  
Box 6: 24



Ray Mungo at his typewriter (probably at his apartment or the LNS office in D.C.). Photo of Howard Zinn on wall  
1967  
Box 6: 24



Garboden, Clif (photographer): Ray Mungo, Liberation News Service Office, Thomas Circle (14th and M), Washington, D.C.  
1968 Jan.  
Digital



Garboden, Clif (photographer): Ray Mungo and Peter Simon, Liberation News Service Office, Thomas Circle (14th and M), Washington, D.C.  
1968 Jan.  
Digital



Garboden, Clif (photographer): Author Richard Schweid at Boston University News office  
1967  
Box 6: 24



Garboden, Clif (photographer): Verandah Porche (back row, 3rd from left) with Richard Schweid (far left) and Richard Wizansky (far right in row): Bay State Poets for Peace (taken on the porch of the Liberation News Service house in Washington, D.C., on the morning of the 1968 march on the Pentagon). Photo by Clif Garboden  
1968  
Box 6: 24



Ray Mungo at peace rally, Boston University  
1967  
Box 6: 24



Garboden, Clif (photographer): Ray Mungo speaking at Boston University peace rally  
1967  
Box 6: 24



Ray Mungo speaks at antiwar rally, Boston University  
1967  
Box 6: 24



Photographs: Liberation News Service and Packer Corners  
1967-1969  
4 items  
Simon, Peter (photographer): Ray Mungo on LNS road trip, somewhere in Nebraska  
1967  
Box 6: 25



Verandah Porche and Ray Mungo in Berkeley, CA, on LNS road trip  
1968  
Box 6: 25





Ray Mungo, Verandah Porche in background, outside the LNS farmhouse, Montague, MA  
ca.1968-1969  
Box 6: 25



Bareass Ray Mungo diving into the beaver pond at Total Loss Farm, Guilford, VT  
1969  
Box 6: 25



## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Originally placed on deposit at the Howard Gottlieb Research Center at Boston University, the Mungo Papers were transferred to SCUA in March 2010, with additional materials added by Mungo.

Clif Garboden provided digital copies of two photographs of Mungo at the LNS offices in Washington, D.C., January 1968. He retains copyright for these and all other photographs taken by him.

### Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, May-June 2010.

### Related Material

For related materials, see other collections in the Famous Long Ago Archive, including:

- Susan Dalsimer Papers (MS 578)
- Liberation News Service Records (MS 546)

### Separated Material

- Between Two Moons: a Technicolor Travelogue. Boston: Beacon Press, 1972.

Call no.: PS3563.U47 B48 1972

- Confessions from Left Field: A Baseball Pilgrimage. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1983.

Call no.:

- Cosmic Profit: How to Make Money Without Doing Time. Boston: Little Brown, 1980.

Call no.: HD2346.U5 M86 1980

- Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times in Liberation News Service Boston: Beacon Press, 1970. 2 copies: SCUA copy 2: Signed "for Sydney Omarr, with thanks! Raymond Mungo L.A. '82" with typed letter from Mungo to Omarr dated 29 April 1982 laid in.

Call no.: CT275.M755 A3 1970

- Home Comfort: Stories and Scenes of Life on Total Loss Farm, by Hugh Beame et al. New York: Saturday Review Press, 1973.

Call no.: E169.12 .H64 1973

- LitBiz 101: How to Get Happily, Successfully Published. New York: Dell, 1988.

Call no.:

- Moving On, Holding Still, photography by Peter Simon, text by Raymond Mungo. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1972.

Call no.:

- Mungobus: Three Complete Works in One Volume. New York: Avon Books, 1979.

Call no.:

- Return to Sender: Or, When the Fish in the Water Was Thrifty. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975. Two copies: one inscribed on front flyleaf, "For Charlie Nutter - / With Love, / Ray Mungo."

Call no.: DS10 .M78 1975

- Total Loss Farm: A Year in the Life New York: Dutton, 1970. 2 copies.

Call no.: E169.12 .M84 1970

- Tropical Detective Story: The Flower Children Meet the Voodoo Chiefs New York: Dutton, 1972. SCUA copy signed by author; E.P. Dutton review copy slip laid in.

Call no.: PS3563.U47 T7

## Language:

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

- Communal living--Massachusetts.
- Communal living--Vermont.
- Liberation News Service.
- Montague Farm (Mass.).
- Nineteen Sixties.
- Packer Corners (Vt.).
- Porche, Verandah.

### Contributors

- Mungo, Raymond, 1946- . [main entry]
- Garboden, Clif.
- Simon, Peter, 1947- .

### Genres and formats

- Manuscripts (document genre).
- Memoirs.
- Novels.
- Photographs.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

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