

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

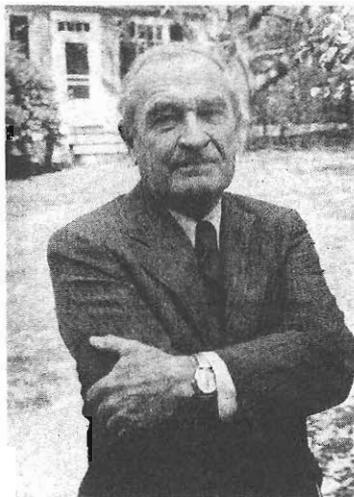
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Poet Robert Fitzgerald Dies

Poet and translator Robert Fitzgerald, the Library's Consultant in Poetry for 1984-85, died January 16 after an illness of several months' duration. Because of illness, Mr. Fitzgerald, 74, had been unable to assume the Consultantship in the fall, and Reed Whittemore had been named Interim Consultant in Poetry in his stead. Mr. Fitzgerald, however, kept in close touch with the Library's literary programs. Some of the writers appearing on the fall program had been his recommendations, and he had supplied Mr. Whittemore with notes on the writers for programs as recent as the December appearances of Annie Dillard and John Hersey. Mr. Fitzgerald was the first Consultant in Poetry to die during his term of office.



Robert Fitzgerald (1910-1985)
Photo courtesy of Harvard University

"Robert Fitzgerald had the rare talent of making us at home among the ancients," Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin said of Mr. Fitzgerald's work as a poet and translator. "His latest translation, of the *Aeneid*, transformed Virgil into our contemporary. In this and in his other works, Robert Fitzgerald was a great humanist."

Mr. Fitzgerald's best-known translations were of Greek drama (with Dudley Fitts), Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and most recently, Virgil's

Also in This Issue . . .

- Library services to visiting writers and researchers are described 18
- New "Read More About It" television season begins with message from First Lady Nancy Reagan 19
- Reading lists for upcoming "Read More About It" programs 19-21
- The information economy is the focus of a Network Advisory Committee meeting 21-23
- Da Capo Players perform new translation of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* by Andrew Porter 24

Aeneid. The text of *The Gospel at Colonus*, a unique combination of Greek drama and American gospel music, which recently concluded a successful run at Arena Stage, was based on the translations of Fitzgerald and Fitts. A full account of Mr. Fitzgerald's career appeared in the *LC Information Bulletin* of May 14, 1984.

A funeral mass was held at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn., Saturday, January 19.