



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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Dear Friend of Lois:

Twelve years have gone by and Lois' smile lives on in memory. After tentative beginnings, our little endowment has achieved a kind of stability; it is time I began to wonder about passing on the torch. My gratitude goes to the hundreds of Lois' friends and admirers who have made this happen.

Unfortunately it has not been a good year. Contributions dropped sharply, to \$3900, a 23% fall from the last two years, adding only 2% to our capital. Earnings have not soared with the equities market since our holdings are vested prudently in bonds. Still, our investments earn healthily at about 7.2%. A second grantee made a pay-back contribution, a good omen.

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The program has developed new ingenuity. The first *Lois Roth Prize for Literary Translation* will be given by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA) in December 1999. We did this hand-in-hand with the Dettman Foundation in Charlottesville and my Fulbright Difference co-author David Rubin: each of us pledged \$750 per year, for a \$1500 bi-annual award and a \$1500 bi-annual investment, for ten years. Prize money remains in our account and grows, so that after 10 years we ought to be able to make a one-time grant to MLA, ensuring the prize's continuation in perpetuity.

Similarly, we have set aside within the Endowment a separate fund to fund the *Jeanne Varney Pleasants Award* at Columbia University, as reported last year. In the Spring, Columbia will nominate advanced students in pedagogy and phonology and we shall award \$350 to one of them. With a little help, we hope to make the award grow to at least \$500.

In Italy, the *Aquarone Prize* encountered serious problems in funding. To offer help, we doubled our contribution, provided it would be set aside as an interest-generating endowment and matched 2-1. An anonymous donor added \$500. If the Italian side can meet its match, they should be able to endow the Prize within 10 years; if not, our funds are returned to us. Meanwhile this year's brilliant laureate Mario Del Pero is in Washington, working on culture and US foreign policy 1945-55. Also in Italy, since 1986 we have tried to help Rome's *Center for American Studies* (I am now its US representative). We have offered to start an endowment in the U.S. with an annual grant of \$1000, to be matched 3-1. Discussions continue.

Our longstanding programs have gone smoothly this year, despite the starvation-budgets afflicting Fulbright commissions around the world. In *Norway*, we helped Sarah Peterson, in public health at Berkeley, study the impact of health and social policies on adolescent reproductive health. In *Sweden*, we contributed to Eric Banks, Wisconsin PhD-candidate, and his work on contemporary choral-singing theory and practice in Sweden; we also helped Matthew Roy, University of Washington PhD candidate, explore theoretical perspectives and representations of homosexuality in Swedish literature. In *Denmark*, our first Sonja Bundgaard-Nielsen grant went to Andrew Buckser, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Purdue, for his ethnographic study of Copenhagen's Jewish community. With Sonja's family and the Danish American Foundation and the ASF, we are thinking about combining forces for a single major award. In *Finland* the Commission has encountered budget problems: we had only two candidates and granted a Roth-Thomson award of \$500 to Nicholas Hill help enrich his sociological study of the Finnish military; next year we shall abandon the project-approach and return to the pre-arrival method used elsewhere. In *Australia*, we doubled this year's Martin Carroll traveling

