
Centennial of the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques

The Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques and the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques have celebrated in 1972 the centennial of the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques, which they succeeded in 1945.

The Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques was founded in 1871-72 as a commercial corporation — the law permitted neither non-profit organizations, nor private teaching activities — by Emile Boutmy and a group of friends. The founders, who had reflected on the causes of France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian war, wished to establish a general course of instruction in the social sciences, dealing mostly with contemporary problems. The School was highly successful, and various institutions were set up on its model in other countries in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

The centennial celebration, presided on the 8th of December by the President of the French Republic, M. Georges Pompidou, an alumnus and a former instructor, included a speech by Professor Stein Rokkan of the University of Bergen, as President of the International Political Science Association.

International Political Science Abstracts

During recent years, the International Political Science Association has sought to improve the services rendered by the *International Political Science Abstracts*, by extending the coverage and by speeding up the publication of the journal. Since 1965, the major delays often experienced in previous years have been avoided. Many new political science journals have been systematically added to the list of the periodicals which are examined, and yearbooks are now included. The number of abstracts has therefore increased very rapidly, as shown below:

<i>Volume</i>	<i>Number of abstracts</i>	<i>Journals covered</i>
XVIII (1968)	1450	231
XX (1970)	2206	353
XXII (1972)	2998	474
Increase in 4 years:	+107%	+105%

Changes for 1973: six issues a year, publication in Paris.

The number of abstracts which will be published in 1973 will again increase substantially, and the I.P.S.A. has felt it necessary to accelerate their distribution. Two decisions have been made which are effective from the beginning of 1973:

— The *International Political Science Abstracts* will publish six issues a year, instead of four.

— All printing and publishing operations will henceforth be located in Paris. New subscriptions and renewals must therefore be sent directly to the editorial office, 27 Rue Saint-Guillaume, 75 Paris 7, France.

Since 1955, the *Abstracts* have been printed in Great Britain, and published by Basil Blackwell and Mott, at Oxford. The reason for terminating the arrangement with Blackwell is the wish to avoid the delays made inevitable by the separation between the editorial office and the publisher, and to take advantage of the shorter printing schedules available in France. Blackwell's have agreed to go on stocking and selling the back issues.

IPSA's plans

Readers may be interested in prospects for further improvement:

— The editor of the *Abstracts* is cooperating with the team which, under the auspices of the American Political Science Association, is completing, at the University of Pittsburgh, a *Thesaurus of descriptors for political science*. He hopes that the *Thesaurus* will enable him to improve the indexing system, and will make it possible to process information in the field of *political science* automatically.

— After the completion of the *Thesaurus*, it is possible that a data processing centre capable of providing to institutions and individuals information adapted to their specific needs, as well as answers to requests for bibliographical information, will be established in the United States, in cooperation with IPSA. A system of joint subscriptions to such services and to the *Abstracts* is under study.

— At some further date, if similar centers were to be established in countries other than the United States, political scientists could make use of a genuine international network of automatic information retrieval.