

Mark Strand Named Fourth Poet Laureate

Mark Strand, prize-winning poet, short story writer, editor and translator, will serve as the 1990-91 Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress.

"We are pleased that a poet of the versatility and inventiveness of Mark Strand will bring his creativity and energy to the position of poet laureate," Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said when making the appointment, effective in September.

Mr. Strand is the fourth person to serve as poet laureate, succeeding the late Robert Penn Warren (1986-87), Richard Wilbur (1987-88) and Howard Nemerov (1988-90).

The position Mr. Strand will occupy was created 54 years ago as the Consultantship in Poetry to the Library of Congress. The chair, established by a private endowment, was changed by a provision of Public Law 99-194, enacted in December 1985, which recognized that the Library position was equivalent to that of poet laureate of the United States. The provision, sponsored by the since-deceased Sen. Spark M.



Strand's latest work will be out in October.

Matsunaga of Hawaii, redesignated the Library's Consultantship in Poetry as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

The poet is the author of seven published collections. His first, *Sleeping with One Eye Open* and published in 1964, was followed by *Reasons for Moving* (1968), *Darker* (1970), *The Sargentville Notebook* (1973), *The Story of Our Lives* (1973), *The Late Hour* (1978) and *Selected Poems* (1980).

An eighth volume of his poetry, *The Continuous Life*, will be published this October, and *Selected Poems* is being reissued.

His works of translation include *The Owl's Insomnia* (1973), poems by Rafael Alberti; *8 Poems from the Quechua* (1971); *Souvenir of the Ancient World* (1976), poems by Carlos Drummond de Andrade; and *Travelling in the Family: The Selected Poems of Carlos Drummond de Andrade* (1986).

His books on the subject of art are *The Art of the Real* (1983) and *William Bailey* (1987).

He has published the anthologies *The Contemporary American Poets* (1969); *New Poetry of Mexico* (1970), with Octavio Paz; and *Another Republic* (1976), with Charles Simic.

Mr. Strand is also the author of the children's books *The Planet of Lost Things* (1982), *The Night Book* (1985) and *Rembrandt Takes a Walk* (1986).

The new poet laureate was born of American parents on Prince Edward Island, Canada, and came to the United States in 1938. He earned a B.A. degree at Antioch College in 1957, a B.F.A. at Yale University in 1959 and an M.A. at the University of Iowa in 1962.

He has served on the faculties of many colleges and universities, including the University of Iowa, the University of Brazil, Mt. Holyoke College, the University of Washington, Columbia University, Yale University, Brooklyn College, Princeton University (where he was Bain Swiggett Lecturer in 1973), Brandeis University (where he was

*In a field
I am the absence of field.
This is
always the case.
Whoever I am
I am what is missing.*

*When I walk
I part the air
and always
the air moves in
to fill the spaces
where my body's been.*

*We all have reasons
for moving.
I moved
to keep things whole.*

—from *Keeping Things Whole*

Fannie Hurst Professor of Poetry in 1974-75), the University of Virginia, California State University at Fresno, the University of California at Irvine, Wesleyan University and Harvard University.

He was professor of English at the University of Utah from 1981 to 1986, and has been Distinguished Professor of English there since 1987.

Mr. Strand's career has included service as a Fulbright scholar to Italy (1960-61), a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Brazil (1965-66), an Ingram Merrill fellow (1966), a National Endowment for the Arts fellow (1967-68, 1977-78 and 1986-87), a Rockefeller fellow (1968-69), a Guggenheim fellow (1974-75) and a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur fellow (1987-92).

Among his many other awards and honors are the Edgar Allan Poe prize (1974) and the National Institute of Arts and Letters award (1975). He is a Fellow of the Academy of American Poets and a member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

The poet is married and the father of two children.

Mr. Strand will be the 31st Consultant in Poetry, a position established by a fund donated by Archer M. Huntington in 1936.