

Lawrence Ferlinghetti's *enduring* San Francisco

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the poet, publisher, painter, social activist and bookstore owner, has been San Francisco's *de facto* poet *laureate* and literary Pied Piper for seven decades. He turns 100 this month, and the city is making preparations to celebrate him in style. Readings and performances and an *open house* will take place at City Lights, the *venerable* bookstore he co-founded in 1953.

endure 忍耐; 持续

de facto 事实上的

laureate 荣誉的; 戴桂冠的

open house 开放日

venerable 庄严的; 值得尊敬的

City Lights is almost certainly the best bookstore in the United States. It's so dense with serious world literature of every *stripe* that it's a *Platonic* ideal. It can inspire something close to religious awe.

stripe 种类

Platonic 柏拉图式的

The store survived an *obscenity* trial in 1957 after its publishing arm issued Allen Ginsberg's revolutionary "*Howl* and Other Poems." The trial made Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti internationally famous almost overnight.

obscenity 淫秽; 猥亵

howl 嚎叫; 咆哮

City Lights became a nerve center for the Beats and other writers. Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and other writers from that era were Easterners who dropped into San Francisco for a spell.

for a spell 一段时间

If City Lights is a San Francisco institution, Ferlinghetti himself is as much of one. He has *loomed* over the city's literary life. As a poet, he's never been a critical favorite. But his flexible and *plain-spoken* and often *lusty* work—he has published more than 50 volumes—has

found a wide audience. His collection “A Coney Island of the Mind” (1958) has sold more than 1 million copies, making it one of the best-selling American poetry books ever published.

loom 若隐若现

plain-spoken 坦率的

lusty 精力充沛的