



## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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Dear Friend of Lois:

January 13 marked the tenth anniversary of Lois' death. On February 14 our grand-daughter Rosalie, born just after Lois died, became a ten-year-old. It seems only yesterday that Lois left so many of us bereft, only yesterday that we began this modest effort in her memory. The years move on and the world changes, as we are told. Yet some things remain. I think often of the loss of Lois and of the faith, optimism, kindness, humanity, wisdom and, yes, the civilized decency of the historical moment she graced. This Endowment, if I may trust your many letters, has brought solace, not only as her memorial but as an example of what people can achieve if they care.

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The news is good. Contributions (\$5800) are up 13% and earnings continue to rise--Grisselle reports our rate of return has climbed to about 8%. As predicted last year when the USIA-based Fund merged with the Endowment, return on its portion of the capital has more than doubled. Total holdings slowly approach \$200,000.

**Highlight:** our new program with Australia. Lois' oldest friends remember her love for that continent, which she never saw but on which she owned a shelf of two dozen books. She knew of my friendship with the late Martin Carroll, USIA veteran who had studied in Australia on a Fulbright in the early fifties. So when Sheila Austrian in Canberra and John Lake, new Director of the Australian Fulbright Commission, expressed interest in working with us, the trustees agreed. With the approval of his widow Faye, we have thus established the Martin C. Carroll Jr. Memorial Grant, to permit an American graduate student in Australian Studies to do research-oriented travel in that vast country. Matched by the Commission for a total of \$1500, our first grant of \$750 will be made in the Fall.

At home, stalwart work by USIA's Woman's Action Organization, including a luncheon-panel on Lois and her meaning for the agency and a splendid special awards ceremony, meant that this year's Lois Roth Award attracted much attention and an unusual number of fine candidates. A check for \$1500 went to Foreign Service Officer Arlene Jaquette, currently Public Affairs Officer in Addis Ababa. Additionally, five outstanding nominees received commendations.

In Italy, my work with the Center for American Studies has permitted advancing the idea of a pendant to the Coindreau award in France: the Cesare Pavese Prize. Named for the great writer, poet and translator of American literature during the Fascist years, the award is now under discussion. Also, Mario Mariano of the University of Turin, Aquarone Prize laureate, was granted \$500 for book purchases in the US. Less good news: despite Dr. Della Fazi's generous gift last year, no candidate could be found at LUISS, the free university of Rome. We are watching this year's selection process to see whether these funds should be shifted to other purposes.

In France the Coindreau Prize '95 rewarded translations by Paul Keineg of William Bronk's poems The World, The Worldless. This month the '96 award ceremony will take place at the prestigious Salon du Livre, broadcast over French radio's France Culture. The short list of finalists includes Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, Steve Erikson, Howard Norman and Susan Power.

In Finland, where we support American graduate students in carrying out their projects, our help has produced a second film, '94 grantee Anna Minkinnen's "Home Cooking." This year we helped Dawn Fowkes move around Finland in her study of contemporary ceramic design and assisted Melinda Scott in seeking unpublished Sibelius scores.

The rest of the Scandinavian program moves forward. In Sweden, Arkansan Angela Crowley, doctoral candidate in sociology at UC Irvine, is working on a comparative study of military aircraft sales to Sweden by the US, France and the USSR "as a means to determine . . . overlap and balance between the global economy and the interstate system." Sheilagh Riordan, recent Ph.D. Maryland, is studying Madame de Staël's nine months in Sweden (1812-13). With the American Scandinavian Foundation, we helped Georgetown Professor of Economics Susan Vroman to analyze Swedish data-gathering to shed light on different theories of the "gender gap," the systemic tendency for women to earn less than men. In Norway, with the Fulbright Foundation, we helped Nels Kloster study the role of science in formulating regulatory policy with special reference to public health questions, e.g. electromagnetic fields as a possible cause of cancer.

To honor Lois' deep feelings for Iran reflecting her five years of residence there, we helped fund in April the third Washington conference on the present vacuum in relations between the U.S. and that country.

Other news: daughter Sarah married Stephen Piazza in June; and Matthew, Sophie and the two boys have moved to Luxembourg, where Sophie works with the European Investment Bank. The Fulbright Difference in paperback, at half the cost of the original, is now available, with my essay on Lois' first year with USIS (Transaction Books-Rutgers Press, New Brunswick NJ 08903). And my time in Italy, which includes a project to create an international institute for environmental planning, has expanded to the point where I now consider myself a resident (Via di Monte Savello 30, 00186 Rome).

The need for new funds, at the beginning of our second decade, is as acute as ever. We are doing a lot, but there is so much more we could do. Remember: we are a "no-load" foundation in that every penny earned by our capital goes into program (operating costs are absorbed by trustees and other friends). Please think about how you can help us start the new decade, either by regular contributions small or large, by a living bequest, by a gift of appreciated securities, or by writing the Endowment into your will (let us know, so we can encourage others). Special thanks this year to one of Lois' friends, retired para-legal Blanche Hirsch, whose help means that all contributions should still be sent to this address. Thanks are also owed to Jeffrey Yablon of Shaw, Pitman, Potts and Trowbridge for legal counsel, and to Michael Weiser Associates for accounting services.

With warm regards, gratitude and hopes for the next ten years.

Yours sincerely,

Richard T. Arndt, Chairman