

## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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### FOUNDING DIRECTORS EMERITI

Grisselle Cohen

Evelyn Swarthout Hayes (1912 - 2000)

Robin W. Winks (1930 - 2003)

### Country Programs

***Australia.*** We gave one award to of \$1500 to Abigail Sebaly, Merce Cunningham dancer and Michigan graduate, to explore dance forms and dance education, then were persuaded to give a grant-in-aid of \$750 to Joshua Coene, to support travel for his study of changes in penal policy and practice over the last four decades in New South Wales. New Commission director Dr. Joseph Hlubucek, PhD in Chemistry from Sydney, brings to Canberra an impressive career in public service and business—he was Consul in San Francisco and Counselor for Education at the Embassy in Washington; taking charge in an anniversary year, he is leading celebrations of the Australian Fulbright Program’s 60<sup>th</sup> year, including one in Washington at which the Endowment was represented by Harriet

Fulbright and the chair. We know Dr. Hlubucek well and are pleased to wish him the best in his new challenge.

**Bulgaria.\*** After last year's jump-start, we continued help to novelist Elizabeth Kostova and her foundation in Bulgaria (EKF), with support from the Ministry of Culture, the US embassy, the American Bulgarian Foundation, and private donors. The emerging democracy, after post-Cold War rebirth, has understood that its writers, helped to stretch across borders, can link the new nation to the world of international letters, with the cooperation of the Fulbright Commission and the American University. The emerging democracy, after post-Cold War rebirth, has understood that its writers, helped to stretch across borders, can link the nation to the world of international letters.

We are helping build two prizes, one for translation from English into Bulgaria—already given in 2008 and 2009, and a second from Bulgarian into English, for the near future. Dyankov Prize II (\$2000), named for an iconic translator, was awarded at the Sofia BookFair in December 2009, to translators Igljika Vassileva for John Banville's *The Sea* and Yordan Kosturkov for Cynthia Ozick's *The Widow of Stockholm*. In parallel, June also saw the second annual workshop for writers in Sozopol. Mixing high-caliber faculty and writers of Bulgarian and English, the seminar showed writers, translators and publishers the advantages of international outreach, collegial sharing, personal interchange and constructive criticism. The 2009 call for participants was over-subscribed—only one in twelve was chosen. Other support has already reduced the need for our help, but we are alert to upstream issues—e.g., in 2009 we helped translate and publish Bulgaria's first writing-craft textbook for Sozopol; it will find wide use in schools around the country. Further success: EKF in 2007 persuaded the Bulgarian English-language monthly *Vagabond* to publish fiction in every issue, noting EKF collaboration. While a strong sub-fund supports these projects, we welcome earmarked contributions.

**Denmark.** Contrary to last year's report, mixed-media artist Thea Augustina Eck only carried out her project this year on the collision between the Danish, Greenlandic and Arctic cultures in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Meanwhile alumna Heidi W. Durrow's novel *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* will appear in January 2010 (Algonquin Books). Barbara Kingsolver writes of her “breathless telling of a tale we've never heard before. Haunting and lovely, pitch-perfect, this book could not be more timely.”

**Finland.** To reduce costs in a year of financial uncertainty yet maintain our commitment to two grants, we reduced Finland's to \$1,000 each. Deborah Turner, a University of Washington PhD, received one for research on orally-based information practices in Finnish information institutions. The other went to photographer Mark McKnight for a project on

Finland's bee populations and honey-farmers.

**Italy.** \* We await the Rome Center's proposal as to how our sub-fund might support programs of interest to us both. The sub-fund remains under \$17,000; we have offered an annual contribution of \$2000 for a joint project. Alternate possibilities in Italy have been proposed but for now we maintain our longstanding commitment to the Center for American Studies.

**New Zealand.** \* In 2005, we launched a program honoring the late Robin Winks of Yale and his NZ wife Avril. This year's award went to Sarah Salman of Auckland for work on a PhD in sociology on American immigrant communities' responses to 9/11, at the City University of New York. Sub-fund: in the first two years of the Winks award, impressed by candidate quality, we doubled our commitment of \$1500; difficult times led us to return to a single grant. This year generous help from Avril Winks raised our sub-fund to \$2725, a major step towards expansion. Alumni news: Bethany Edmunds (2008) is continuing at NYU in Visual Culture, stressing costume studies and textile conservation. Georgina White (2007), after her MA in Museum Studies at NYU, returned to NZ to work as Exhibition Developer at the Auckland Museum. Ben Steele (2007), after his Columbia MA in Anthropology on indigenous rights and treaty issues, became Second Secretary in the NZ Permanent Mission to the UN. Both 2006 laureates are in doctoral programs in literature, Michelle Menzies at Chicago and Hannah Gerrard at Pittsburgh.

**Norway.** Our single award (\$1,500) went to Rolf Steier, Stanford MA, for his project Designing for Learning, addressing the role that mobile telephonic technologies play in children's learning in public spaces.

**Russia.** Last year, the National Peace Foundation's chair Sarah Harder, From Moscow, reported that complications with the Russian sponsors slowed down the program. Since our grant last year could not be utilized, she returned our check. We look forward to the resumption of this fine project and to future cooperation with great interest.

**Sweden.** Under its new director Eric Jönsson, our oldest program with the Fulbright Commission in Stockholm received only one grant (\$1,500) in FY 2009, owing to a dearth of candidates in the humanities and social sciences. It was awarded to Emma Abby, a 2008 geography graduate from Framingham State College, Massachusetts, to help her continue environmental studies and sustainability science at the famous center in Lund.

**Turkey.** \* In 2009, Dr. Yildim Onur, a young economic historian from the fine Middle East Technical University, will teach at SUNY Binghamton. The idea launched by Myriam Hallock in memory of her late Turkophile husband came to fruition in 2008. Dr. Umit Cizre of Bilkent University (Ankara), one of Turkey's top political scientists,

spent her spring at Binghamton, after an inaugural lecture at Garrick Utley's Levin Center in New York City, then moved to Princeton and again to the Wilson Center in Washington. SUNY is slowly developing a graduate dimension in Turkish and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, to cap the presence of over 5000 Turkish undergraduates added over the last eight years. This unique program idea will result in double degrees for all graduates after 4 years on both campuses. American students begin study in Turkey in 2009.

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### **Henry and Judith Millon Award\***

At the National Gallery's Center for Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), our 2009 contribution (\$1500) is helping Florence-based Margaret Haines explore the Millon archives to advance her 15-year labors on the astonishing Digital Archive of documents on the building of Brunelleschi's cupola for Santa Maria del Fiore. The Italian Architectural Drawings and Photographic Collection (IADPC), founded by Dean Emeritus Millon, now holds over 50,000 photographs and 350 manuscripts on pre-1900 Italian architecture, with links to world repositories. Alumni Luigi Sperti and Paola Modesti have returned to Venice; Cammy Brothers is teaching architectural history at the University of Virginia. An anonymous gift has raised the Millon sub-fund to \$3100, a step to the \$15,000 we need to carry on and enrich this project.

### **Lois Roth and Ilchman-Richardson Awards Department of State\***

Both awards have been delayed this year by the transition of Administrations and will be awarded in the spring of 2010. In FY 2008, after a two-year gap, the Lois Roth Award for Cultural Diplomacy in the field came back to life and was joined by the Ilchman-Richardson Award for domestic support staff, honoring the late Alice S. Ilchman and John Richardson, former directors of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The twinned prizes of \$1500 bring unique private recognition to excellence in American cultural diplomacy. Under the leadership of outgoing director Goli Ameri, graduate of an American school in Tehran and frequent visitor to Lois Roth's Iran-America Society, the professional staff, for the Roth award, chose foreign-service officer Deborah Jones for her work in Uzbekistan, with honorable mention to Victoria Sloan (Kazakhstan). The Ilchman-Richardson Award, originaed six years ago by then-diector Patricia Harrison as the Ilchman Award to honor ECA Budget Director David Whitten, carried no stipend. With Endowment funding, the renamed 2008 prize (\$1500) went to the much-admired veteran Robert Persiko for two decades as chief of ECA youth programs. All laureates

received copies of the chair's *The First Resort of Kings*.

Both prizes are supported by sub-funds. The Roth Award, now in its 21st year, has passed \$20,000, while the newer Ilchman-Richardson award is supported by two funds totaling \$4000, with generous help from the Ilchman family and from John Richardson over the years.

### **Literary Translation, Language Education**

***MLA-Roth Award for Literary Translation\**** In December, the 2009 award (\$1000) will go to Adnan Haydar, University of Arkansas, and Michael Beard, University of North Dakota, for their translation of the poet Adonis's *Mihyar of Damascus, His Songs (Aghânî Mihyâr al-Dimashqî)* BOA Editions, 2008. Adonis, one of the Arab world's most famous poets, is the *nom de plume* of the Syrian Ali Ahmad Sa'id.

Forty-one translations competed this year, a new high. The selection committee, for the second time reaching beyond Western literature, was sufficiently impressed to name an honorable mention: *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow: A Novel of Shanghai* by Wang Anyi (Columbia University Press, 2008), translated by Michael Berry and Susan Chan Egan of the University of Santa Barbara). The MLA-Roth award, given in alternate years, went last to Edwin A. Cranston, for the second tome of his monumental anthology and translations of Japanese *waka* (court poetry), from the mid-ninth to the late eleventh centuries--reviewed on our web by RCB. The obvious appeal of this award makes us eager to find contributions to help make the award annual.

***American Institute of Iranian Studies.\**** The 2009 award went to Mohammad Ghanoonparvar for his unusual book *Translating the Garden* (UTexas Press), coupling the difficult work of Shahrokh Meskoob (*Dialogue in the Garden*) with a companion essay on translation. AIIS head Franklin Lewis of the University of Chicago reports: "With its two balanced parts, . . . it is self-reflective on many levels. It sets before us a multivalenced portrait of Iranian-ness, of exile and transportation, of the craft and art of translation, and the recovery of the pre-lapsarian, pre-exilic state." Other news: twice-laureate Dick Davis will make one of the keynote presentations at this year's annual meetings of the MLA, the sessions of which will be oriented to the broad problem of translation. This is welcome news, a sign that our commitment to the vital need for better translation keeps good company and that the present microscopic percentage of US publications translated from other cultures may soon rise.

***Prix Maurice Coindreau\**** (\$2000) for 2009 will go to Serge Chauvin for his translations of Colson Whitehead's *Apex* and *The Colossus of New York* (Gallimard). Presentation will take place at the Hotel de Massa in Paris on 14 December. Last year's award went to France Camus-Pichon in November for her translations of Charles D'Ambrosio's *Orphans* and *The Dead Fish Museum* in a packed ceremony at Catherine Martin-Zay's famous bookshop *Les Temps Modernes* in Orleans. The presence of her editor representing the publishing house Albin Michel was a symbol of the growing respect for the Coindreau Prize in France. The French Committee hopes for more support, as this award grows in outreach and importance, because the weak dollar has reduced our contribution's value by one third. We want to double our Coindreau sub-fund to \$16,000.

***Jeanne Varney Pleasants Award,\**** given by the French Department, Columbia University, was raised to \$1000, thanks to a generous contribution by Dr. Elizabeth Blake. This permitted the awarding of two prizes of \$500 each, to Aleksandra Perisic and Casiana Ionita, who in this year's teaching have again surpassed expectations. Laureates are scattered around the world: Melika Keister lives in Paris and has taken time out to give birth to a daughter, while teaching, singing and finishing her dissertation. Teaching jobs are hard to find. Geoffrey McAdam learned that a Columbia salary did not permit raising a family and has joined the business world. Erin Colby is teaching at Bates

College. Matthew Yudovich is teaching at Yeshiva University. Matthew Bridge is teaching at Columbia College, as is Jason Earle, who also teaches at Barnard College, where Cathy Leung is in her second year on the faculty. Columbia's high standards and the performance of its laureates continue to impress us.

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Difficult years have taught us the meaning of persistence: only continued contributions and bequests can keep the Endowment growing into a dynamic public foundation, supporting the ideals and values that underlie US education and its outreach through the diplomacy of cultures. Inching back towards the high-water \$700,000 mark in our holdings, we approach the end of the first decade of the new century with tested patience, refined practice, and grey-bearded leadership. Better mailing, budgeting, record-keeping and website are in train. At the same time, growth brings more attractive projects our way. We want to be ready to explore new ideas,

Your generosity, demonstrated in 2008, is our life-blood, whether gifts are general or earmarked, monthly or annual, pledged for tomorrow or given today, as outright gifts or as bequests. We need general support but welcome earmarked donations to sub-funds. A new sub-fund may be opened with a minimal gift of \$2000, for approved projects. When a sub-fund reaches \$10,000 or more, assuming help from markets, we will strive to make annual awards averaging 10% of that amount. Please visit our much-enriched website at [www.rothendowment.org](http://www.rothendowment.org) to find details and faces to go with the names—the site welcomes news of alumni/ae and their work.

As we approach our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we can see how the decades have led us to an open-ended commitment to an unpredictable future. The economic crisis has made us more certain of our mission than before. We need your help in bringing these ideas to life.