

ROTH ENDOWMENT 2005 Two decades from its modest start, the Endowment has amassed \$586,000 in capital and, after more than 200 grants and award, is pressing into new areas.

Highlights of 2005:

1) An agreement with the Fulbright Commission in New Zealand by which an NZ grad student each year will receive supplemental support for work in the US in the social sciences and humanities, with a preference for American Studies; the award will bear the name of the late Founder-Trustee Robin W. Winks and Avril Flockton Winks, his New Zealander wife of more than fifty years.

2) With Turkey, a four-cornered agreement with the State University of New York and the Turkish Fulbright Commission is all but final: it will help bring an authority on Turkish Studies to the US every year, developing Turkish Studies on the SUNY campuses, with a preference for peace and security studies.

3) Discussions with the State Department indicate that a second annual award will soon be created for domestic servants of cultural diplomacy, honoring Alice Ilchman and John Richardson, prominent ex-directors of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

4) An administrative move: the Scandinavian program, touching Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, will now be centered in the Department of Scandinavian and Germanic Studies of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

This year's gifts matched last year's, at \$10,000, with the help of a special year-end postcard appeal. Our investments earned at the rate of 4.59%, in a conservative investment strategy. Program growth now necessitates the use of professional mailers, diminishing the personal touch the Endowment was able to manage for so many years. As of today, we count ten country programs, four translation and language-learning projects, and two awards, soon to be three. Our mailing list, including relocated alumni, has increased by 10%.

Special help was received from Mim Johnston Hallock's bequest for the Turkish project, from the Delavan Foundation for the Roth Award in State, from an anonymous donor to the Prix Coindreau support fund. The chair's book *The First Resort of Kings: American Cultural Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century* (Potomac, 2005) is a rich source of information in which Lois figures prominently. A paperback edition will appear in June 2006.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Australia. After a two-year hiatus, we await candidates this Fall for two awards to supplement the work of US researchers in the social sciences and humanities in Australia.

Denmark. American Scandinavian Foundation grantee Thor Mednick received a supplemental \$1250 for his work on nationalism in Danish art since 1850.

Finland. With the Fulbright Commission, on a post-arrival basis, we made two grants of \$1250 each to Kjerstin Moody for work on contemporary Finnish literature and to Michael Jakab for a graphic design and video project for cell phones he calls "Mobile Narratives."

Norway. The Fulbright Commission, now managed by Sonja Mykletun, has moved to a post-arrival approach and has skipped this year's grant.

Sweden. Jeanette Lindstrom, director of the Fulbright Commission, helped us award grants of \$1250 each to Garrett Bucks of his study of the Swedish approach to poverty at home and abroad and to Kjersti Knox for work on traditional medicine among the Sami people and its interaction with the public health system.

Italy. Discussions continue with the Rome Center for American Studies about the use of interest generated by our fund dedicated to the Center's use. The fund has grown to nearly \$13,000.

New Zealand. With Fulbright director Mele Wendt, we have agreed to support a New Zealander researcher in the social sciences or humanities, geared in the longer run to the potential growth of American Studies. By Fall 2006, the New Zealand researcher should be in the U.S.

Russia. The National Peace Foundation reports that Valentina Cherevatenko, director of Women of the Don Region, has built a new inter-ethnic consortium which, with our grant of \$1500, has moved into post-conflictual Chechnya and Beslan, working with victims of post-traumatic stress. Earlier Roth investments have helped launch a summer camp in Ivanovo, part of the east European network of WIESCO in Wisconsin.

THE MILLON AWARD

In the National Gallery of Art, Dean Elizabeth Cropper reports that our contribution of \$1500 is helping build the Italian Architectural and Photographic Collection initiated by Endowment Founder-Trustee Henry A. Millon. It now holds 45,000 photographs and manuscripts on pre-1900 Italian architecture. This year's grant will support Dr. Paola Modesti.

ROTH AWARD, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Roth prize of \$1500, unique as a private-based recognition of excellence in educational and cultural diplomacy, went in 2005 to a mentoree of Lois, Jean Manes, just returned from a heroic performance in Montevideo; a week later, she was broadcasting about her award via VOA's Spanish-language program. Runner-up Orna Blum's fine performance prompted the selection committee to recommend Honorable Mention. She and Jean Manes received copies of the chair's book on cultural diplomacy, as did outgoing Assistant Secretary Patrica Harrison, for her fine stewardship over the preceding four years.

Seeds from long ago sprouted this year: the Endowment has proposed a second grant, to honor domestic servants of cultural diplomacy, bearing the names of Alice S. Ilchman and John Richardson Jr., ex-directors of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is hoped to offer this second award in Spring 2006.

TRANSLATION AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION

MLA-Roth Award for Literary Translation. This year's prize of \$1000, given in alternate years, went to Joel Agee for his sensitive and beautifully printed translation of *The End: Hamburg 1943*, a haunting text on the destruction of the great German port city.

Institute of Iranian Studies Award. At this year's meeting of the American Institute of Iranian Studies, held this year in the UK because of US visa difficulties, the sixth annual prize of \$1500 was given to Oxford's Jawid Mojadeddi for his translation of Book I of Jalal al-Din Rumi's *Masnavi*

The Maurice Coindreau Prize, raised this year to \$200 to offset shortfalls on the French side, went to Antoine Caze for his translations of Nicholson Baker's *A Box of Matches* and *The Size of Thoughts*. Our efforts to raise a sub-fund of \$25,000 have reached the one-quarter mark, thanks to continued gifts by an anonymous donor and others.

Jeanne Varney Pleasants Award. In May 2005, Columbia University's French Department awarded our prize of \$600 to Monika Keister. She is reported to be a superb teacher who is also a gifted operatic soprano, performing roles like Mozart's Susanna and Zerlina and Strauss' Adele. Earlier laureates are spreading out around the country, teaching at prestigious universities.

