

# Guide to the James Laughlin Papers

YCAL MSS 654



by Molly Wheeler

November 2012

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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>

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## 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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
■■■■    item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of James Laughlin, 1986-2005.

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.

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## 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.

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## 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.

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## Associated Materials

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

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## 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.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into four groupings: I. June 1986 Acquisition, 1986 June. II. June 1986 Acquisition, 1986. III. May 1989 Acquisition, 1976-1989. IV. 1988-2005 Acquisitions, 1949-1996.

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## Collection Contents

### 1: June 1986 Acquisition, 1986 June

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.

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

b. 1	Photograph of Laughlin and unidentified individuals; and corresponding contact sheet for photographs of Laughlin with various unidentified individuals	1986 June
b. 1	<i>Yale Weekly Bulletin and Calendar</i> , printed version	1986 June 9-16
b. 5, ■■■■ 39002109972167	Lecture by James Laughlin, welcome by David Schoonover, introduction by Penelope Lawrens (1 of 2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:47:29 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> 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.	1986 June 12
b. 5, ■■■■ 39002109972175	Lecture by James Laughlin, welcome by David Schoonover, introduction by Penelope Lawrens (2 of 2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:10:05 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> 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.	1986 June 12

## **2: June 1986 Acquisition, 1986, undated**

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
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**3: May 1989 Acquisition, 1976-1989, undated***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.

b. 2	American Theatre Society memo	1977 April
b. 2	Washington Summer theater correspondence, ads, clippings, and other papers	1976
b. 2	Carpenter, Humphrey. <i>A Serious Character: The Life of Ezra Pound</i> , typescript draft, photocopy <i>10 Folders</i> 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."	circa 1988
b. 2	Laughlin, James. <i>The Bird of Endless Time: Poems by James Laughlin</i> , galleys, photocopy	undated
	Laughlin, James. <i>Pound as Wuz: Essays and Lectures on Ezra Pound</i>	
b. 2	Galleys, photocopy <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1987
b. 2	Various typescript drafts, notes and photocopy galleys <i>10 Folders</i>	circa 1987
b. 3	Various typescript drafts, notes and photocopy galleys <i>20 Folders</i>	circa 1987
b. 3	Levertov, Denise. <i>Door in the Hive</i> , typescript draft, photocopy	undated
b. 3	Stough, Christina C. "The Literary Relationship of T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound after 'The Waste Land'"	1980 June
b. 3	Williams, William Carlos. "Detail and Parody for the Poem 'Paterson'," typescript draft, photocopy Preliminary verse sketches. Photocopy of presentation copy inscribed to James Laughlin, 1939 March 9.	
b. 3	Witemeyer, Hugh. <i>William Carlos Williams and James Laughlin: Selected Letters</i> , typescript draft, corrected <i>2 Folders</i>	1989



#### **4: 1988-2005 Acquisitions, 1949-1994**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

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

- |      |   |           |
|------|---|-----------|
| b. 4 | Material removed from printed volumes in various accessions and transferred from Printed Acquisitions to Manuscript Unit.<br><i>27 Folders</i><br>Includes writings by Denise Levertov, Kenneth Rexroth, Gustaf Sobin, and Tennessee Williams | 1949-1994 |
|------|---|-----------|
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## **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