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### Richard Hugo awarded \$10,000 Academy of American Poets fellowship

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### RICHARD HUGO AWARDED \$10,000 ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS FELLOWSHIP

MISSOULA--

Richard Hugo, professor of English and director of the creative writing program at the University of Montana, has been awarded a \$10,000 fellowship for "distinguished poetic achievement" by the Academy of American Poets. The announcement was made by Mrs. Hugh Bullock, academy president, at the 47th annual members' meeting in New York Nov. 18.

The fellowship of the Academy of American Poets was the first award of its kind in the United States. Hugo is the 41st recipient of the award. Past recipients have included Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Elizabeth Bishop, Marianne Moore and John Berryman. Fellows are nominated and elected by the Academy's Board of Chancellors, a group presently comprised of Robert Fitzgerald, Anthony Hecht, Daniel Hoffman, John Hollander, Stanley Kunitz, William Meredith, James Merrill, Howard Nemerov, May Swenson, David Wagoner, Robert Penn Warren and Richard Wilbur.

Hugo said he was "astounded" by the award. "It came out of the blue. I only wish it had come at a time when the community and the nation were enjoying better economic times."

David Wagoner, one of the chancellors of the academy, said Hugo is "a strong, gifted, original American voice...truly dedicated to bettering American Poetry."

Since "A Run of Jacks" was published in 1961, Hugo has brought out eight additional volumes of poetry, among them "The Lady in Kicking Horse Reservoir," "What Thou Lovest Well Remains American," "31 Letters and 13 Dreams,"

(over)

HUGO--add one

"Selected Poems," and "White Center." In 1977, a Guggenheim Fellowship enabled him to spend several months in Scotland, where he wrote the poems in "The Right Madness on Skye," a volume nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Hugo also is the recipient of a Theodore Roethke Memorial Award, the Melville Cane Prize of the Poetry Society of America and a Rockefeller Grant. He is currently the editor of the Yale Series of Younger Poets. His other publications include "The Triggering Town," essays on creative writing and poetics, and a mystery novel, "Death and the Good Life." His poems have appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, Poetry, American Poetry Review, Esquire and other periodicals and are included in several anthologies.

In 1979 he was among a group of renown poets honored in a presidential salute to outstanding American poets at the White House.

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