

Literary Translation and Language Education

• *MLA-Roth Award for Literary Translation* (\$1000). is given in alternate years and was not presented this year. Last year's awardee Joel Agee, for his translation of Hans Erich Nossack's *The End: Hamburg 1943*, has attracted attention: it is a disturbing meditation the destruction of the great German port city and seems to be making an important impact on readers. Discussions with MLA continue on how we might annualize, enrich or expand this award.

• *American Institute of Iranian Studies*. As of this writing, we await news of this year's selection by the AIIS for its 2007 award. Details about last year's award of \$1500 to Jawad Mojadeddi, for his translation of the first of Rumi's six-volume *Masnavi*, hold interest. Because Rumi has become a best-seller in the U.S., the AIIS is pleased that a serious translation of the entire opus of Rumi has begun. It is, writes AIIS President Franklin Lewis, "a daunting task, requiring a commitment of heroic patience and intellectual persistence." Dr. Lewis believes the Roth-AIIS award will encourage Dr. Mojadeddi to carry through to the end of this long project. Meanwhile, critics are praising the achievement of twice-laureate Dick Davis for his splendid translation of the complete *Shahnameh* of Ferdowsi, which Michael Dirda of the *Washington Post* described as "one of 2006's great works of fiction."

• *The Maurice Coindreau Prize* (\$2000) was again awarded at the seat of the Société des Gens de Lettres, the Hôtel de Massa in Paris. The prize went to Marc Amfreville for his translation of Monique Truong's *The Book of Salt* (Houghton-Mifflin, 2003). Anticipating success in raising the Coindreau sub-fund to \$25,000, we augmented our contribution this year. With the

unstable dollar, our supplement has helped ease concern in France about the future of the Prize honoring the great translator and Princeton professor. Despite the continuing generosity of one anonymous donor however, the going has been slow: as of this writing, the sub-fund still falls short of \$7000.

• *The Jeanne Varney Pleasants Award* of the French Department, Columbia University was raised to \$750; it was given in May 2006 to Matthew Bridge, working towards his doctorate in comparative literature, focusing on interaction between literature and theory in France and East Asia. A long appreciative letter from Matthew reveals the born pedagogue, who uses humor, role-playing and movement to make his classes unforgettable. He sees teaching as a collaboration between teacher and students: "My students will be happy to hear that I have won this award. But I know it is as much theirs as mine."

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We have referred too often to our ongoing needs: only with continued contributions and bequests can the Endowment keep growing as a public foundation. The Endowment, passing the half-million mark, has entered a new decade and we are ready to explore new areas. Please help. Gifts may be general or else earmarked for any specific project, some of which already have accumulated substantial supporting sub-funds. New sub-funds may be opened by a minimal earmarked gift of \$1000, for any project approved by the board. For sub-funds holding \$10,000 or more, the Endowment will guarantee an annual award of \$1000, an annual return of 10% from the donors' viewpoint.

We remind readers of our rapidly developing website at www.rothendowment.org, where many of our recent grantees may be seen at work.



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THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT



2006

Program Year 2006 - 2007

Country Programs

- *Australia.* The Australian program picked up this year with a post-arrival research \$1500 grant to Columbia and Harvard graduate Amos Jones, for work at Melbourne University's School of Law on the Australian experience of constitutionalism and its US links. Meanwhile, at the University of Sydney, a new Center for American Studies funded by a sizable Australian government grant was announced by Prime Minister John Howard at an imposing Embassy ceremony in Washington at which board member Harriet Mayor Fulbright was dubbed a member of the Order of Australia. We shall watch the Center's growth with interest.

- *Denmark.* For the Danish program, we shall miss the help of our long-time colleague at the American Scandinavian Foundation Ellen McKey; she has moved over to IIE, where she will remain part of our family. This year's grantee, painter Mille Guldbeck, has already spent the summer in Denmark, on her own funds, and met with success: her work was part of a group show with the best contemporary Danish artists, Summer 2006; it will travel to her home university, Bowling Green, then elsewhere in the U.S. in 2007-2008, then to the Herter Gallery at the University of Massachusetts. With our help, she will spend five months this year in the remote island of Møn, painting its desolate landscapes.

- *Finland.* With the alert assistance of Terhi Topi at the Helsinki Fulbright Commission, we awarded two grants in 2006 (this year's candidates are still in the selection process), as the Commission moved to a post-arrival approach: Kjerstin Moody focused on 20th-century modernist Finnish poetry and Michael Jakab created a series of "micromovies" on Finnish culture today.

- *Italy.* The Center for American Studies in Rome has opted to allow our sub-fund to grow until its income is enough to generate programs of interest. The sub-fund has now grown to nearly \$16,000, which will already permit an annual Endowment-matched contribution of \$2000 for a project both sides agree to carry out.

- *New Zealand.* This year, with Mele Windt, new director of the Fulbright Commission in Wellington, we launched a program honoring the late Robin W. Winks and his wife Avril. In a special effort to mark the occasion, with Avril assisting in selections, we doubled our commitment so that two Roth awards of \$1500 are now helping researchers at the Universities of Chicago and Pittsburgh: Hannah Gerrard is working on rhetoric, composition, literary theory and pedagogy at Pitt, while Michelle Menzies is studying cultural studies and interdisciplinary theory at Chicago. We expect that, in the longer run, this project will support American Studies in New Zealand and New Zealand Studies in the U.S., subjects to which Robin Winks gave a good part of his life. Special support is needed to help this program reach its full potential.

- *Norway.* The Fulbright Commission, under its new director Sonja Mikletun, has stabilized its post-arrival research approach and submitted two outstanding candidates, leading us to offer two grants of \$1000. Amelia Bidwell, Smith College 2003, will work on Local Community and Politics in Medieval Scandinavia as part of the Transformation Project at the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies at the University of Oslo. And Aline Bersagel will look at Norwegian efforts to enlist its NGOs in public and cultural diplomacy. Last year's returned grantee Robert Strand, from his base at the business school of the University of Minnesota, writes: "In Norway as a Fulbright researching business ethics and corporate responsibility, I was helped by the Roth Endowment to travel to regionalize my research through travel. In companies like Nokia in Finland and Novo Nordisk in Denmark, I explored different approaches to responsibility. This was critical to the quality and breadth of the research paper I have submitted for publication."

- *Russia.* The National Peace Foundation's chair Sarah Harder, from Moscow in the company of her counterpart Olga Bessolova, writes about our \$1500 grant: "We have moved to a new initiative in the North Urals, where since 2001 civic and professional leaders from four cities have worked with NPF to develop

treatment systems for victims of the heroin flowing in from Afghanistan. Early in 2007 returnees from NPF Open World visits to the U.S. set up their own NGO, the first in the region to address the taboo subject of addiction. This is one of Russia's early community-based treatment initiatives. In Krasnoturinsk, the Marinka Salvation Center is turning an abandoned resort complex into an addiction facility, expanding regional treatment capacities and providing public information on heroin and HIV, serious threats to those under 30. Unique in Mr. Putin's Russia, the new center is benefiting from Roth help.

- *Sweden.* With Bill Rivera working with alumni and Sky Arndt-Briggs managing our Scandinavian relations as part of the UMass Program in Germanic and Scandinavian Languages and Literatures, we continue our oldest program with the Swedish Fulbright Commission. The retirement of our longtime friend Fulbright director Jeanette Lindstrom, for whom no successor has been announced, has not affected our plans; nominations for the 2007 post-arrival research American grantees are expected shortly. Kjersti Knox has returned after looking at Sami medicine, and Garrett Bucks has returned from his study of globalization and poverty.

- *Turkey.* Thanks to the living bequest of Mim Johnston Hallock, in honor of her late Turkophile husband, we shall see a distinguished professor of contemporary Turkish Studies in the State University of New York system in the Fall of 2007, in cooperation with SUNY, the Turkish Fulbright Commission and others. We shall contribute \$1500 this first year and watch developments. The project is designed to build Turkish and Eastern Mediterranean Studies at several centers in the SUNY system and, in the longer run, to strengthen American Studies in Turkey. SUNY has a good number of Turkish students on its campuses and American students are beginning to go from New York to Turkey. This ingenious arrangement results from the work of our friend of many years Dr. Robert Gosende, Vice President of SUNY for International Relations.

Henry and Judith Rice Millon Award*

At the National Gallery's Center for Study in the Visual Arts, Dean Elizabeth Cropper advises that our annual contribution of \$1500 this year will help Prof. Cummy Brothers, University of Virginia architectural historian, to work in the Italian Architectural Drawings and Photographic Collection (IADPC), founded by Henry Millon, on Giuliano da Sangallo and the ruins of Rome. The Collection now holds nearly 50,000 photographs and 350 manuscripts on pre-1900 Italian architecture, with a filing system that accesses other world repositories. Our 2005 Millon grantee, announced too late for last year's report, was the Venetian Dr. Paola Modesti, who studied the uses, functions and publics of the churches of Venice, from the city's origins until the Counter-Reformation. Earmarked gifts are needed to support and expand this project.

Lois Roth Award, State Department

There was no award in 2006 of the State Department's Lois Roth Award for Cultural Diplomacy for foreign service or the new Ilchman-Richardson Award for civil service employees working in cultural affairs, in honor of the late Alice S. Ilchman and John Richardson, former directors of State's cultural diplomacy. The call for nominations, circulated in August 2006 by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to all offices and field posts, did not produce nominations that met the high standards set by the Bureau. Plans for a new and more vigorously advertised announcement, probably in the Spring of 2007, are under way.

The Roth prize of \$1500 remains unique as a privately-based recognition of excellence in State's educational and cultural diplomacy. The board has decided to supplement the revenue from the sub-fund to support two awards, in anticipation of growth. The sub-fund has grown to \$22,000, thanks in part to a handsome gift from the Ilchman family, but this does not yet produce the \$3000 needed. We urge extra support for this purpose. Meanwhile we learn from the Washington Post that former Roth laureate Kiki Munshi has returned safely to Washington after heading the provincial reconstruction team in Diyala, the vast embattled province northeast of Baghdad.