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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 654

CREATOR: Laughlin, James, 1914-1997

TITLE: James Laughlin papers

DATES: 1939–1994

BULK DATES: 1976–1994

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.64 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The James Laughlin Papers contain writings by Laughlin and others, an award acceptance speech by Laughlin, papers and audiocassettes relating to “New Directions at 50,” the 50th Anniversary of New Directions exhibition at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, and various material removed from printed volumes.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.laughlin

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.laughlin.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box  
   item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition


1988-2005, printed volumes were accessioned in Printed Acquisitions. 2008, material was accessioned in Manuscript Unit.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Box 5 (audiocassettes): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use
The James Laughlin Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
James Laughlin Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition. Further organization, rehousing, and description were carried out in 2012.

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat ZA MS 106, Uncat ZA MS 489, Uncat MSS 1017, and Uncat ZA File 152. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, according to month and year of acquisition.

“So Much Depends,” typescript poem (photocopy) by James Laughlin was identified as missing from the papers during 2012 processing.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during basic processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Associated Materials
Printed material received with the collection was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching Orbis (Yale’s Online Catalog).

James Laughlin (1914-1997)
James Laughlin, American poet and literary book publisher who founded New Directions Publishing.
Scope and Contents
The James Laughlin Papers contain writings by Laughlin and others, an award acceptance speech by Laughlin, papers and audiocassettes relating to “New Directions at 50,” the 50th Anniversary of New Directions exhibition at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, and various material removed from printed volumes.

Arrangement
# Collection Contents

## 1. June 1986 Acquisition

0.22 linear feet (2 boxes)

Formerly Uncat ZA MS 489

Box 5 (audiocassettes): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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"New Directions at 50." 50th Anniversary of New Directions exhibition at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, prepared by John Harrison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>b. 1</strong> Photograph of Laughlin and unidentified individuals; and corresponding contact sheet for photographs of Laughlin with various unidentified individuals</td>
<td>1986 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b. 1</strong> Yale Weekly Bulletin and Calendar, printed version</td>
<td>1986 June 9-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b. 5, 39002109972167</strong> Lecture by James Laughlin, welcome by David Schoonover, introduction by Penelope Lawrens (1 of 2) 1 Audiocassette duration: 00:47:29 Static and a high amount of hiss can be heard on the tape. Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
<td>1986 June 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b. 5, 39002109972175</strong> Lecture by James Laughlin, welcome by David Schoonover, introduction by Penelope Lawrens (2 of 2) 1 Audiocassette duration: 00:10:05 Static and a high amount of hiss can be heard on the tape. Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
<td>1986 June 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2. June 1986 Acquisition

Formerly Uncat ZA File 152

| b. 1 | Connecticut Commission on the Arts award acceptance speech, typescript photocopy; and “Some Voices from Canto 74” typescript photocopy | 1986 May 31, undated |
### 3. May 1989 Acquisition

2 linear feet (2 boxes)
Formerly Uncat ZA MS 106

Contains various drafts of writings by Laughlin and others, including typescripts, original and photocopy, galley proofs, and notes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 2</th>
<th>American Theatre Society memo</th>
<th>1977 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>Washington Summer theater correspondence, ads, clippings, and other papers</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>Carpenter, Humphrey. <em>A Serious Character: The Life of Ezra Pound</em>, typescript draft, photocopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>10 folders</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes note, “First draft of Carpenter’s biography of Pound sent to Laughlin for vetting. Craig Raine, editor at Faber and Faber, made him rewrite a lot of it, which it needed.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>undated</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laughlin, James. <em>Pound as Wuz: Essays and Lectures on Ezra Pound</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>Galleys, photocopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>2 folders</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>circa 1987</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>Various typescript drafts, notes and photocopy galleys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>10 folders</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>circa 1987</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Various typescript drafts, notes and photocopy galleys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>20 folders</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>circa 1987</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Levertov, Denise. <em>Door in the Hive</em>, typescript draft, photocopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>undated</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Stough, Christina C. “The Literary Relationship of T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound after ‘The Waste Land’”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1980 June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Williams, William Carlos. “Detail and Parody for the Poem ‘Paterson’,” typescript draft, photocopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Witemeyer, Hugh. <em>William Carlos Williams and James Laughlin: Selected Letters</em>, typescript draft, corrected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>2 folders</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1989</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **1988-2005 Acquisitions**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Formerly Uncat MSS 1017. Accessioned by Manuscript Unit in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 4</th>
<th>Material removed from printed volumes in various accessions and transferred from Printed Acquisitions to Manuscript Unit.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes writings by Denise Levertov, Kenneth Rexroth, Gustaf Sobin, and Tennessee Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1949-1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Editors -- United States
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Publishers and publishing -- United States
Publishers and publishing -- United States -- Exhibitions

Genres / Formats
Audiovisual materials
Sound recordings

Occupations
Authors -- 20th Century
Editors -- 20th Century
Poets -- 20th Century

Names
Laughlin, James, 1914-1997

Corporate Bodies
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
New Directions Publishing