

Translation and Language Education

• Given in alternate years, the Modern Language Association's Lois Roth Prize for Literary Translation,* founded with the help of David Rubin, will next be given in December 2003. The sub-fund supporting the award, to be turned over to MLA after ten or more years of growth, has passed \$8,400. We are honored that Stanford's John Felstiner, last year's laureate, chose to contribute to our work.

• In May, the American Institute of Iranian Studies bestowed its third Roth Award of \$1,500 on one of the prize's founders, Prof. Jerry Clinton, recently retired from Princeton. Honored was his blank-verse translation of the Rostam and Esfandiyar episode from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, Iran's national epic. In bestowing the award, twice-laureate Dick Davis said Clinton's work was "clearly the finest English verse translation of Ferdowsi in existence." A sub-fund is needed.

• In June we covered half the cost of the 21st *Prix Coindreau*, named for Princeton's Maurice Coindreau, whose translations introduced American literature to France. It went to Sabine Porte, student of founder-

chair Maurice Gresset, for her translation of Annie Dillard's *For the Time Being*. The award-ceremony took place during the America Festival in Vincennes in mid-October 2002. We are especially pleased that Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*, which in Anne Damour's translation won the Coindreau prize two years ago, has been turned into a haunting film. Given structural funding difficulties in France, we want to build a sub-fund to help keep the Prize alive.

• In May, Columbia's French Department awarded our *Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize** of \$600 to Erin Curren, chosen for her "ingenious, committed and contagious" teaching. The supporting sub-fund approaches \$7,200.

* Projects marked with an asterisk have sub-funds. Gifts earmarked for any of these are welcome. Those wishing to open a sub-fund for any other project may earmark their gifts, but sub-funds can only be established when contributions reach \$1,000.



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Country Programs

• *Australia.* Too late to report last year, we granted \$1,500, matched by the Fulbright Commission, to help two anthropologists move around the Australian continent. Yale's Nili Kaplan-Myrth studied the prevention of blindness in aboriginal communities; and Georgetown's Sabra Thorner looked at the impact of Australia's Aboriginal Cultural Centers. In October '02 we helped Berkeley's Mytoan Nguyen look at immigration policy, from the viewpoint of Vietnamese refugee communities in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

• *Denmark.* Impressed with the calibre of the American Scandinavian Foundation's nominees, we moved from an alternate-year to an annual program with Denmark. This year a Roth-Thomson grant of \$1,250 helped Chicago philosopher Rick Furtak study Kierkegaard's response to stoicism.

• *Finland.* With Fulbright, Roth-Thomson grants of \$1,250 each went to Harvard's Yuni Kim, studying the dialects of Swedish in Finland--where the language is spoken by 6% of the population, and to Joshua Metzger of Southern Cal, studying Finland's role in multilateral diplomacy.

• *Italy.** A handsome multi-year pledge by a Chicago donor has stabilized the Rome Center for American Studies; a new chair, former Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, will succeed Cipriana Scelba, longtime Fulbright director. Sadly in 2002 the Aquarone Prize was discontinued, for lack of Italian funding. Part of the capital we helped build as an Italian endowment, returned to us, was added to the sub-fund for the Rome Center (now nearly \$7,000, augmented by our annual grant to the prize). With the Fulbright Commission, the Center is exploring the idea of re-establishing the award. Aquarone laureates, Italy's finest young historians of the US, may be able to help revive this prize, which recognizes their best students. Both Center and Prize need earmarked gifts.

• *New Zealand.** Discussions continue with the Fulbright Commission and Yale University about an annual fellowship for a New Zealander in the social sciences or humanities, honoring founding board-member Robin Winks, 1952 Fulbrighter in Christ Church, and his New Zealander wife Avril. While there were no candidates for a pilot project in 2002, we remain committed to this project, which will need earmarked gifts.

• *Norway.* A Roth-Thomson grant of \$1,250 went to Claudie Berguson of the University of Washington to support study of Norway's greatest woman novelist Sigrid Undset.

• *Russia.* Our 2002 project with the National Peace Foundation and Sarah Harder's network has led to a corporate-funded action plan for prevention and treatment of drug-addiction in the North Urals; a related Library of Congress project brought 8 Russians to the US in search of treatment partners; and a followup conference extended the plan's reach. For 2003 we are discussing an allied visit to Russia by a Wisconsin voluntary service agency. The project helps transplant a civil-society building process, along with information and expertise, in the fight against drug abuse.

• *Sweden.* With the Fulbright Commission, we awarded Roth-Thomson grants of \$1,250 each to Mara Fridell of the University of Oregon, for study of the interplay of immigration, politics and state capacity, and to Julianne Ohlander, re-assessing myths about suicide in Sweden.

Millon Award

In February 2003, at the Center for Advanced Studies of the National Gallery of Art, the second jointly-funded Henry A. and Judith Rice Millon Guest Scholar went to Salvatore Settis, distinguished scholar and head of Italy's Scuola Normale, who gave the prestigious Mellon lectures at the Gallery in 2001. He has a new role on the five-man committee redefining Italian policy and legislation for managing and conserving Italy's cultural heritage. While no sub-fund exists, earmarked gifts are sought.

State Department Lois Roth Award for Cultural and Informational Diplomacy*

This non-governmental prize now stands alone as a reward for excellence in the two vital functions formerly carried out by USIA. This year's award of \$1,000 was given by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in February to Sandra Kaiser, gifted Public Affairs Officer in Athens, with an exceptional second award of \$250 to Omie Kerr, just returned from service as Cultural Attaché in Mexico. We are in discussion with the Delavan Foundation about a matching grant over a five-year period to permit us to increase the stipend and extend the award's impact. Our supporting sub-fund has passed \$4,000.