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Kooser's appointment to U.S. Poet Laureate is celebrated with new collection

Pittsburgh—In celebration of Ted Kooser being named U.S. Poet Laureate, the University of Pittsburgh Press has released a new collection of his work—*Flying at Night: Poems 1965-1985*.

Flying at Night includes selections from *Sure Signs* and *One World at a Time*, the first two Kooser volumes published by the Press, in 1980 and 1985 respectively. Kooser chose 80 poems from *Sure Signs* and 50 from *One World at a Time*.

Kooser is regarded as one of America's masters of the short metaphorical poem. Dana Gioia has remarked that Kooser has written more perfect poems than any poet of his generation.

Karl Shapiro praised *Sure Signs* as "a complete and mature work of poetry. There is little in contemporary poetry that can compare with it in excellence. . . . I find myself surprised at its freshness, the purity of the writing, its open-eyed honesty, its humor and kindness, its strength of character, its overwhelming sense of place, and so much more."

A reviewer for *Kliatt* magazine said the poems in *One World at a Time* "sparkle with wisdom and delight." *Another Chicago Magazine* described the book as "a solid collection of well-crafted, polished poems."

Kooser resides on a farm in Garland, Nebraska, just outside of Lincoln. A retired vice president of Lincoln Benefit Life Company, he is the author of ten books of poetry, including *Weather Central*, also published by the Press, and two works of nonfiction. Kooser is a visiting professor at the University of Nebraska, where he teaches the writing of poetry and creative nonfiction.

The National Endowment for the Arts has twice awarded Kooser fellowships in poetry. *Sure Signs* garnered the Society of Midland Authors Prize in 1980. Kooser has also won the Pushcart Prize, Stanley Kunitz Prize, James Boatwright Prize, two *Prairie Schooner* Awards, the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction in 2003, and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council.

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Kooser is the thirteenth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. His term will end in October 2005. Kooser's appointment marks the second time in four years a Press author has been named to this prestigious post. Billy Collins served from 2001-2003, and the Press has published three of his collections.

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Flying at Night: Poems 1965-1985 by U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser

is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

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