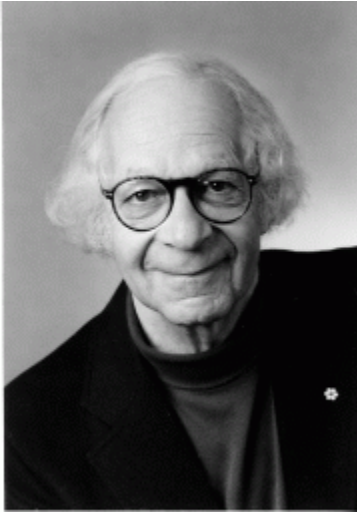


John Meisel, C.C., FRSC

Past President



John Meisel became the 103th President of the Royal Society of Canada in June 1992 for a three-year mandate.

He is the Sir Edward Peacock Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Queen's University, and is also Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Public Opinion at Queen's University. *He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1974.*

From 1980 to 1983 he was Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. He has taught at Queen's with only a few absences since 1949 and was the Chairman of the Department of Political Studies there in the sixties. In 1976-77 he was Visiting Professor at Yale University, and in 1978 he spent two months in Britain as a Commonwealth Distinguished Visiting Professor. He was a holder for five years of a Killam Award of the Canada Council—a grant equivalent to a Research Professorship providing, in addition, funds required for a large-scale study of the Canadian party system.

A former President of the Canadian Political Science Association, the Social Science Research Council of Canada, and the Data Clearing House, he has been an active member of the executives of various professional associations in Canada, in the United States, and at the international level. He has honorary doctorates from Brock, Carleton, Guelph, Laval, Ottawa, and Toronto Universities. In addition to having been awarded the Centennial, Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee, and the 125th Anniversary of Canada Commemorative medals, he is an Officer of the Order of Canada. The International Council for Canadian Studies bestowed on him the Northern Telecom International Canadian Studies Award of Excellence in 1991. Queen's Alumni have presented him with the John Orr and Agnes Benidickson Awards, and the Montreal Medal. A *Festschrift* in his honour, entitled *Canada's Century: Governance in a Maturing Society* (eds. C.E.S. Franks *et al*) was published in 1995.

Of Czech origin, John Meisel came to Canada in 1942. He received his university training at the Universities of Toronto and London (London School of Political Science and Economics), his Ph.D. thesis being a study of the 1957 Canadian General Election. He has written extensively on various aspects of politics, notably on parties, elections, ethnic relations, the relations between politics and leisure culture, and, at the beginning of his academic career, international politics. He has been a pioneer in Canada of research on electoral behaviour, political parties and the relationship between politics and leisure culture, particularly the arts. During and subsequent to his service at the CRTC, he has also lectured and written about regulation, broadcasting, telecommunications, and the information society.

In addition to his university responsibilities, John Meisel has pursued the field of political science at two other levels. First, he has been associated in various ways with Royal Commissions, Task Forces and Inquiries, examining problems such as biculturalism and bilingualism, national unity, the status of women, bias in newscasting, regulation; and he has acted as adviser to a number of departments of both the Canadian and Ontario governments. He was a member of Premier Robarts' Advisory Committee on Confederation, has served as an expert witness to the Quebec government's committee on electoral reform, and has participated in inquiries conducted on behalf of La conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec. Second, he has been active in an editorial capacity as a member of advisory boards of several political science journals in both North America and Europe and,

until 1971, he was the first English-speaking co-editor of *The Canadian Journal of Political Science*. In 1979 he founded the *International Political Science Review* (the journal of the International Political Science Association) which he edited or co-edited until 1995. He was the founding editor of the series of books, sponsored by the Social Science Federation of Canada, entitled *Canadian Studies in the Structure of Power* (University of Toronto Press).

In 1995 he became involved in efforts of the United Nations to find solutions to the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

At a more popular level, John Meisel has been a frequent media commentator. He lectures widely and gives seminars at academic and non-academic gatherings in Canada, the United States and Europe.

His chief recreational interests are the visual and performing arts, swimming, cross-country skiing and walking, bird watching and wild flower admiring, indoor gardening and the printed word in any guise or form. He rattles around in a round, spiral house in the middle of nowhere (but by a beautiful lake).

Additional information is available in the *Canadian Who's Who*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, *Debrett's Guide to the Canadian Establishment*, *Men of Achievement*, *Dictionary of International Biography*.