

May 22, 1958

Robert Frost Named Poetry Consultant for 1958-59. The Librarian announced on May 21 the appointment of one of America's best-loved and best-known poets, Robert Frost, to be Consultant in Poetry in English to the Library of Congress in 1958-59. Mr. Frost will assume his post at the Library of Congress early in October 1958. His appointment is for a single term, and during its course he will give at least two public lectures in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library.

Mr. Frost visited the Library on Wednesday afternoon, May 21, and, after meeting with the Librarian, accompanied the latter to the Wilson Room, where Mr. Mumford formally announced his appointment to members of the Washington press at 3 p.m. Following an hour-long press conference, Mr. Frost was guest of honor at an informal reception in the Whittall Pavilion from 4 to 6 p.m.

The position of Consultant in Poetry in English was established in the Library of Congress in 1936 through a gift of funds from the late Archer M. Huntington. The Consultant gives advice on improving the Library's collections of literature, recommends the purchase of new materials, assists in acquiring important manuscripts and books through authors and collectors, advises on bibliographic and reference work in his field, confers with scholars and poets using the Library's collections and facilities, and provides editorial supervision of the Library's program of recording 20th-century poets in readings of their own works.

To these duties Robert Frost brings the distinguished experience of a long and vivid life in the field of letters. No contemporary American poet has received more honors. Four times his work has won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry--in 1924, 1931, 1937, and 1943. In 1922 his poetry brought him the Helen Haire Levinson Prize and in 1931 the

Russell Loines Memorial Fund Prize. Among his medals are the Mark Twain Medal (1937), the Gold Medal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1938), the Silver Medal of the Poetry Society of America (1941), and the Theodore Roosevelt Medal (1954). In 1950 the United States Senate, in a resolution on the occasion of Mr. Frost's 75th birthday, extended him "felicitations of this Nation which he has served so well."

No stranger to the Library of Congress, Mr. Frost's last visit was on October 24, 1955, when he gave a public reading of his poetry before an audience that overflowed the Coolidge Auditorium. His reading marked the opening in the Library of Congress of a major exhibition devoted to the life and work of the poet. In it the Library displayed more than 100 photographs, original manuscripts, and rare editions, accompanied by a phonograph from which visitors could hear Mr. Frost reading his poetry in the recording made by the Library for its "Twentieth-Century Poetry in English" series of records. Since then this popular exhibition has traveled widely in other cities.

Born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874, Robert Frost was educated at Dartmouth and Harvard and holds a long list of degrees from a variety of distinguished institutions. He has been a teacher of English and psychology at a number of colleges and universities and is Simpson Lecturer in Literature at Amherst College. He will continue his association with that institution and will give lectures there in the coming year as he has in the past.

Among the celebrated poet's books are A Boy's Will (1913), first published in England, where Mr. Frost lived in 1912-15; North of Boston (1914); Mountain Interval (1916); New Hampshire (1923); West-Running Brook (1928); the prose play, A Way Out (1929); The Lovely Shall Be Choosers (1929), a poem; Collected Poems (1930, 1939, 1949); The Lone Striker (1933), a poem; A Further Range (1936); From Snow to Snow (1936); A Witness Tree (1942); Steeple Bush (1947); A Masque of Reason (1945); A Masque of Mercy (1947); and Come In (1943), edited by Louis Untermeyer.

Mr. Frost's next volume of poetry, And All We Call American, will be published early in 1959 by Henry Holt and Company, U. S. publishers of all Mr. Frost's poetry.