

THE FULLNESS OF
LIFE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN
IDEA

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If so wished, the work could be illustrated with photos, with some reproductions of works by N.L. and so on.

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The Autobiography of an Idea
by
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FOREWORD

I have written some other biographical works; but this book attempts something quite different. It starts off from a day in 1919 when I took an oath of total resistance to the world about me - an oath which included the refusal to take any job which did not come out of the inner needs of my poetry. And it traces the efforts to live up to this resolution in changing situations, changing phases of development. Though outer events are ignored, they are brought in only to the extent that they give the necessary frame for the inner struggles. As I am thus dealing primarily with my ideas, their changes and their continuity, I have had to deal with my writings, in which at each phase the ideas were set out or incarnated. It is not for me to evaluate those works, but I can validly use them for the setting out ideas. To summarise past ideas from a later viewpoint is inevitably to oversimplify, modify, and change them; for the idiom and the perspective of the two periods are different. I have therefore cited a certain amount of passages, especially in the early period. Only thus could a direct impact from the period be gained. Also, as then verse was my central activity, I have given some passages from the plays in which I was setting out my outlook and my values.

Jack Lindsay

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