



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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March 1999

Dear Friend of Lois:

We have entered our thirteenth year. Thirteen was a significant number for Lois. She was born on Friday February 13. We were married on April 13, Jefferson's birthday. She died January 13. And our granddaughter Rosalie, preferring Valentine's, missed by ten hours being born on her birthday--she of course is 13. We look ahead to a portentous year, in the best sense of the word.

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Good news, earnings firmed at 7.1% last year and signs point to a better performance this year. Better news, an e-mail address: RothEndow@aol.com. Best news: a marvelous effort by 61 contributors raised '97 contributions by 33% over '96, to \$5200. Less-good news: our mailing list crashed but has been recovered, explaining lateness this year. If you know anyone who should be receiving this mailing but who is not, please let me know.

My first trip to Sweden, for UNESCO meetings last spring, permitted touching base with cherished friends of Lois and scattering memories of her in Stockholm and Uppsala. Precisely as Ra and Sven Lundstrom and I gathered to remember Lois on the snowy front campus of her beloved Uppsala University, the cathedral bells pealed forth! In Stockholm I also made contact with '97 grantee Matthew Roy, now back and helping organize the Swedish alumni.

The Endowment's work has grown. For our burgeoning translation program, MLA's selection committee for the first *Lois Roth Award for Literary Translation* is preparing for December. In France the *Coindreau Prize* for '98 went to Michèle Albaret-Maatsch for her version of Lewis Nordan's *Wolf Whistle*. In collaboration with the Société des Gens de Lettres, the Prize was awarded at the Village Voice Bookstore in Paris, rue Princesse. A new project for *Iran*: discussion with the American Institute of Iranian Studies, which Lois helped launch in the late 1960s, envisions an annual prize in her name for the best translation from Persian literature.

Our internal fund for the *Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize* for language pedagogy at Columbia University has grown, permitting us to raise the award to \$500 this year. Last year the prize of \$350, our first, went to Ames Hodges, outstanding Columbia graduate student and teacher.

The USIA-Women's Action Organization ceremony was especially touching this year. *The Lois Award* went to one of Lois' closest friends in the agency,

Louise Taylor. Her remarks that day evoked her memories of Lois, “the perfect career woman--professionally organized, personally engaged, and overflowing with humanity.”

Our Scandinavian program deepened. In *Sweden* we helped Erik Thomson’s work on the politics of reforming commerce in 17th-century Sweden. In *Finland*, grants went to Natasha Seeley to assist her study of Finnish strategies for overcoming racism, and to Dorothy Berinstein for her work on women artists in Finland 1880-1910. For *Denmark*, ‘98 marked the off-year of the bi-annual Sonja Bundgaard Nielsen program. In *Norway* Merrill Kaplan is studying the manipulation of rune-stone legend over time for political and social purposes.

In *Australia*, two jointly-funded Martin Carroll travel-awards were granted: one to Donna Heath for her work on a cultural diplomatic question: British book imports into Australia at the end of the 19th century and their relationship to Australian censorship, publishing, and national identity. Another went to Erik Shibuya to expand his study of island states, small and large, in international environmental policy.

In *Italy*, the Aquarone Prize for American History went to Simone Cinotto from Turin, currently working at Columbia University. Alumnus Mario Del Pero, fund-raising with colleagues on the Italian side, already has pledges of over \$200 annually. Discussions with the Rome Center for American Studies are on hold.

News: Board-member Robin Winks will add to his honors this month: admirers have created the annual Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of National Parks, in the National Parks and Conservation Association. The first prize will be awarded on March 25--to Robin himself. Other news: my book on US cultural diplomacy is one chapter away from first-draft completion. Sky-Jen, Greg and their two daughters move forward in Amherst; Matthew, Sophie and the boys flourish in Luxembourg; Sarah, new PhD Steve and son are blossoming at Penn State; Dan and Julie thrive on TV production in New York.

This modest effort of ours persists: we hold to our high standards, while spending only what our investments earn. We have next to no overhead, with all services donated. We are no-load, so every penny goes into program growth. Though last year’s contributions took a giant step forward, we need more to meet the needs and opportunities. Regular contributions, living bequests, gifts of appreciated securities, including us in your will--any way you can contribute will help the cause. As usual, good new ideas are always welcome!

Heartfelt thanks are again due to Jeffery Yablon of Shaw, Pittman for legal counsel, to Michael Weiser Associates for accounting, to Shawn O’Reilly of Ferris, Baker Watts for watching our portfolio, and to our splendid, stalwart and ever-helpful board.

And to you, thanks are due as well for staying with us. With gratitude for past and future support and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Richard T. Arndt, Chairman