



For Immediate Release

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**Poets House Receives Extraordinary Donation of
E.E. Cummings Desk**

New York, NY, March 22, 2011 — Since its founding, Poets House has invited poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. That tradition just became more vibrant and dynamic with the donation last week of poet E.E. Cummings's desk to Poets House.

"We joyfully receive this donation because it says to us that we are perceived as the 'home for poetry' and that there is a sense of connection and belonging here," said Poets House Executive Director Lee Briccetti. "The fact that our visitors can come and see this desk at any time further underscores our philosophy that 'our house is open, there are no keys in the doors' [Czslaw Milosz]. This gift speaks to the intimate community of poets and poetry readers that come together across time at Poets House."

The desk belonged to Cummings when he lived in Cambridge, MA, where he was born, and most likely was inherited from both his parents and grandparents. When Cummings died in 1962, the desk went to his partner Marion Morehouse, and following her death in 1969 the desk went to their friend, Maryette Charlton, who has now donated the desk to Poets House.

Since its donation less than a week ago, the desk has already been incorporated into all of Poets House's children's programs, with students and children gathering around the desk to enjoy its beauty and recite their favorite E.E. Cummings poems. The desk joins other E.E. Cummings treasures at Poets House – two paintings created by the poet inscribed to Elizabeth Kray, one of Poets House's co-founders. One of the pieces resides in Poets House's Reading Room, the other in its Stanley Kunitz Conference Room, where writing workshops take place.

Poets House is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House – through its poetry resources and literary events – documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by poet Stanley Kunitz and arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the over-50,000-volume library has created a home for all

who read and write poetry. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River and preparing for its 25th anniversary of public programming next year, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children’s class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, call (212) 431-7920 or visit www.poetshouse.org, and join us on Facebook and Twitter.

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