



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.

