



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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Dear Friend of Lois:

We have entered our thirteenth year. Thirteen was a significant number for Lois. She was born on Friday February 13. We were married on April 13, Jefferson's birthday. She died January 13. And our granddaughter Rosalie, preferring Valentine's, missed by ten hours being born on her birthday--she of course is 13. We look ahead to a portentous year, in the best sense of the word.

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Good news, earnings firmed at 7.1% last year and signs point to a better performance this year. Better news, an e-mail address: RothEndow@aol.com. Best news: a marvelous effort by 61 contributors raised '97 contributions by 33% over '96, to \$5200. Less-good news: our mailing list crashed but has been recovered, explaining lateness this year. If you know anyone who should be receiving this mailing but who is not, please let me know.

My first trip to Sweden, for UNESCO meetings last spring, permitted touching base with cherished friends of Lois and scattering memories of her in Stockholm and Uppsala. Precisely as Ra and Sven Lundstrom and I gathered to remember Lois on the snowy front campus of her beloved Uppsala University, the cathedral bells pealed forth! In Stockholm I also made contact with '97 grantee Matthew Roy, now back and helping organize the Swedish alumni.

The Endowment's work has grown. For our burgeoning translation program, MLA's selection committee for the first *Lois Roth Award for Literary Translation* is preparing for December. In France the *Coindreau Prize* for '98 went to Michèle Albaret-Maatsch for her version of Lewis Nordan's *Wolf Whistle*. In collaboration with the Société des Gens de Lettres, the Prize was awarded at the Village Voice Bookstore in Paris, rue Princesse. A new project for *Iran*: discussion with the American Institute of Iranian Studies, which Lois helped launch in the late 1960s, envisions an annual prize in her name for the best translation from Persian literature.

Our internal fund for the *Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize* for language pedagogy at Columbia University has grown, permitting us to raise the award to \$500 this year. Last year the prize of \$350, our first, went to Ames Hodges, outstanding Columbia graduate student and teacher.

The USIA-Women's Action Organization ceremony was especially touching this year. *The Lois Award* went to one of Lois' closest friends in the agency,

