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**Finishing Up
the IHRC Endowment Campaign**

Begun in August 2000 with a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the IHRC Endowment Campaign draws to a close on July 31, 2006. Thousands of supporters from the community and the scholarly world have helped the IHRC to raise 1.2 million dollars, enabling it to receive \$300,000 in matching funds from the NEH. Although somewhat short of its original goal, this amount does represent a gratifying “vote of confidence.” Over the past six years, we have received gifts ranging in size from \$10 to \$250,000. Each donation has been appreciated; each makes possible some essential daily work at the Center.

Why have so many people given to the IHRC? As major contributor and long-time supporter Alex Batinich says, “People want to know where they come from.” On any given day, a visitor will find local students and members of the community sitting alongside scholars from around the world in the third-floor reading room of Andersen Library. All are in search of their own versions of a “useable past.”

With its newly enlarged endowment, the IHRC will continue to guarantee that immigrants and their descendants can “know where they come from.” The endowment campaign has supported community outreach, helped to fund an endowed professorship named after former Director Rudolph J. Vecoli, provided funding for graduate student fellowships and scholarly programs, and allowed the processing of new collections in our enormous and incredibly diverse archive.

Here, once again, we take the opportunity to express our thanks to those who have given or who plan to give—**please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter—prior to the July 31 deadline.**

From the Director

Immigration a hot topic, nationally and locally; IHRC responds with facts, perspective, programming

Dear friends of the IHRC,

The past months have been very busy ones.

As many of you know, immigration has become a hot topic in Minnesota and in other parts of the country. Faculty and staff affiliated with the IHRC find themselves speaking almost every week with local and national journalists, who struggle to provide historical perspective as well as “just the facts” about the causes and consequences of migration. We try to provide links to some radio and print interviews on our Web site. The IHRC is also experimenting with a new Web feature that will offer the unique perspectives and rich expertise of U specialists on contemporary debates about immigration. Look for it in fall '06.

This spring’s series of events—“It’s History: Immigration since 1965”—couldn’t have been more timely! In the past two months, we’ve sponsored talks focused on debates about the meaning of citizenship, about migrant workers, the growth of “minority majority” cities, and collecting efforts among the newest immigrants. We have upcoming events that will bring groups of school teachers from Northfield and St. Paul to work in the IHRC on lesson plans relating to immigration.

Amidst all this activity, we continue to move forward with a self-study that will become the foundation for future strategic planning. Both our Faculty and Student Advisory Council and our new Collections Council are hard at work. I’ll be reporting more fully on the results of the self-study this fall.

We urge you to visit our Web site (at www.ihrc.umn.edu) for a quick introduction to IHRC activities, old and new.

Donna R. Gabaccia
Rudolph J. Vecoli Professor of Immigration History and IHRC Director

Birthright Citizenship



One of the IHRC’s major events was an April 5 panel discussion about a topic in the news: “Birthright Citizenship: What Is It? What Are Its Antecedents? and Why Do Some Americans Today Argue That It Should Be Revoked?”

Panelists were Prof. Tom Wolfe, History (upper photo), and (left to right) Michelle Waslin, spokesperson for National Council of La Raza; Prof. Erika Lee, History and Asian American Studies; and Jorge Saavedra, attorney and immigration rights consultant.

Cosponsors were U of MN Departments of American Studies, Chicano Studies, and History and the Immigration Policy Center of the American Immigration Law Foundation, Washington, DC (which will make a transcript available on its Web site). The discussion was videotaped.

News from the Collections

What is the proper role of a national repository on immigration history?

Our proper role is perhaps the most fundamental question the IHRC faces in looking to establish a clear policy direction for the future of its library and archives program.

Contained within this question is an assumption that there *should* be a role for an institution that claims national coverage on this subject matter. I believe that assumption is valid, as evidenced in part by the work of the IHRC over the past four decades. From its outset, the Center stepped in to fill a niche not occupied by regional historical agencies, institutional archives, or immigrant community enterprises.

But 40 years has shown that managing a collecting program with national ambitions presents daunting challenges and complex uncertainties. Immigration is an extremely broad social phenomenon that continues to unfold in dynamic ways. The IHRC has long understood that it “can’t collect everything” on this topic. But is there a way to define some aspect of this scope that is both manageable and responsive to evolving historical realities and research needs?

Likewise, the nation is a huge piece of turf to cover for one institution with limited resources and storage capacity. Is there a way to concentrate on sources that are truly national in content and importance but still capture some of the personal and localized dimensions of the immigrant experience that many researchers consider vital?

Questions such as this require careful, creative, and in some cases new ways of looking at things. Could it be, for example, that serving as a national archival institution is only partly about serving as a physical environment for material? Is the charge perhaps as much about providing coordination as it is about obtaining custody?

These issues are on the discussion table right now for the IHRC’s newly formed Collections Council and will be an important part of the Center’s self study through the remainder of this year. I welcome your reactions and recommendations as we make headway on this critical path.

Joel Wurl

*Head of Research Collections
and Associate Director*

Researchers



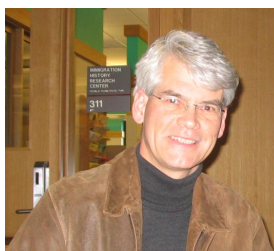
Davide Grippa, a PhD student from the U of Milano, Italy, did dissertation research for several months in early 2006. His topic is

Italian antifascism, 1931–1948, both activities of Italian Americans who helped and Italian exiles in America post-World War II. Grippa used records of an organization they formed, the Mazzini Society, and the papers of Max Ascoli, president of the society; also the Carlo Tresca and Anthony Capraro papers.

Gary Kaunonen, graduate student in industrial archaeology at Michigan Tech University, spent two separate weeks at the IHRC. Recipient of a 2005–06 Michael Karni Scholarship (grant-in-aid for research) from the Center, he came at the end of December 2005 and again at the end of March, working on Finnish American institutions, particularly the Työmies Publishing Co.’s early years, the Finn hall and other buildings on Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula (especially Hancock, MI), using the Center’s vast Finnish American collection. On March 31, he presented a public colloquium (with slide show), “Challenge Accepted: Examining a Finnish Immigrant Response to Industrial America in Michigan’s Copper Country through Material Culture.”

Prof. Eduard Mühle, director of the Dept. of East European History in the History Dept., U of Münster, Germany, spent a week in April

researching the Baltic forced migrations after 1945 of DPs in West-occupied Germany and how identities were reshaped and redefined. “This is a new field of study,” he noted. He looked at periodicals from the Dis-placed Persons camps and surveyed materials at the IHRC that will be useful for his research and that of his PhD students. He mentioned in particular the large Estonian archives available at the Center.



As a member of Polish Grey Samaritans, Stella Mucha-Mickritz helped provide relief after World War I. (9 lin. in. addition to papers, ca. 1919–2000; photo from previous contribution of 5 lin. in.). Find more about this and other new materials listed below in VITRAGE, the collections database section of the IHRC Web site (click on Research).

Frank J. Montemuro, Jr., papers (b. 1925), 16 boxes added to 13 lin. ft. about this leader, including national president, of the Order Sons of Italy in America.

George Shenkar papers, consisting of letters to and from extended family in Belarus/Poland, 1920s–1950s, majority in Russian language.

Edmund Valtman papers, of a Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist and noted figure in the Estonian American community. Collection consists of six boxes of documents, photos and negatives, correspondence, writings, and other memorabilia

Announcements/Events

Summertime brings a more relaxed pace at the IHRC but please note the following upcoming Research in Progress Colloquium, Friday, May 26, noon–1 p.m., in 308 Andersen Library. **Mika Roinila** (recipient of a 2005–2006 Michael G. Kami Scholarship) and co-researcher **Susan Larson** will speak on “Women’s Maintenance of Finland-Swedish Identity in North America.” See details at <www.ihrc.umn.edu/news/eventornewsindiv/06-05-26Roinila.htm>.

In June, two groups of public school teachers—from Northfield and from St. Paul—will visit the IHRC as part of their “Teaching American History” grant programs. The Northfield group includes K-12 teachers; they will hear lectures on immigration, work with primary sources from the IHRC, and tour several nearby immigrant neighborhoods.

In the afternoon on June 25, the Friends of the IHRC will host a garden party to introduce the IHRC to new friends in the community. See details on page 4. (*cont’d p. 3*)

Events (cont'd from p. 2)

In conjunction with the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association (SSHA), to be held November 2–5, 2006, in Minneapolis, the IHRC will sponsor a pre-conference workshop, “Gender and Migration,” the morning of November 2. Also, the U’s Minnesota Population Center and the IHRC will co-host a reception/open house for SSHA participants in Andersen Library and Willey Hall on the evening of November 3. Guests will be able to tour the IHRC, visit its collection storage caverns, view an exhibit in the Andersen Gallery, and talk with staff.

Personnel changes: **Erik Moore**, program associate (coordinator of the COLLAGE online database of images) resigned as his project’s funding ended and has taken another archivist position on campus. **Jeff Manuel**, a PhD student, is assisting with the IHRC’s self-study and recruitment of IHRC faculty affiliates. **Guy Peterson**, an undergraduate Public History semester intern, is compiling information to assist Joel Wurl with collection development planning. **Sylvie Thao**, an undergraduate semester intern, is helping Donna Gabaccia develop a “blog” to invite comment on immigration issues for the IHRC’s Web site. **Chris Wagner** is an undergraduate researching “honor crimes” in New York City’s Little Italy for Director Gabaccia.



2 IHRC staff receive CLA Outstanding Service Awards

Exec. Secretary Cindy Herring and Asst. Curator Daniel Necas were presented with Staff Outstanding Service Awards by College of Liberal Arts Dean Rosenstone at a ceremony in December 2005. They were among 20-some CLA staff members in different departments so honored (only one other unit had two honorees, however). Other IHRC staff were present to applaud wildly when their names were announced.



Staff Outreach

• During the last few months, Director **Donna Gabaccia** attended and presented papers at meetings of the American Historical Association Organization of American Historians, and European Social Science History Association. She also gave papers at the Paris colloquium “Gender, Migration, History” and at the University of Washington Symposium “Moving Americans: Interdisciplinary Conversations on Internal Migration” in Seattle.

She was a guest lecturer at the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, at Carnegie Mellon University, and at Gettysburg College. In June, she will participate in a Teaching American History workshop for K–12 teachers in San German, Puerto Rico.

• **Joel Wurl**, head of research collections and associate director, moderated a roundtable discussion, “The Future of the Rusin Identity in America,” at the Rusin Association of Minnesota’s 20th Annual Duchnovich Day Celebration, February 18, 2006. Many of the leading

scholars and promoters of Carpatho-Rusin culture participated.

In February Wurl visited the office of the Polish American Immigration and Relief Committee in New York City to discuss with its executive vice president, Janusz Krzyzanowski, the operations of the organization and the transfer of its large volume of records to the IHRC. After discussion and inspection, Wurl noted that the records are “exceptional in their historical content.”

• The IHRC provided several photographs of Italians who settled in Minnesota from its large collection of Italian American documentation for an exhibit in Rome at the end of last year. About Italian Americans and “the dream,” the exhibit was compiled from many sources by the American Italian Historical Association and partner organizations.

• In his new book, *Tra Napoli e New York. Le macchiette italo-americane di Eduardo Migliaccio*, Hermann Haller, professor of European languages and literatures at Queens College, CUNY, acknowledges the IHRC, Director Emeritus Rudy Vecoli, and Joel Wurl for their help. He reproduced texts of songs and poems by the performer, known on stage as Farfariello, from the Center’s Migliaccio collection.



Finlandia Foundation’s national board met in Minneapolis in March. At an IHRC reception for board members on March 24, hosted by the U’s College of Liberal Arts, the Foundation’s president, **John Laine** (above, left), presented a \$4,000 check to IHRC Assoc. Dir. **Joel Wurl**. This money will fund organization and description of the Foundation’s records and the papers of its founder, Yrjo Paloheimo. Graduate assistant **Johanna Leinonen**, a PhD candidate at the U from Finland, has been hired to work on the project this summer. The Center greatly appreciates the support of Finlandia Foundation as it strives to make its already renowned Finnish American collection even more useful for researchers.



Johanna Leinonen

Marie Eller

Retired U of MN librarian and long-time IHRC volunteer Marie Eller died April 8. She had helped Sr. Asst. Curator Haly-na Myroniuk with cataloging and other accessioning tasks. The IHRC staff extend their condolences to her family.

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Because of the high cost of returned newsletters, please inform
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Friends of IHRC



Friends Open House a great success!
A large crowd of enthusiastic people (more than 80) showed up for the Friends first program of 2006, an open house at Andersen Library on Sunday afternoon, March 26, titled “Voices from the Past—Looking Toward the Future.” They toured the underground caverns to see the IHRC collections, conversed with members of the Friends and IHRC staff, sampled delicious ethnic desserts, and listened to readings of immigrant stories from the archives assembled by **Celeste Raspanti** and performed by Celeste and other board members. Door prizes added a final bit of excitement!

Next Friends program a Garden Party June 25

The public is invited to another fun-filled program, this time with music and dance entertainment outside (weather permitting) on the plaza south of Andersen Library, on Sunday, June 25, 2 to 4 p.m. Children are welcome. A free-will offering is requested to pay for refreshments.

These events are intended to acquaint the public with the IHRC’s mission and invite additional support. See the Friends Web section for more photographs from the March event, details on the June 25 program (including driving and parking information), reports on other Friends activities, and information on joining, at <www.ihrc.umn.edu/friends>.

Use the enclosed envelope for donations to IHRC. Be sure to indicate endowment campaign or general fund on the memo line of your check. See new information about joining the Friends.
Thank you for your support.

Immigration History Research Center

The IHRC enriches society by preserving and promoting understanding of the history of the American immigrant experience. In doing so, it acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. It develops and maintains a library and archival collection, provides research assistance, produces publications, and sponsors academic and public programs. Its work supports the tripartite mission—teaching, research, and service—of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota.

Donna R. Gabaccia..... Director
Judith Rosenblatt..... Editor


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Visit the IHRC Web site: The IHRC is redesigning its Web site. It has discontinued *News Online* and is using its home page as the place from which to link to information. Find news of upcoming events, access to collections, and new sections of interest to friends, researchers, faculty, students, and media.

Become a regular “virtual visitor” to the IHRC via its Web site: <<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu>>.

About this newsletter. This *News* is sent to selected and prospective members of the Friends of the IHRC, donors, U of MN colleagues, and exchange publications. The IHRC publishes two printed *News* issues a year, spring/summer and fall/winter. These issues are also posted online. **Please notify the IHRC if you no longer wish to receive a paper newsletter.**

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