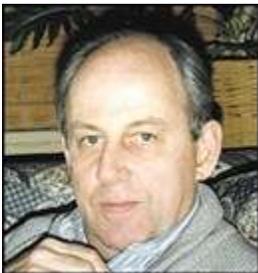


James L. Mairs, Jr

1939- July 26, 2016



James L. Mairs in his office at the Norton headquarters in New York.



James L. Mairs, an editor at W. W. Norton & Company since August 1, 1963 who was still working at his office in the company's Fifth Avenue headquarters on July 26, died that night of heart failure after suffering from leukemia and Parkinson's disease. He was 77.

He was born in St. Paul and lived in NYC since graduating from college. His career in publishing included senior positions and editor

with W.W. Norton Publishing & Company, a privately held mostly employee-owned house supporting respected academic, non-fiction, and fictional works.

Jim followed his "retirement" by forming a private press, Quantuck Lane Press. He assisted hundreds of authors including Pete Seeger (folksinger), and John Silber (Boston University), Bruce Catton, plus celebrated historical, non-fiction, and graphic originators. Following the early passing of his father, James L. Mairs, Jim's mother Alice Klein Mairs married Frederick Bradford of St. Paul. Jim and his sister Bonnie (Alice) grew up in Mendota Heights.

He graduated from Saint Paul Academy and Dartmouth, beginning his career with Norton serving a "college route" in the Midwest, driving a despised Chevy II to visit with publishing academics.

Primarily an editor of history, biography, art, and photography, Mairs saw two books he edited win Pulitzer Prizes—William Taubman's *Khrushchev* and William McFeely's *Grant*. He also edited the facsimile edition of Carl Jung's illuminated *The Red Book*, among many other titles. Mairs officially retired from Norton in 2002, but continued working at the same office as editor of additional Norton books and as founder and head of his own one-man publishing house, Quantuck Lane Press, which is distributed by Norton. At Quantuck Lane, his mission was to publish books of photography, art, and the eccentric.

An accomplished photographer in his own right, Mairs's office at Norton was filled to the brim with memorabilia, artwork, and quirky keepsakes of a half-century in publishing

In later years, Jim acquired autos and boat(s) more to his liking, including co-ownership of a sailing vessel built and owned by the late Gen. George Patton. The boat, named *When and If*, was Patton's dream for retirement which he ultimately never attained. Jim and his partners acquired the vessel at favorable price after it had been tossed onto rocks by a hurricane. He leaves his family including his wife Gina Webster and four children: Nina Mairs, Alexandra Tart, Anna Mairs, and Will Mairs plus four splendid grandchildren. His sister Bonnie, and brothers, Fred and John Bradford, live in NYC, LA, and Mpls. The extended family includes two disturbed cats and a one eyed gecko, all under constant medical care. Memorial services are planned sometime in September.

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