

**Inside...**

Announcements/Events.....	2
Collection Development.....	2
Endowment Update.....	3
Friends of IHRC.....	3-4
Staff Outreach.....	3

**From the Director**

Recently I spent a week "excavating" the contents of my sister Olga's house in Wallingford, CT. She has lived there for 57 years. Widowed several years ago, she decided to move into an apartment. Fortunately, the apartment complex, Silver Pond (it used to be a silverware factory), is only a block from where she currently lives. And Olga knows many of the residents, with whom she grew up. Of course, she is sad to leave her home, but, given the circumstances, it is the best solution possible. Her house is spacious, six rooms, a full attic and basement. She is moving into a two-room apartment. And there's the rub!

Olga is a saver. I doubt that she has ever thrown anything out (except for my father's grape press!). The attic and basement were full of things (and memories and history). Over the course of five days I must have packed over 100 boxes and brought them down from the attic or up from the basement for Olga to decide what to do with all that "stuff." She repeatedly exclaimed, "I didn't know we still had that." Among the stuff were four toasters, radios, record players, movie projectors, as well as hats, still in hat boxes, that she had worn over the past 40 years. But also our mother's immigrant trunk, letters from relatives in Italy as well as my letters to her, and thousands of photographs and slides. Among the treasures are the handwork (crocheting, embroidery, etc.) of my mother as well as numerous towels, curtains, and bloomers she made from feed bags, having bleached out GOLD MEDAL FLOUR. These she had gotten for a nickel apiece from a grain store.

It was an ordeal of sorts, but I could not suffer the idea that all of this could have ended up in the trash or in "antique" shops. There are few things I find more depressing than to sift through a family album in some curio store, photographs of newly wedded couples, family gatherings, children, now anonymous and discarded. I take satisfaction in the thought that a part of the Vecoli family history has been saved to pass along to my children—and to the IHRC. Altogether it was worth the back and knee aches.

*Rudolph Vecoli*

***Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc., and IHRC collaborate to preserve archives and provide graduate fellowship; public celebration held Oct. 31***



*IHRC Curator and Asst. Director Joel Wurl (front, right) meets with Estonian Archives board in Lakewood, NJ, April 5, 2003.*

In an act of collegiality and confidence, the directors of the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc., located in Lakewood, NJ, voted earlier this year to transfer the institution's vast archival holdings to the IHRC, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, for preservation and scholarly access. In addition, the organization has contributed \$150,000 to establish the Hildegard and Gustav Must Graduate Fellowship in Estonian American Studies at the IHRC.

The IHRC and the College of Liberal Arts hosted a celebration of gratitude for these gifts the afternoon of Friday, October 31, 2003, in

the Elmer L. Andersen Library atrium. Cosponsor of the reception was the longtime local supporter of the IHRC as a member of the Friends, the Estonian Association of Minnesota. See photos from the event in the November *News Online*, <[www.umn.edu/ihr/031126.htm](http://www.umn.edu/ihr/031126.htm)>.

***The Must Fellowship Fund***

The fellowship endowment gift honors the late Hildegard and Gustav Must, distinguished Estonian American linguistics scholars and early supporters and benefactors of the Estonian Archives. The earnings from this endowment fund are being matched dollar-for-dollar by funding from the University's Graduate School as part of its "21st Century Fellowship" program. The contribution also generates federal matching funds from a Challenge Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to the University on behalf of the IHRC for its endowment.

***The Estonian American Archives***

The great majority of materials that became the Estonian Archives of the U.S., Inc., were donated by immigrants who had been in the displaced persons camps in Germany, 1945–1950. In 1969 the Estonian National Council created a central archive, and in 1972 a small building to house the collections was erected on the property of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lakewood, NJ. The collection eventually grew to over 1,200 linear feet.

Files received at the IHRC thus far fall into the categories of organizations, individual or family materials, periodicals, and audiovisual materials (films, slides, tapes, recordings, and photographs). Yet to arrive are many more boxes of papers pertaining to organizations, miscellaneous event programs and leaflets, periodicals, records from DP camps, more individual files, and more photographs and magnetic tapes. Recipients of the Must Graduate Fellowship will help to arrange and describe all of these materials so that they are the most accessible to researchers.

The Estonian Archives, a key cultural institution of the Estonian American community, has been a supporter of the IHRC for many years. The Center appreciates their support and confidence. The transfer of these archival holdings to the IHRC establishes its collection as the nation's premier resource for the study of Estonian American history.

*See a more detailed press release at <<http://www.umn.edu/estonianpr11-03.htm>>.*

## Collection Development

### Recent major acquisitions

In recent months, the IHRC has received—among more than 100 shipments—the following major collections. Find details in the Web-posted *IHRC News Online* for the date cited, accessible from the news index page, <<http://www.umn.edu/ihrc/news.htm>>.

Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), New York. Significant addition to National Office records, 1930s–2002. 34 lin. ft. UNWLA promotes Ukrainian national consciousness, organizes educational programs, participates in the wider women's movement, and provides aid to Ukraine or Ukrainians in need. 10/28/03

Peter Moor (1896–?) Addition to papers, ca. 1920s–1980s, 3 lin. ft. Moor was an artist and writer who emigrated from Hungary. Personal correspondence, family photographs, exhibit programs, artwork, photographs, and manuscripts and typescripts of Peter Moor's poems, novels, and dramas. 10/28/03

Margie Sobotka, Omaha, Nebraska, Czech American Print collection, 4 boxes. Many unique titles on Czech communities. 10/28/03

Alfredo Segre (1889–?). Papers, 9 lin. ft. ca. 1920s–1940s. Segre was one of an illustrious group of exiles from Fascist Italy, an active anti-Fascist and award-winning novelist, screenwriter, translator, and essayist. Copies of published works, manuscripts, translations, screenplays, radio scripts, as well as extensive diaries and correspondence with prominent figures in the arts and publishing. 9/23/03

Peter J. De Santis. Addition to papers. 9 lin. ft. De Santis headed the California Grand Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America 1967–1971 and was a distinguished leader at the national level of OSIA. 6/16/03

Walter and Mary Dushnyck, New York, 34 lin. ft. of papers. The Dushnycks were active in the Ukrainian American community and the community at large in New York. Walter edited *The Ukrainian Quarterly*. Correspondence, articles, many photographs, etc., from the late couple's materials. 6/16/03

### Processing of NIAF records begun

This fall, the IHRC began arrangement and description work on the 56 linear feet of records received this summer from the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). Project assistant Anna Ellis has been hired to undertake this work, which will result in the production of an inventory to the collection in printed and electronic forms. Ms. Ellis, a native of St. Paul, is a U of MN senior majoring in history and specializing in 20th century American history. The project is made possible by a financial gift from NIAF in conjunction with the transfer of its records to the IHRC.



## Announcements/Events

### IHRC collaborates in "Bridge for American History" project

Beginning this fall, the IHRC is working in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools and the U of MN Department of History on the "Bridge for American History" project. This extensive slate of professional development activities for area secondary school teachers will include a series of workshops at Andersen Library during the academic year focusing on immigration. As part of the program, teachers will develop curriculum materials incorporating primary sources at the IHRC and elsewhere and with the assistance of the IHRC's COLLAGE digitization program.

This initiative is a component of the IHRC's "Save America's Treasures" (SAT) heritage preservation program "Documentation of the Immigrant Experience," which is funded through a grant from the National Park Service.



Sr. Asst. Curator Halyna Myroniuk (right) is helped in sorting materials from the Dushnyck collection by Lubow Wolynech, Curator, and Msgr. John Terlecky of the Ukrainian Cultural Research Center, Stamford, CT.

### "Crossing the Waters" conference, Duluth, MN

U of MN Duluth and U degli Studi di Palermo, Italy, are sponsoring a conference in Duluth in conjunction with the Italian American Festival 2004, an extravaganza of theatrical and cultural events to be held over several months in early 2004 in Duluth and Palermo. The conference, "Crossing the Waters: Mediterranean and American Cross-Cultural Connections of Lifeways, Society, and the Fine and Folk Arts," will be held April 29–May 1, 2004. IHRC staff have been invited to help organize and conduct the conference. Find more information about the entire festival at its Web site, <<http://www.italiafest.us>>.

### Finn Forum VII "Call for Papers"

The IHRC is a cosponsor of Finn Forum VII, an interdisciplinary conference in Finnish and Finnish-North American studies entitled "Cultural Encounters: Migration, Ethnicity, and Identities," to be held at the U of MN Twin Cities Oct. 28–30, 2004. Proposals for papers and sessions are due by March 26, 2004, and may relate to any aspect of Finnish or Finnish-North American society, history, and culture. Selected papers will be published following the conference. U departments and centers collaborating with the Planning Committee include the European Studies Consortium, the Finnish Studies Program in the Department of German, Scandinavian & Dutch, and the IHRC. Find the Call for Papers at <<http://esc.cla.umn.edu/FinnForum.htm>>.

### First Fridays at Andersen Library series set for 2003–2004

Curators, archivists, and researchers provide an insider's look at U of MN special collections. The free and open sessions are held noon to 1 p.m., Rm. 120 Andersen Library, 222-21st Ave. S, Minneapolis (West Bank Campus). Light refreshments are served; lunches are welcome. The series is made possible by a gift from Gov. and Mrs. Elmer L. Andersen in honor of Dr. Edward B. Stanford, a former University Librarian. Remaining schedule:

Dec. 5, *Technology and Culture*  
Feb. 6, *Controversy and Civil Liberties*  
Mar. 5, *Women's History*  
Apr. 2, *Emancipation*  
May 7, *Mish-Mash, Misc., Etc.: The Weird, Bizarre, and Different*

THURS	FRI	SAT
	First Fridays at Andersen Library!	

## Endowment Update



*Stories Worth Remembering, Stories Worth Telling*

### Interim challenge grant goal achieved

The IHRC has met its second phase goal of \$500,000 for endowment fund raising in order to receive matching money from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Center is now hard at work for its most challenging year, during which the goal by July 2004 is another \$800,000. In all, the Center is committed to raising \$2 million by July 31, 2005, to receive the full \$500,000 offer from NEH.

Major contributions and pledges during the second phase of fund raising included:

- \$150,000 to establish the "Hildegard and Gustav Must" Graduate Fellowship in Estonian American Studies from the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc.

- \$90,000 toward an endowed curatorship in Italian American Studies from the Order Sons of Italy in America. The IHRC holds the extensive Sons of Italy Archives.

- \$25,000 from the Francis Maria Foundation for Justice and Peace in Warner, NH, to begin a graduate fellowship fund in Arab American studies.

- \$25,000 from the UNICO Foundation in Bloomfield, NJ, to establish a fund for the UNICO National Graduate Fellowship in Italian American Studies.

- \$23,000+ raised by the Friends of the IHRC through its Gala dinner in November 2001, including individual contributions and auction proceeds.

- \$10,000 from the Twin Cities chapter of UNICO National for the above fellowship.

- \$10,000 from the Heritage Foundation of the First Security Federal Savings Bank, Chicago, for the Ukrainian American Studies Fund.

Many more contributions, from individuals and organizations, helped the IHRC reach the goal. The Center is grateful for every one of them (all are acknowledged in its annual reports). See the endowment section of the IHRC Web site or contact the IHRC office to see how you can support efforts to preserve and

promote immigration history. Pledges are counted immediately, although the payments do not have to be completed until July 2005.

### Greek American fundraisers benefit IHRC endowment

The Greek American Studies Fund of the IHRC endowment has been the beneficiary of a series of charitable fundraising events sponsored by Twin Cities AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope chapters. The commitment of these groups to the preservation of their heritage at the IHRC has been truly extraordinary, and the IHRC commends their enthusiastic support as a wonderful example for other ethnic organizations.

The latest event in this series was a special matinee performance by nationally acclaimed Greek American comedian "Basile," on Sun., Nov. 23, 2003, at Knuckleheads Comedy Club, 4th floor of the Mall of America. It was sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope, Antigone Chapter 35 (Minneapolis area), represented on the Friends of IHRC Board of Directors by Tessie Bourdamis. All proceeds are being divided among various projects and charities, including the IHRC's Greek American Studies Fund.

### Staff Outreach

- Dir. Rudolph Vecoli was an invited speaker at the 35th-anniversary international conference of "Associazione Lucchesi nel Mondo" (a worldwide organization of emigrants or persons whose ancestors emigrated from the province of Lucca in the region of Tuscany). There are 80 chapters of this organization, located in over 20 countries (including Thailand), reflecting the heavy emigration that took place from the foothills of the Apennines. The conference was held September 11–13 in the 18th century Villa Bottini in the city of Lucca. The theme was the role and prospects of the Lucchese and Tuscan communities abroad. Vecoli spoke on "The Younger Generations: Their Role and Activity."

- On October 24, Vecoli presented the 2003 Tucci Lecture at a celebration of Italian American history and culture sponsored by the Department of French and Italian at the U of Pittsburgh. His topic was "To Be or Not

to Be—Italian American? Ethnicity in the 21st Century."

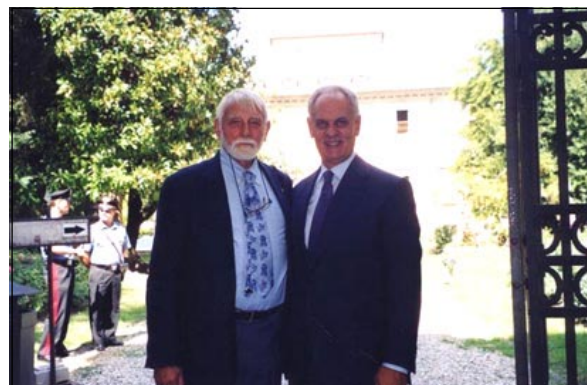
- IHRC Asst. Curator Daniel Necas made two presentations at the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's 9th Genealogical/Cultural Conference, held October 16–18 in Houston, Texas: "Czech Protestant Settlements in the United States" and "Selected Aspects of the Slovak Immigration to the United States." Both presentations were based in part on IHRC materials.

- On September 25, 2003, Erik Moore, the IHRC's digital project coordinator, participated in the annual Minnesota Library Association conference in Rochester, MN. Joining Erik were Leslie Czechowski, Minnesota Orchestra Archives, and Lois Hendrickson, University of Minnesota Archives, in a session, "Goldmines for Research: Special Collections and Archives at the University of Minnesota," Erik highlighted COLLAGE <<http://www.umn.edu/ihrccollage.htm>>, the IHRC's expanding searchable database of digital images.

### Friends of IHRC

#### Updated Historical Atlas of Central Europe available at a discount

The revised and expanded edition of the *Historical Atlas of Central Europe* (formerly East Central Europe) by Prof. Paul Magocsi, in full-color, 9" x 12" format is being sold as a fundraiser by the Friends of IHRC. The paperback version of this highly regarded atlas, with new maps and 11 new chapters on the newly independent countries, retails at \$45. By ordering through the Friends, you get it for \$40.50 (plus shipping and handling), a 10% discount. Complete information/order form is available online at <<http://www.umn.edu/ihrccollage/atlas8-03flyer.pdf>> or from the Friends office, 612-624-5774.



*Vecoli with the honorary president of Lucchesi nel Mondo, Senator Marcello Pera, president of the Italian Senate.*

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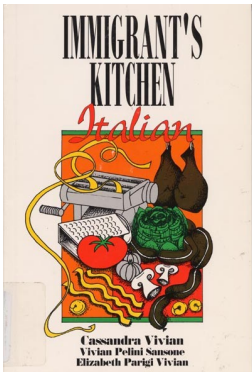
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### Friends of IHRC Annual Meeting held November 15; theme was "Eat, Drink, and Be Ethnic!"

What's more ethnic than a group's special food—an aspect of culture that can be savored by members of a particular ethnic group and shared with others, and a marker of the cultural identity of an immigrant's descendants, treasured by the family. Attendees at the Friends of the IHRC 26th Annual Meeting dinner and

program, held on Nov. 15, 2003, at the Minnesota Humanities Commission's Education Center in St. Paul, had the opportunity to savor ethnic foods; hear about historical cookbooks and the relationship of food to ethnic culture from guest speaker Deborah Miller (reference specialist at the Minnesota Historical Society and a noted collector of historical cookbooks), and purchase food-related items in a silent auction that benefited the IHRC's endowment campaign. Check the November issue of the *Online News*, see the Friends Web page, or contact the Friends office (612-624-5774) for a report on this event.



Example of an ethnic cookbook in the IHRC's collection



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.**

Visit the expanded IHRC Web site  
<http://www.umn.edu/ihrc>

The Center's *IHRC News Online* is posted every month at mid-month. To be notified by e-mail when the issue has been posted, register at <[www.umn.edu/ihrc/e-notice.htm](http://www.umn.edu/ihrc/e-notice.htm)>.

### 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.

Rudolph J. Vecoli.....Director  
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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.**

**DEADLINE** for monthly online issues is the 10th of each month. Send news to Judy Rosenblatt, [rosen015@umn.edu](mailto:rosen015@umn.edu). The IHRC publishes two printed *News* issues a year, spring/summer and fall/winter.

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