



Byways: A Memoir

James Laughlin

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The long-awaited memoirs of New Directions' founder.

James Laughlin, the late founder and publisher of New Directions, was also a poet of elegance and distinction. At his death in 1997 at the age of eighty-three, he left unfinished his long autobiographical poem, *Byways*. It is no exaggeration to say that his publishing house, which he began in 1936 while still an undergraduate at Harvard, changed the way Americans read and write serious literature. Yet the man who published some of the greatest writers of the twentieth century remained resistant for most of his life to the memoiristic impulse. In the end he found his autobiographical voice by adopting the swift-moving line of Kenneth Rexroth's booklength philosophical poem, *The Dragon and the Unicorn* (1952).

Byways weaves together family history (the Laughlins were wealthy Pittsburgh steel magnates), the poet's early memories and travels in Europe and America with his playboy father, his years at Harvard, first meetings with Pound, the beginning of his publishing venture, his reminiscences of close friendships with writers including W.C. Williams, Thomas Merton, and Kenneth Rexroth, his postwar work in Europe and Asia with the Ford Foundation as publisher of its international literary magazine, *Perspectives*, and not least, his many early loves.

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Ann Bland:

Typically the book Byways: A Memoir has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was written by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

Nicholas Williams:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top list in your reading list will be Byways: A Memoir. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

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