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**From the Director**

**Your help needed  
to reach NEH goal**

Year two of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant to the University in support of the IHRC's endowment campaign is ending, and the Center is working hard to meet its annual quota. The deadline for contributions to be counted toward this year's match is August 31. (We have applied for an extension but have no response yet.)

Details about the Challenge Grant can be found in the endowment section of the Center's Web site (click on "Endowment" in the pull-down menu), or contact the office. In a nutshell, NEH supplies \$1 of federal matching money to the IHRC for every \$4 in private donations. Funds are invested in the long-term future of the IHRC, to support our work in developing the archival collections and devising new public programs and research initiatives.

A key component is the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in American Immigration History, which will ensure distinguished faculty leadership of the Center in perpetuity.

Your help is greatly appreciated and urgently needed. Here's what you can do:

- Let the IHRC know of individuals or organizations interested in their ethnic heritage that we can contact.

**Endowment**, cont'd on p. 2

**SAT grant supports "Documentation of the Immigrant Experience"; photos, historical documents to be online resources**

The National Park Service has awarded \$250,000 to the IHRC through the heritage preservation program "Save America's Treasures." This federal matching award is supporting "Documentation of the Immigrant Experience," an IHRC initiative to provide educational resources for ethnic community organizations, school classrooms, and the general public. The grant was made possible with assistance from Minnesota's Fifth District U.S. Rep. Martin O. Sabo.



The project will make original historical source materials more widely available and provide assistance for ethnic communities in preserving their unique histories. A central feature of the effort will be the digitizing of selected documents from the IHRC collections to establish a major new Internet resource of historical photographs, memoirs, letters, newspaper articles, pamphlets, and other material. The first 121 photographs from IHRC collections have been posted and more will be available soon.

Partnering with community and cultural organizations, the project also will gather and create new historical documentation on immigration—including exhibits, oral histories, public programming, and publications reflecting the perspectives and voices of immigrants. And it will sponsor workshops for educators on the use of historical source materials for teaching. The Center would like to hear from individuals and organizations with ideas for partnerships.

The IHRC is one of six organizations in Minnesota and several hundred nationwide with initiatives designated as official projects of Save America's Treasures, a public/private partnership of the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Read the entire press release for more details. Find it under "News Clippings" on the news page of the IHRC Web site, <[www.umn.edu/ihrc/news.htm](http://www.umn.edu/ihrc/news.htm)>, or request a copy.

**Printed newsletter back  
after two-year hiatus**

With this issue, the IHRC resumes publishing its twice-yearly printed newsletter, in a somewhat shorter, condensed version and to a targeted audience—taking advantage of the opportunity to reach many constituents through the electronic "Headline News," posted monthly at the Center's Web site. This printed publication will also be available to download from the site in a pdf version (using Adobe Acrobat®). To help adjust the newsletter mailing list, let the IHRC know if you

- **WANT** to continue to have the printed newsletter sent to you (or suggest it be sent to a prospective supporter with no access to the Net), or
- **DO NOT WANT** the printed newsletter sent (save the trees!).

State your preference. Be sure to include your address if you e-mail but want the newsletter mailed.

Erik Moore, a part-time research assistant (working through summer 2002), is researching and selecting primary source materials in the Center's collections for Web access, as the first activity of the new initiative. Moore is a PhD student at the University in geography. The development of this new research tool was undertaken with a grant from the College of Liberal Arts Infotech Fees Committee Fund and will continue in future years with SAT grant funds, expanding from its original purpose to enhance undergraduate research in immigration studies. The IHRC will promote use of these materials by teachers at all levels, ethnic and other organizations, and the general public and, in the process, encourage the continued documentation of the immigrant experience.

In partnership with the Digital Collections Unit of the University Libraries, the IHRC's photographs are available through the campus-wide IMAGES initiative to produce high quality, standardized digital images. The new resource has been named "COLLAGE": Collections Online: A Digital Library of American Immigration and Ethnic History. It may be found at

<[www.umn.edu/ihrc/collage.htm](http://www.umn.edu/ihrc/collage.htm)>.

## Collection Development

### More foreign-language literature acquired

In January, the IHRC was approached by the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL), to select books for the Center from the MPL foreign literature collection, which includes complete works of famous world writers of the 19th and 20th centuries collected during the library's early years. The MPL is preparing to vacate its current building for a new one to be built at the same location, and librarians are weeding out some books prior to their move into temporary housing.

IHRC curators made several trips to the MPL this spring to select books. Some 280 have already arrived, with more to come. For more information on languages and titles, contact Sr. Asst. Curator Halyna Myroniuk.

### Library of Slovak history and literature donated

Martha Mistina Kona, head of the Slovak Heritage Commission in Chicago, donated some 235 Slovak books from the personal library of her late husband, William Kona. They cover various topics on Slovaks in America, Slovak history, literature, etc. William Kona was a professor at the Rush Presbyterian Medical Center and was the director of the Rush University Library. In the mid-1960s, he also chaired the Slovak Heritage Culture Center (now the Slovak Heritage Commission).

### Endowment, cont'd from p. 1

- Ask us about **planned giving**, or let us know if you have already included the IHRC in your plans.
- **Use the enclosed envelope** to make a contribution or pledge (pledges to be paid in full by July 2004 will count toward this year's goal). Find descriptions of individual funds at the IHRC Web site (click on "Endowment"), or ask for a brochure.

Thank you for supporting this vital cause of documenting, preserving, and promoting the history of our nation's immigrant experience.

*Rudy Vecoli*

### Some inventories available to researchers at Web site

The IHRC has begun making available on its Web site the complete inventories to some of its archival collections. More than three dozen finding aids have been converted so far.

Access these detailed descriptions by clicking on the link provided within a given entry in the "Guide to Collections" section (under the "Research" button on the pull-down menu). For more information about inventories, contact Asst. Curator Daniel Nečas.

Examples of inventories now accessible online are those to the:

- Anthony Capraro papers (Italian American)
- Francis Preveden papers (Croatian American)
- Rachel Davis Du Bois papers (General Collection)
- Bureau of Intercultural Education records (General Collection)
- Czas Publishing Company records (Polish American).

**Recent acquisitions.** Find more details in the posted "Headline News" of the date cited, or contact the IHRC for further information about the following collections:

**Order Sons of Italy in America, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania,** supplement to records, ca. 1940–1995. Ca. 33 lin. ft. PA is largest of the OSIA state lodges. 4/16/02

**Roucek, Joseph S. (1902–1984),** supplement to papers, 1921–1968. Ca. 12 lin. ft. Scrapbooks with articles and correspondence. 4/16/02

**Ukrainian Fraternal Association,** supplemental records, ca. 1910–1994. Ca. 250 lin. ft. 2/15/02

**Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., 1925–1975.** 11 lin. ft. Formed in 1925 by merger of five women's associations. Has published a monthly magazine since 1944. 2/15/02



**Gala Committee members award door prizes: Kathy Labriola Gruett stands at the microphone to announce the winners, Jeanette Pafko holds the bowl, and Tessie Bourdamis chooses a name.**

### 2001 Friends gala benefits IHRC Endowment Fund

The Friends of the IHRC held a gala dinner with live and silent auctions on Saturday, November 10, 2001, to raise funds for the IHRC's Endowment Campaign. About 125 guests enjoyed dinner prepared by the Midland Hills Country Club staff, music (piano accompaniment during the social hour and a violin trio serenading during dinner), the chance to purchase delightful auction items, and lively conversation.

Friends of IHRC president Don Pafko greeted the guests and introduced "celebrities" in the group, including Minnesota Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk and presidents of several ethnic organizations. The theme for the evening was "E Pluribus Unum," addressed by Director Rudy Vecoli in his remarks. Board member, playwright, and actress Celeste Raspanti tugged at people's heartstrings with a reading from a memoir about the immigration experience that she found in the IHRC's collection.

The event netted over \$23,000 for the endowment. The NEH match will add another \$5,000 or so to the total. Many Friends members contributed to the success of the evening with their hours of work in preparation for this event. The IHRC and the Friends are grateful to all who helped with the planning and execution of the gala, contributed items or services to be auctioned, attended the event, purchased auction items, or sent a contribution in lieu of attending.

### Another fund raiser being planned

To follow up on this successful gala, the Friends Board of Directors is planning another fund raiser. Details will be available as the planning progresses (check the Friends section of the IHRC Web site or call the Center). To assist with this event, as a worker or a sponsor, contact Friends President Don Pafko, 952-789-5063 or <pafkova@aol.com>.

## Visitors

- A grant from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support a young Czech scholar, **Pavel Paleček**, for a three-month stay (9/02–11/02) to help with processing Czech American archival collections. Assistance in arranging this visit was provided by **Ivan Dubovický**, Cultural Advisor in the Czech Ministry, who was himself a researcher at the IHRC in 1990.
- On March 3, **Stanley Romanstein**, president and CEO of the Minnesota Humanities Commission, visited with IHRC Dir. Rudy Vecoli and Asst. Dir. Joel Wurl and discussed ways the MHC and the IHRC might cooperate on aspects of the IHRC's SAT project (see page 1).

Vecoli and Wurl coordinated and addressed issues at a **workshop on "Immigration Then and Now"** sponsored by the MHC for 40 Minnesota teachers April 22–23. Held at the Commission's Education Center in St. Paul, with a field trip to the IHRC, it featured specialists and ethnic community resource people recruited by the coordinators.

- **Joseph Coccia** and his wife, **Elda**, visited the IHRC February 1-4, 2002. Mr. Coccia is a past president of UNICO National, an Italian American service organization, and currently heads its Committee on Chairs and Fellowships. Following a tour, he praised the Center's physical facilities and especially its Italian American collection. Over lunch Vecoli and Wurl discussed with him the IHRC endowment campaign, in particular the need for a curator to care for the Italian American Collection.

At a meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of UNICO National held at the IHRC, Coccia spoke about the many good works supported by the organization since its founding in 1922, and particularly about its recent initiatives to establish chairs and centers of Italian/Italian American Studies at institutions of higher education. He commended the Twin Cities Chapter for its pledge of \$10,000 to the IHRC's  
(cont'd at right)

## Staff News

- IHRC Director **Rudolph Vecoli** received one of the first annual Leonardo da Vinci Awards of Excellence for his work as a historian, presented at a gala reception and ceremony in Chicago on Sunday, May 5, 2002, by the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) Grand Lodge of Illinois. Vecoli joined Illinois individual and corporate honorees who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields. He wrote his dissertation on the history of Italians in Chicago.

- Curator & Asst. Director **Joel Wurl** has been elected to a three-year term on the council for the Society of American Archivists. He has also recently been appointed to the Advisory Board for Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm, MN. He attended his first meeting at Ironworld on May 20.

In January-February, Wurl conducted a six-week ElderLearning Institute course on "Immigration to Minnesota," for which he enlisted speakers representing several of Minnesota's recent immigrant groups.

- **Daniel Nečas** began work in August 2001 as assistant curator for archival operations, replacing Heather Muir. He has an MA in modern philology (linguistics) from Charles U in Prague, where he is enrolled in a PhD program. His dissertation deals with development of Czech language and literature in the Baroque Period. Daniel is fluent in Czech, Slovak, and English and has a reading knowledge of nine other European languages. Before taking this position he held several other paid and volunteer posts at the Center.

Italian American Studies Fund and enthusiastically supported establishing an endowed UNICO National Graduate Fellowship in Italian American Studies at the IHRC. The proposal to the UNICO Foundation for a grant to the IHRC endowment will be acted upon at the organization's next annual convention.

## Activities Report available online or on paper

The most recent report of the IHRC's activities, covering researchers, projects, new collections, finances, etc., and listing members of the Friends and funders for the three years July 1998–June 2001 is now available online at the IHRC Web site in a pdf version (use Adobe Acrobat© to read or download/print). A limited number of copies have been printed for IHRC supporters and prospective supporters who do not have access to the Web site. To request a printed copy, contact the Center.

## Premiere of Työmies documentary benefits Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies

The premiere of Tom Selinski's video documentary *For the Common Good*, held Sept. 23, 2001, at the Minnesota History Center auditorium, raised almost \$2,000 for the Timo Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies, part of the IHRC endowment.



Contributions honor the late, long-time Finnish specialist on the IHRC curatorial staff, who helped Selinski select photographs from the Center's Työmies collection for the video—which explores the nearly 100-year history of the Superior, WI-based *Työmies* (Working Man) newspaper. Riippa himself was instrumental in procuring the Työmies Society's archives for preservation at the IHRC, one of his many efforts to preserve the story of the Finnish experience in this country. The Riippa fund will support ongoing staff to care for, develop, and encourage the use of the IHRC's Finnish American collection.

## Scholarship honors memory of Mike Karni

A scholarship fund has been established at the IHRC to honor Dr. **Michael G. Karni**, U of M PhD in American studies, educator and historian, former employee of the IHRC, publisher of the periodical *Finnish Americana* and other materials on Finnish American history, who died at the age of 60 on March 21, 2002, from complications of lymphoma. He was awarded the White Rose of Finland for his work promoting Finnish American scholarship.

**Contributions** to both funds are tax deductible and, as part of the IHRC's endowment fund, qualify for a partial match from the NEH challenge grant. Donors are also enrolled as members of the Friends of the IHRC. To contribute or for more information about either of these funds—or other ethnic-group or project-specific divisions of the campaign—see the "Endowment" section of the IHRC Web site, or contact the Center. You may also use the enclosed envelope; see note on page 4.

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### Speakers, 2001–2002

April 17, 2002, lecture/discussion, “Current Migration  
Research in Sweden,” by **Ulf Beijbom**, managing director  
and professor at the Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö.

Nov. 29, 2001, Research in Progress (RIP) colloquium,  
“Migration Strategies and Influences Brought Back by  
Swedish Engineers Returning from Abroad Prior to 1940,  
with Special Attention to North American Migration,” by **Per  
Olof Gronberg**, a PhD candidate at Umea U, Sweden.

July 10, 2001, RIP colloquium, “America Embraces Louis  
Kossuth: Why an Iowa County Was Named for a Hungarian  
Freedom Fighter in 1851,” by **Rezsö (Ralph) Gracza**,  
independent researcher. After his talk, Gracza presented a  
copy of his publication, *How and Why Iowans Named  
Kossuth County in 1851* (Beaver’s Pond Press, 2001), to Joel  
Wurl for the IHRC’s Hungarian American collection. The  
book was prepared for the unveiling of a statue of Louis  
Kossuth in Algona, Iowa, on July 13, 2001.



USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE to contribute to the IHRC’s  
Annual Appeal (general support) and/or to contribute to the  
Endowment Campaign. Be sure to indicate your intended  
fund on the memo line of your check(s). **Thank you.**

Check the expanded IHRC Web site  
for resources and for the latest news:

<http://www.umn.edu/ihrc>

The Center’s “Headline News” is posted  
every month at mid-month



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### Immigration History Research Center

The IHRC promotes the study and appreciation of ethnic  
pluralism by sponsoring seminars, publications, confer-  
ences, and exhibits. One of this country’s foremost re-  
positories of immigration-related printed, manuscript, and  
audiovisual materials of national and local origin, the Cen-  
ter is open for research by scholars and the general pub-  
lic. The papers and records it collects and preserves are  
largely the products of the immigrants, their descendants,  
and their organizations. A substantial body of materials  
also documents the activities of groups that provided ser-  
vices to immigrants, worked for policy reform, or educated  
Americans about immigrant needs and problems. The  
IHRC appreciates your support.

Rudolph J. Vecoli..... Director  
Joel Wurl..... Curator, Asst. Director  
Cindy Herring..... Executive Secretary  
Judy Rosenblatt..... Editor

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Ask about becoming an IHRC volunteer

**About this newsletter.** This *News* issue is also accessible  
at the IHRC Web site. The paper version is sent to selected  
members and prospective members of the Friends of the IHRC,  
donors of money and materials, UM colleagues, and exchange  
publications. **Please notify the IHRC if you no longer wish  
to receive its mailings.**

**YOU** are the best ambassador of information about the IHRC.  
Pass this newsletter on or ask for handouts to distribute to pros-  
pective supporters. Supply names and addresses and the Center  
will send information directly to prospects. Thank you.

**DEADLINE** for the fall/winter issue is **September 20, 2002.**  
Send news to Judy Rosenblatt, [rosen015@umn.edu](mailto:rosen015@umn.edu). The IHRC  
publishes two *News* issues a year, spring/summer and fall/winter.