

## LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT: PROGRAM REVIEW 2000

### The Millon Award

At a National Gallery farewell for Dean Henry Millon, retiring after two decades as founder-director of the NGA's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) and a founding-trustee of the Endowment, director Rusty Powell announced--to the Millons' complete surprise--our annual grant to help the world's scholars utilize the unique CASVA archive of architectural drawings which Hank has built. The Henry A. and Judith Rice Millon grant of \$1500 will first be awarded in the academic year 2001-02, successor-Dean Elizabeth Cropper tells us.

### Country Programs

*Australia.* Mark Darby has taken over Fulbright reins from our dear friend John Lake, to whom we owe much for founding the Carroll Traveling Fellowships. These now are named for Martin C. and Faye Cousens Carroll. Grantees in the humanities and social sciences arrived later in Australia this year; we expect to help two Americans, jointly funded with the Commission, and are exploring other ideas.

*Denmark.* Cooperating with the American Scandinavian Foundation, we awarded \$1000 to architect Kathryn McCamant, co-author with her husband of an important book on the idea of "co-housing," combining the autonomy of private living with the advantages of community. In June 2001, the two architects will study the Danish experience of co-housing for the elderly.

*Finland.* Our first choice, Stephanie Bjork, won the Finnish Fulbright Commission's generous 50th Anniversary Grant. Our Roth-Thomson grants of \$1250 went to: Frog, studying the process of assembling Finland's national epic *The Kalevala*; and Courtney Selan, for work on children's stage and video productions. Unfortunately Ms. Selan had to return almost immediately from Helsinki.

*Italy.* This year's *Aquarone Prize* for US History went to Matteo Pretelli of the University of Florence, working on Italian Fascist cells in the U.S. (1920-41). Our contribution to the Aquarone Prize endowment now totals almost \$9000, which will help perpetuate this unique support to the study of US history in Italy. In Rome, our sub-fund for the *Rome Center of American Studies* attracted gifts totaling \$600; with matching and interest, it stands close to \$1250.

*Norway.* We are assisting Fulbrighter Douglas Geers, Columbia University composer, at Norway's Technology, Accoustics and Music center (NOTAM) on a "large-scale multimedia piece for live musicians, computer music, and computer-assisted puppetry."

*Russia.* In an experiment, we joined the National Peace Foundation in support of the longstanding work of Sarah Harder, helping build women's networks in Russia. Specifically, we contributed to the US visit of a delegation from *Krestyanka*, Russia's largest circulation independent women's magazine, a *Vogue*-look-alike. The team came to the U.S. to explore ways of enriching substantive content.

*Sweden.* In our flagship Roth-Thomson program, Fulbrighters Gregory Webb of UCLA and Jennifer Mack of MIT are working in Scandinavian literature and in urban development, respectively.

## Translation and Language

The *Modern Languages Association's* Roth prize for literary translation, founded with the help of David Rubin, went to a new version of Kafka's *The Castle* in 1999. The next of the bi-annual awards is scheduled for December 2001.

The 19th *Prix Coindreau* in France went to Anne Damour for her translation of Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*. A 20th anniversary celebration is in the planning stages for Fall 2001.

In May, the *American Institute of Iranian Studies*, at the annual Iran Studies Association meetings, bestowed its first Lois Roth Award for translation from the Persian on Dick Davis, of Ohio State University, for his version of Iraj Pezeshkzad's hilarious *My Uncle Napoleon*.

Columbia University's French Department awarded the *Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize* of \$600 this year to Barbara Szlanic, a gifted scholar and teacher who, among other things, is working with modern teaching tools like websites. The earmarked sub-fund supporting the award grows steadily.

### Lois Roth Award for Cultural and Informational Diplomacy

The Award is located now in the office of the Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy in the State Department. The Women's Action Organization, declaring victory, has dissolved. This year's award ceremony, in the old USIA building, was attended by both Undersecretary Evelyn Lieberman and Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs William Bader. One of the original designers, Marjorie Ransom, who first met Lois in 1967 in Tehran, received the prize--only days after courageously resigning from the foreign service. Two Lois laureates now hold positions as ambassadors, a third serves as consul-general, and a fourth has joined our board.

### New Ideas

Several projects are under consideration; others have not developed as hoped. In *Sri Lanka*, we can report no progress towards establishing a peace-study award for a scholar visiting that country. On the other hand, in *Russia*, we seized an attractive opportunity for women's intellectual development; we are thinking about next steps.

We set aside the idea of a stipend for the Robin Winks medal of the National Parks Conservation Association because of cost and our sense that a stipend may be superfluous. Instead we are discussing with Fulbright *New Zealand* a project to honor Robin and Avril, in American Studies, ANZAC Studies, or Environment--or perhaps all three. Robin, a Fulbrighter there 50 years ago, wrote his first book on New Zealand. Better, he brought home Avril.

John Hurford, only with our board for a few months, left a deep mark. We have been discussing an annual seminar and lecture in his memory at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. John, a member of the Center's board, set up a generous endowed Fellowship before he died: our contribution would help the Hurford Fellow invite a prestigious visitor to deliver a major lecture and lead a seminar on an international theme. Meanwhile, we are exploring a suitable memorial for our beloved Evelyn Hayes.