

Elytis gets Nobel Prize for Literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 18.—The 1979 Nobel Prize for Literature was today awarded to Greek poet and essayist Odysseus Elytis known in his own country as the poet of 'the Aegean Sea'.

The Swedish Academy awarded the 800,000 crown (191,000 dollar) prize for his poetry which against the background of Greek tradition, depicts with sensuous strength and intellectual clear-sightedness modern man's struggle for freedom and creativeness.'

Elytis whose real name is Odysseus Alepoudhelis was born in 1911 at Herakleion on the island of Crete. After growing up on Lesbos, he moved to Athens where he studied law.

"The sea and the islands, their fauna and flora, the smooth pebbles and the beaches, the surge of the waves, the prickly black sea urchins, are constantly recurring elements in his writing" the Academy said.

Sensuality and light irradiate Elytis' poetry it added. The perceptible world is vividly present and overwhelming in its wealth of freshness and astonishing experiences.

Elytis gave up law for art criticism, then turned to poetry. His most famous poem 'Worth it is' (To Axion Esti) appeared in 1959 translated into several languages the following year it received the National Prize for Poetry.

Many of Elytis' later works have been illustrated by his friends artists such as Picasso and Matisse. A constant worker, Elytis has three entirely new works awaiting publication.

He now lives and works in Athens in sight of the Acropolis.

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