



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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Dear Friend of Lois:

The second decade has begun. This eleventh year has been full of surprises. Contributions exactly matched those of last year, adding about 3.2% to our capital, just under \$200,000 but still too little to avoid putting earnings back into capital for growth. Earnings, bound by fiduciary investment rules, have not ridden the wave of the amazing stock market but nonetheless have done well, at nearly 8%. This year one of our former grantees made a "pay-back" contribution, our first.

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There is much news. First off, my daughter Sky, known to Lois and some of you as Jen, has graciously offered to begin absorbing part of the work of coordinating selections, a great boon in view of my absences. Her address: 29 Henry Street, Amherst MA 01002 (fax: 413/549-5896).

In Australia, with the Fulbright Commission, we launched the jointly-funded Martin C. Carroll Award with two grants, in Spring and Fall (we are now on a Fall schedule), helping American Fulbright graduate students to move around that vast continent. Michael Pippenger studied the formation of the Australian literary canon since the nation's birth, and Matthew Sherman worked on Australian-US trade relations, with special reference to the impact of NAFTA.

At home, USIA's Women's Action Organization handled this year's "Lois Award" with style. In the presence of Director Joseph Duffey, who knew Lois well, the prize was awarded in absentia to Mary Carlin Yates, now Information Officer with USIS Paris, for her remarkable, indeed heroic service in Zaire. Ms. Yates, in a letter of thanks to the Endowment, captured perfectly the idea and spirit of this Award: "Every year, when I read the criteria for the Lois Award, I recommit myself to trying to live up to her high standard."

In Italy, the Rome Center for American Studies moves ahead slowly with our proposal for a pendant to the Prix Coindreau, an annual prize to the best translation from American literature. A draft is now before the board; matching funding is being sought, and a selection committee is under discussion. It is hoped that an award can be made in 1998. The Aquarone Prize for \$500 for books went this year to Alessandro Gazzini, working on US foreign policy towards Indonesia in the forties and fifties.

Closing the program with the free university of Rome, we asked Alba Della Fazia to canvass former students of the late Prof. Jeanne Varney Pleasants, a remarkable teacher of French phonology and pedagogy at Columbia through the sixties who taught us all (including several of Lois' teachers at Barnard), to start an annual prize in her memory for a graduate student in pedagogy. A handsome contribution by Elizabeth Blake, Vice President of the University of Minnesota at Morris, permitted us to offer a prize this year in the amount of \$300; we expect it to grow, through earmarked gifts.

