HONIG, EDWIN

JUH 6-10-11

Edwin Honig, 91

PROVIDENCE – Edwin Honig died May 25 at his Providence home.

A poet and translator, he was knighted in 1986 by the president of Portugal for introducing Fernando Pessoa to the English speaking world. In 1996 he was similarly honored by the king of Spain for his translations of Spanish poets and playwrights.

His biography of Garcia Lorca was the first book in English on that important Spanish poet and playwright. His translations of the plays of Calderón de la Barca served as texts for numerous English and American productions. He is widely known for his translations of Lope de Vega, Miguel de Cervantes, and Miguel Hernandez.

Professor emeritus at Brown University, where he was a faculty member from 1957 to 1982, he started the creative writing program there, one of the first in the country where creative writers themselves played a major role in the curriculum. He brought many poets and novelists to Brown, including John Hawkes, Robert Coover, Michael Harper, James Schevill, and Keith and Rosmarie Waldrop.

The founding director of Copper Beech Press, he was the Briggs-Copeland Professor at Harvard, before he came to Brown. He was the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Mishkenot Sha'ananim in Jerusalem. He was an artist-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and directed the Rhode Island Poetry-in-the-Schools Program from 1968-72.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on the day the Versailles Treaty was signed in 1919, he received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin.



He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

His poetry was collected in "Time and Again, Poems 1940-1997." Among his poetry collections were "The Imminence of Love," "Four Springs," "Gifts of Light," "The Gazabos" and "Interrupted Praise."

He leaves his sister Lila Putnam of Colorado, and his two sons, Daniel and Jeremy. He leaves numerous friends and fellow writers whose careers he fostered not only in the creative writing program but as an enthusiastic supporter and believer in the fullness of the poetic life: "You're rich, you beggar / You've got a clean page /To start with."