

One-Way Street

An Index

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One-Way Street
An Index in Thirteen Parts

Written and conceived by
Anna Gray & Ryan Wilson Paulsen

*From the text of Walter Benjamin
Translated by Edmund Jephcott*

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One-Way Street was first published in 1928, by Ernst Rowohlt, “in booklet form with typography intended to evoke advertising shock effects; the cover was a photographic montage of aggressive phrases in capital letters from newspaper announcements, ads, official and odd signs. The opening passage in which Benjamin hails “prompt language” and denounces the “pretentious universal gesture of the book,” does not make much sense unless one knows what kind of book, physically, *One-Way Street* was designed to be.”

-Susan Sontag,
Introduction to *One-Way Street and Other Writings*

Special thanks to Ted Paulsen, Rose Lifschutz, Anne Marie Oliver and Anne Johnson for their conceptual and technical support, Serenity Ibsen and Mary Doyle for their enthusiasm and to Maggie Powell for her gentle stoicism and sense of indifference towards the project. She is wonderful at providing a bit of perspective.

The man who merely makes an inventory of his findings, while failing to establish the exact location of where in today's ground the ancient treasures have been stored up, cheats himself of his richest prize...It is far less important that the investigator report on them than that he mark, quite precisely, the site where he gained possession of them.

Walter Benjamin

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Thirteen--stopping at this number I felt a cruel pleasure.

Marcel Proust

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