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Library Plans Suite for ALA

The Library of Congress will again have a Cataloging and Acquisitions in Person suite at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Dallas, Tex., this summer. Although the room number will not be available until the beginning of the conference, the suite will be located in the Adolphus Hotel, registered under the name of Henriette D. Avram, Assistant Librarian for Processing Services. The suite number will also be posted at the Library's exhibit booth.

The hours of operation of the Cataloging and Acquisitions in Person suite will be 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. from Saturday, June 24, through Tuesday, June 27.

Robert Fitzgerald Is Named New Consultant in Poetry

Robert Fitzgerald, distinguished poet and translator, has been named consultant in poetry by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin. Mr. Fitzgerald, who succeeds Anthony Hecht as consultant, will assume his duties in the fall. The announcement of his appointment was made on Monday, May 7, during the Library's final program in the 1983-84 literary series.

Educated at Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1933, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, Mr. Fitzgerald began his career as a journalist. He worked as a reporter for the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1933-35 and as a writer for *Time* magazine in 1936-49, a period interrupted by service as a naval officer during World War II.

He published his first volume of poems in 1935, after a summer

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Robert Fitzgerald (on the right) was a guest at a luncheon at the Library in October 1979 when Richard Dyer-Bennet recited from the Fitzgerald translation of *The Odyssey*. Mr. Fitzgerald is pictured here with the Library's 1978-80 consultant in poetry, William Meredith (on the left).

at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, and his first translation of Greek drama — Euripides' *Alcestis* — the following year. The latter was undertaken with Dudley Fitts, his former teacher at the Choate School and his frequent collaborator in years to come.

Mr. Fitzgerald began his teaching career at Sarah Lawrence College during the late 1940s and subsequently taught at Notre Dame, the University of Washington, Mount Holyoke College, and Harvard. In 1965, he was named Boylston professor of rhetoric and oratory at Harvard, succeeding a former Librarian of Congress, Archibald MacLeish, in that position. He retired in 1981.



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In 1953, supported by his publisher and the Guggenheim Foundation, Mr. Fitzgerald began a period of long and frequent residencies in Italy, where he worked on the translation of Homer. *The Odyssey*, published in 1961, won the first Bollingen Award for Translation, and *The Iliad*, published in 1974, the first Landon Translation Award of the Academy of American Poets. In recent years, Mr. Fitzgerald has turned his attention to Virgil, and his highly praised translation of *The Aeneid* appeared in 1983. He has also translated works by Paul Valéry, Saint John Perse (Alexis Léger), and Jorge Luis Borges, among others.

Throughout his career as a translator, Mr. Fitzgerald has continued to write and publish his own poems, in which critics have noted influences of his classical studies. It is probably true that the two activities have been mutually beneficial. Following *Poems*, he published *A Wreath for the Sea* (1943), *In the Rose of Time* (1956), and *Spring Shade: Poems, 1931-1970* (1971). He has also edited the collected prose of his friend James Agee and contributed to posthumous publications of Flannery O'Connor, of whom he is literary executor.

Numerous awards and honors have come to Robert Fitzgerald. He is a fellow of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since 1968, he has also been a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He was twice a Guggenheim fellow and has received the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. His work has also been supported by the Bollingen Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Ford Foundation.

Mr. Fitzgerald has had a long association with the Library of Congress. He recorded his poems and translations for the Library's archive of recorded poetry and literature in 1948 and from his translation of *The Odyssey* in 1974. In 1969, he was one of six chancellors of the Academy of American Poets to read at the Library in a program celebrating the 35th anniversary of the academy. In 1983, the lone survivor of the 1969 group, he was among 15 chancellors and former fellows who read in a memorable two-day program at the Library, celebrating the academy's 50th anniversary. Mr. Fitzgerald was also present in 1979 for a program with Richard Dyer-Bennet reciting from the Fitzgerald translation of *The Odyssey*.

The position of consultant in poetry was established at the Library in 1936 through the generosity of the late Archer M. Huntington. The consultant advises the Library on its literary programs, recommends writers to be recorded for the archive, and customarily presides at readings in the Coolidge Auditorium. Mr. Fitzgerald, the 27th person to hold the position, will initiate the fall season with a reading on October 1.