



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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The View from Washington: Board News

In 1987 **Dr. Richard T. Arndt**, with a handful of friends and professional colleagues, launched the Lois Roth Endowment (LRE) to honor the life and work of Lois Wersba Roth, a cultural affairs officer who had devoted her life to the cause of international cultural exchange. A quarter century later, with continuing strong support from a loyal donor base and substantial cooperation with organizational partners around the world, the LRE's Board is pleased to report another successful year of programming, supporting international cultural exchange in over a dozen countries, as described below.

To ensure continued wise stewardship and strong management of the Endowment into the future, the Board took two significant administrative steps this past year:

On December 3, 2010, the Board elected **Dr. Jill E. McGovern**, former CEO of The Marrow Foundation, member of the Board of The American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, and long-time member of the LRE Board, to succeed the founder as its chair. Dick Arndt remains on the Board as chair emeritus, now focusing his energies on new program development, while continuing to provide the Board and staff with the benefit of his long experience through wise counsel.

Effective May 1, 2011, the Board engaged retired Foreign Service Officer **James L. Bullock** as part-time executive director, to take over day-to-day management and fund-raising for the Endowment. Mr. Bullock brings to the new position over thirty years of experience managing overseas cultural programs as an FSO with USIA and the State Department, as well as fund-raising experience as a vice-president at the American University in Cairo. Any question about the Endowment or its activities may be addressed to Jim at the new P.O. Box, telephones, email and fax addresses listed below.

Country Programs

Australia. A glass sculptor from the Rhode Island School of Design, **Matthew Perez**, is currently using a Lois Roth Endowment grant to expand the scope of his Fulbright year at the Australian National University (ANU), where he has been working with Richard Whiteley, an internationally renowned artist and expert in casting glass. Matt traveled from Canberra to Melbourne and Sydney as a visiting artist to engage university audiences on his research project ("To Anneal") on new techniques of glass fabrication. As an artist, Matt creates complex shapes to generate what he calls "shape induced stress." He recently presented his technical findings in a formal lecture at ANU, soon to be published on www.glassaneal.com in multiple languages.

Bulgaria. * (See "Literary Translation and Language Education" and "Institutional Programs" below.)

Denmark. The Roth-Thomson Award for 2010-11, which the LRE continues to administer in cooperation with the American Scandinavian Foundation, went to **Maggie Taft**, in support of her dissertation research on *Making Danish Modern: Imaging Design, Imagining a Nation*. Ms. Taft is a Ph.D. candidate in art history at the University of Chicago, where she is investigating the production, reception and distribution of design in Scandinavia and abroad from 1945 to 1960, to demonstrate how Danish furniture produced during these years both generated and accumulated cultural and social meanings that were mobilized in the context of Cold War politics.

Finland. Two Fulbrighters working in Finland also received Roth-Thomson awards for 2010-11. Both awards were for projects identified "post-arrival," an approach structured by LRE to enable scholars to fine-tune their project plans once in the field.

Lauren Holmes, a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at Yale, has a Fulbright grant to work on her dissertation *Music and the Nation-State: Finnish Music from Nationalism to Post-nationalism*, examining the government infrastructure that has supported the export of Finnish music since World War II. Ms. Holmes initiated an ambitious schedule of interviews with leading Finnish composers and Finnish musical organizations, and her LRE grant is funding her research travel outside of Helsinki.

Christian Benefiel received his MFA in sculpture from the University of Maryland, College Park, where a large-capacity foundry enabled him to refine his expertise in metal-casting processes. He then worked in North Carolina to develop the world's first foundry powered by methane from landfill gas. Noting that "toxic and dangerous processes remain common for artists," Mr. Benefiel went to Finland to research sustainable practices for artists at foundries. While teaching at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, he built a small sustainable foundry. His LRE award is enabling him to create a large-scale work in Pirkkala for that town's permanent outdoor exhibition.

France. * (See "Literary Translation and Language Education" below.) In addition to its support to the annual *Prix Maurice Coindreau*, the LRE is considering a Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange proposal for a new country program.

Iran. (See "Literary Translation Programs" below.)

Italy. * (See "Institutional Programs" below.) The LRE supports the Millon Award in architectural history, and is soliciting new proposals from the U.S.-Italy Fulbright Commission in Rome and others for programs in Italy.

New Zealand. * The 2010-11 recipient of the Robin and Avril Winks award was **Divya Dhar**, a young Indian-New Zealander Fulbright grantee, who had already received a number of national awards for her work as creator of the "P3 (Peace, Prosperity and Progress) Foundation," an NGO that mobilizes young people from across the Asia Pacific region to break out of poverty. Ms. Dhar is using her Winks award support her study for a Master's Degree in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Norway. For 2010-11, the LRE awarded its annual grant for Norway to a new graduate of Williams College, the second year in a row for a Williams graduate. Art history major **Kristine Ericson** is a Fulbrighter researching the influence of Japanese design on **Sverre Fehn**, Norway's most influential late 20th century architect. Ms. Ericson studied how Fehn incorporated Japanese nature motifs into his designs. She was also lead designer for a studio project to create a "green path" linking the Norwegian University of Science and Technology campus. Her Roth grant is funding travel to two Fehn building sites in northern Norway, where she will develop proposals for sustainable rural living.

Sweden.* The LRE works with Fulbright Sweden on "post-arrival" projects, to enable scholars to adjust their focus once in the field. For 2010-11, there were two awards:

Andrew Bearnot is a double graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA) and Brown University (BS in Materials Engineering), whose Fulbright project involved the study of glass art and manufacture in early 20th century Sweden. He spent the fall at Linnaeus University, followed by an internship at the Swedish Glass Research Institute in Växjö, where he worked on SGRI's "Color System" project. He used his LRE award to visit glassworks in Germany and the Ambiente-Frankfurt trade show, attended by glass producers from around the world.

Anna Hersey was in Stockholm to study the Swedish art song repertoire and Swedish diction at the Swedish Royal College of Music and develop a conductor's guide to promote interest in and knowledge of Swedish song. She used her LRE award to support a March 2011 trip to Chicago to present her findings to the American Choral Directors' Association Conference in Chicago. (See www.rothendowment.org for photos of her at ACDA and at the 2010 Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm.)

Erika Larsen, a 2009 LRE grantee for Sweden, just published an impressive piece of photo-journalism in *National Geographic*, concluding the project for which she received grants from both the Fulbright program and from the LRE. To see Erika's photos, go to: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/11/sami-reindeer-herders/larsen-photography>.

Turkey.* The LRE's Turkey project was launched following a gift from **Myriam Hallock** in memory of her late, Turkophile husband, **Richard R. Hallock**. In past years LRE grants supported by the Hallock gift have funded the travel of Turkish social scientists to SUNY Binghamton and supported a program for Turkish students to attend a workshop on state government in Albany, NY. Over time LRE grants have helped to expand a growing exchange of students and scholars between SUNY and Turkey.

During the past year, following the "Arab Spring," the Endowment has begun exploring how to expand this project to the wider eastern Mediterranean region. Initial contacts with the Fulbright Commissions in both Egypt and Jordan have been encouraging.

United Kingdom.* (See "Institutional Programs" below.) The LRE, with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, supports an annual Fulbright lecture on international relations.

Lois Roth and Ilchman-Richardson Awards U.S. Department of State*

The Lois Roth Endowment is pleased to be in partnership with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to recognize through annual awards, including cash prizes funded by the LRE, particularly meritorious contributions by Department employees to the cause of international cultural exchange. For 2010, the Lois Roth Award for a Foreign Service employee went to **Caryn Danz**, a 26-year cultural affairs veteran, currently ECA's Branch Chief for Educational Information Resources. An honorable mention certificate went to **Robert Greenan** for his work as Cultural Affairs Officer in Baghdad. The corresponding 2010 Ilchman-Richardson Award for a Civil Service employee went to **Patricia Ehrnman**, currently liaison between ECA and the Department's Bureau of African Affairs.

Ann Stock, standing in as Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and Ambassador **J. Adam Erel**, acting Assistant Secretary for the ECA Bureau, co-hosted a ceremony at the Department with representatives of the Lois Roth Endowment, at which the 2010 awardees received their certificates and checks. 2009 Ilchman-Richardson winner, **Marianne Craven**, managing director of academic programs for ECA, belatedly received her certificate and check at that time, as well.

Starting in 2012, both the Lois Roth Award and the Ilchman-Richardson Award will be announced in conjunction with ECA's annual events calendar and presented at the Bureau's general awards ceremony in May.

Literary Translation and Language Education Programs

American Institute of Iranian Studies.* No prize for translation from Persian to English was awarded for 2010-11. The LRE looks forward to making an award in 2012.

Prix Maurice Coindreau* The 2010 Coindreau Prize was awarded in December at a ceremony in Paris, to **Laurence Viallet** for her fine translation of Dominican author **Junot Diaz's** *The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Riverhead Press, Pulitzer 2008, published in France by Plon, Feux Croisés collection). The Coindreau jury required long deliberation and three votes to reach consensus, with one juror calling the work "a strange book, bursting with life, touched by madness and phantasmagoria." The 2011 *Prix Maurice Coindreau* will be awarded in December to **Jacques Mailhos** for his translation of environmentalist **Edward Abbey's** non-fiction *Desert Solitaire*.

Dyankov Translation Prize. * The Lois Roth Endowment partners annually with the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation (EKF) in Sofia, Bulgaria, on the Dyankov Translation Prize and on the Sozopol Seminar (see “**Institutional Programs**” below).

Named for **Krustan Dyankov**, renowned translator of American literature into Bulgarian, the Dyankov prize was established in 2007. **The America for Bulgaria Foundation** added additional support in 2010, and the LRE agreed to sponsor the second prize. The 2010 Dyankov first prize went to **Margarita Dogramadzian** for her translation of *The White Tiger*, Indian author **Aravind Adiga**’s 2008 debut and Man Booker Prize winning novel. Second prize went to **Svetlana Komogorova-Komata** for her translation of *Shantaram*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Australian author Gregory David Roberts (Orgon Publishers).

LRE grants have also supported other literary programs in Bulgaria, such as the publication of Bulgaria’s first writing-craft school text. For more information on the EKF, see: www.ekf.bg/en/.

Jeanne Varney Pleasants Award. * No prize was awarded to teaching assistants in the Columbia University French Department for the 2010-11 academic year.

MLA-Roth Award for Literary Translation. * MLA-Roth awards are granted biennially. The next award will be presented at the January 2012 Modern Language Association conference in Seattle. (Information will be on the LRE Web site.) The MLA-Roth award is the only translation prize given by MLA that does not specify country and language of origin. Encouraged by recent trends, the LRE would like to award more translations into English from non-European literatures, and move to an annual prize.

Institutional Programs

Henry and Judith Millon Award. * The 2010-11 Millon Award, dedicated to supporting the research residency of an Italian architectural historian at the National Gallery’s Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), went to **Constanza Caraffa**, head of the photo library at the Department of Art History in Florence, Italy. **Maggie Taft**, last year’s LRE grantee for her work in Denmark (see “**Country Programs**” above), was awarded CASVA’s Chester Dale pre-doctoral fellowship for 2011-12.

Oxford Fulbright Lecture. * The inaugural Fulbright Lecture on International Relations, with support from the US-UK Fulbright Commission and the Lois Roth Endowment, took place at Pembroke College, Oxford, on May 18, 2011. **Dr. Anne-Marie Slaughter**, Kerstetter Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, and former Director of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department – the first woman ever to hold that position – spoke on “The Turn: American Foreign Policy 2009 to 2011.”

Beginning in 2012, the lectureships will be given at King’s College London and at the University of Edinburgh, as well as at Pembroke. Publication of the lectures is planned.

Sozopol Seminar. * The LRE also partners with EKF (See “**Literary Translation and Language Education Programs**” above) on the Sozopol Seminar, an annual three-day event held in historic Sozopol, Bulgaria, on the Black Sea. The seminar offers advanced discussions among writers of fiction in Bulgarian and English, under the guidance of established authors, in an atmosphere of collegial sharing and close interpersonal exchange. Participation has become increasingly competitive, with thirty applicants competing for each of this year’s ten places. This year’s fellows were **Molly Antopol**, **Rayko Baychev**, **Petja Heinrich**, **Michal Hinken**, **Lee Romer Kaplan**, **Ivan Landzhev**, **Jane Martin**, **Paulina Petrova**, **Yana Punkina**, and **John Struloeff**. Translation workshops were attended by leading publishers, translators and editors from Bulgaria, Great Britain, Ireland and the U.S. (See: www.ekf.bg/sozopol/editions/2011/texts.php.)

The Lois Roth Endowment supports ideals and values that run deep in U.S. education at its best, working to enhance their impact through cross-cultural exchange and cultural diplomacy. A quarter-century of patient effort since Lois’ death in 1986 has demonstrated the value of what the Endowment is doing, yet much remains to be done.

The Board and staff of the Endowment are deeply grateful to the many generous donors whose loyal support over the years has provided the resources needed for this lasting memorial to Lois and her life’s work to endure. The Endowment is a labor of love, a shared vision in which others are invited to participate. Donations large and small to the Endowment help to keep it growing in both reach and impact.

There are many ways to support the work of the LRE. In addition to financial contributions, the Endowment depends on its friends to suggest names and contact information of others concerned with the future of cultural diplomacy, especially former LRE grantees and those who have worked in the field.

For more information, to make a financial contribution, to volunteer time or to share ideas, please contact **James L. Bullock**, Executive Director, at the new P.O. Box, telephone numbers, fax and email addresses listed below.

(* denotes projects supported by earmarked “sub-funds.” Use of these sub-funds, less a pro-rated share of the LRE’s administrative costs, is restricted to the project(s) named insofar as is programmatically sustainable. Formally “temporarily restricted” for accounting purposes, these sub-funds offer donors a mechanism for targeting contributions to specific countries or projects.)