



Jean Laponce,
1925 - 2016



A long life well lived

Jean's father taught him early about the importance of always being formally dressed; even at the beach!



The son tried to impress his father with his own flair for dressing fashionably, but always managed to spoil the effect by insisting on small details such as refusing to keep his socks at the same height. Eccentricity began early



Jean and his
sister, Madeleine,
at the time of his
graduation from
high school.



As a teenager he became a great outdoors enthusiast. Summers were spent bicycling around France and Great Britain, and kayaking down the Loire



Exploring nearby rivers

Climbing
Mont
Blanc

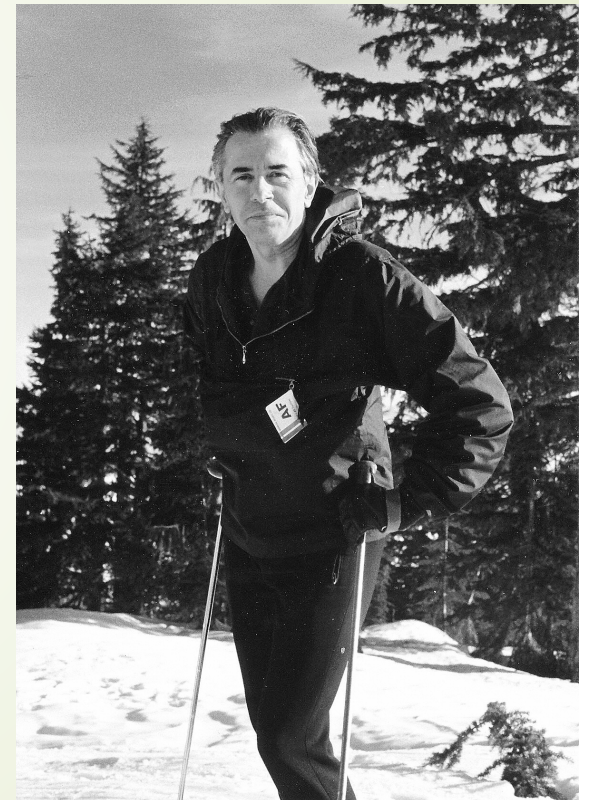


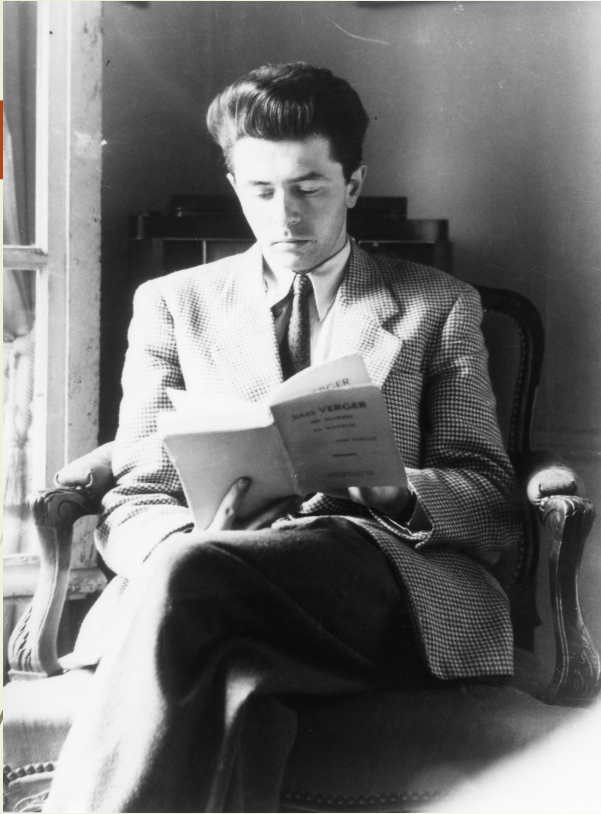
In Winter he loved to climb mountains, hike, ski and play squash.

Hiking in the French Alps



Skiing Mt. Seymour





Reading and studying consumed much of his energy at that time.

Academic career began in Paris at Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies)



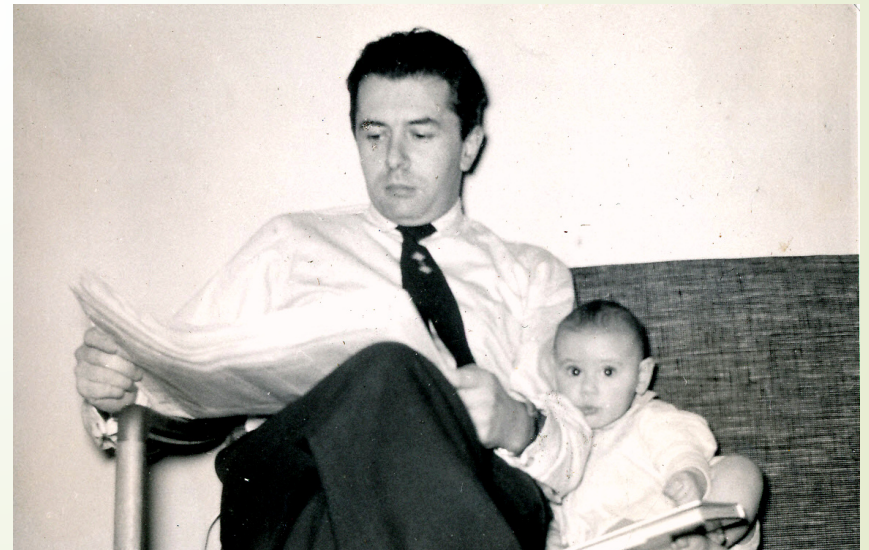
The other drain on his energy was his hair, to which he devoted an inordinate amount of time in the era when ... "Brylcreem, a little dab will do ya.." was all that young males thought about.


In the early 1950, Jean tore himself from his work long enough to persuade a young woman named Joyce to marry him.



1950-1955. Studied in Los Angeles and three years later finished his doctoral dissertation from UCLA.

Meanwhile he had two sons: Jean-Antoine and Marc and a daughter, Patrice. This was followed by many years of hard work as he wrote and published four books and tens of articles.





1963-1999; years when his academic reputation became established

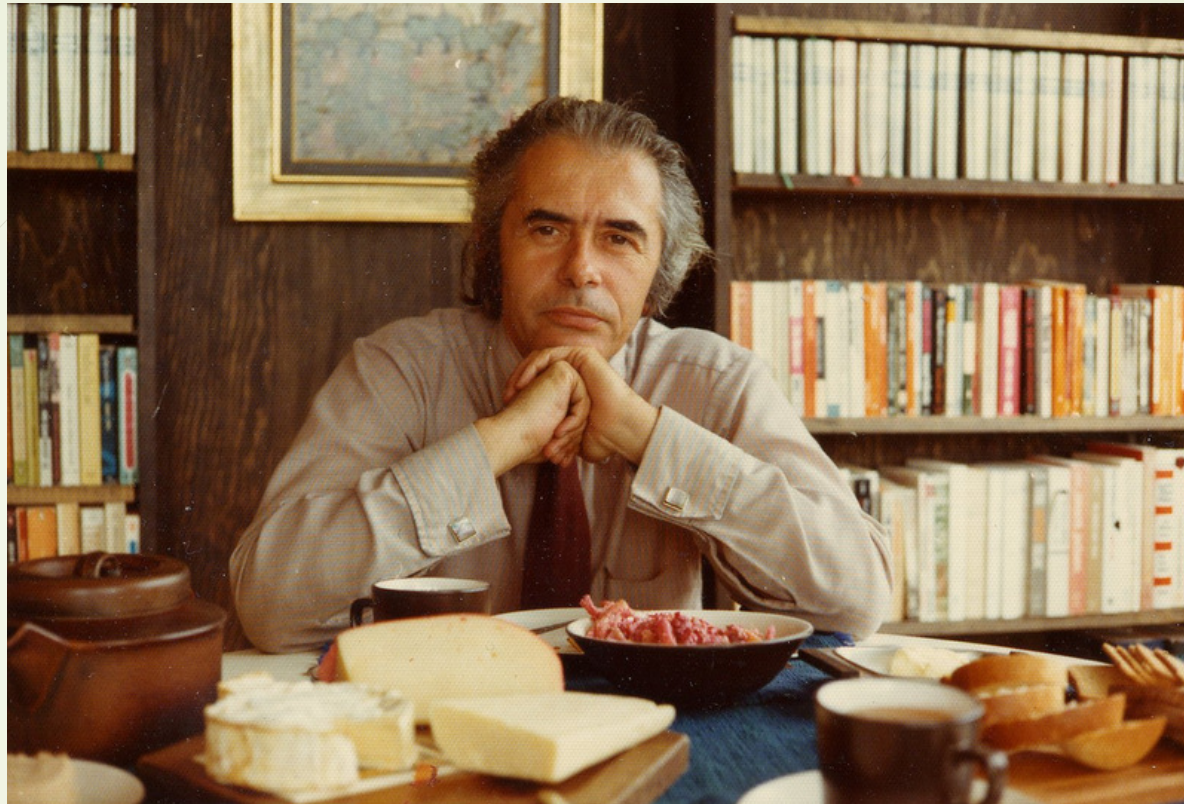
1963-1965 Elected to the Executive Council of the Canadian Political Science Association.

1966-1970; 1970-1973 Elected to the Executive Committee of the International Political Science Association

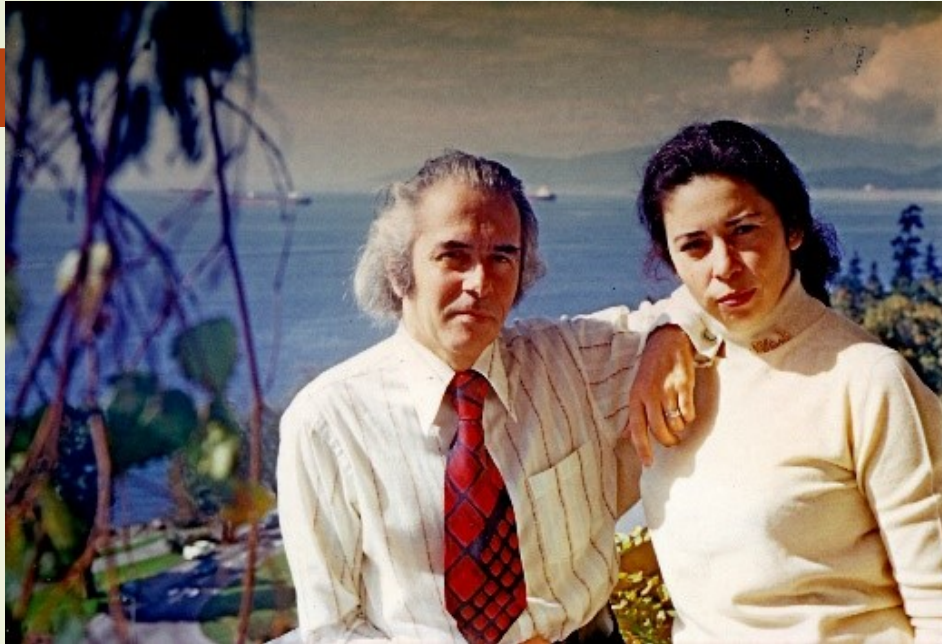
1972-1973 Elected President of the Canadian Political Science Association

1974 Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Academy of the Social Sciences)

1988-1991 President of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada



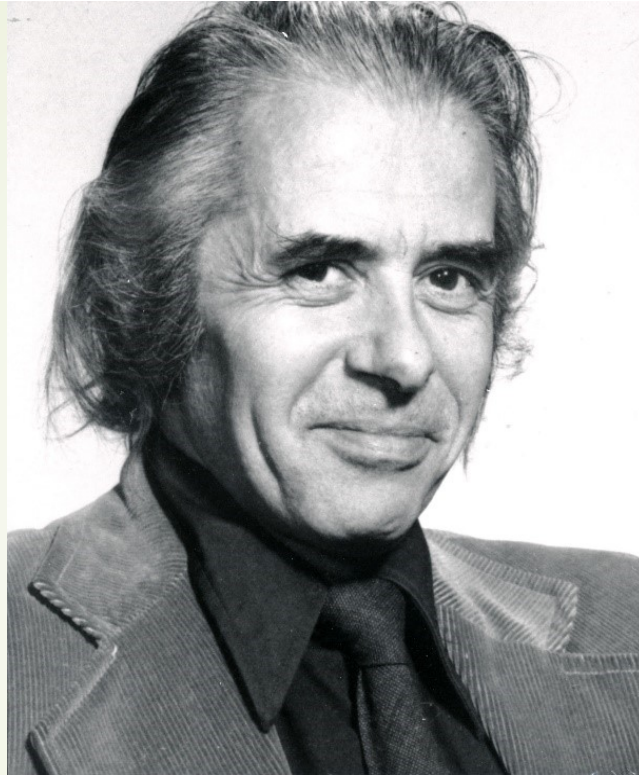
Intensive work and the stress of a growing, active family were not conducive to a happy marriage. By 1967 his first marriage failed. Jean and Joyce parted with regrets. He moved to an apartment on Pendrell Street near Stanley Park.



April 1971 Jean married again



Like her sister Patrice, his youngest daughter, Danielle also proved eager to help her father read and thrive professionally



1975. Jean was at the height of his academic and personal success, busy planning his IPSA Congress. He had carefully chosen the place (Moscow) and the theme: *Peace, Development, Knowledge*, hoping that it might eventually encourage Soviet “political scientists” to consider their discipline as more than just a propaganda tool.

1979-1981

- In Paris. Jean just discovered Andre Brasilier, a French painter. Hence the umbrella.



That same summer in Paris in his mother's apartment

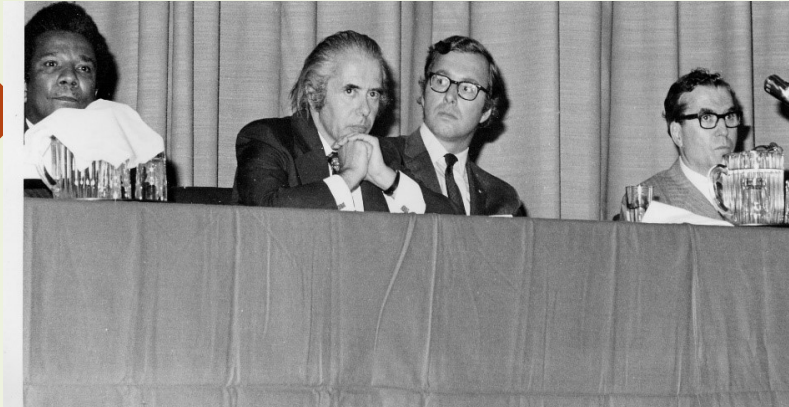


International Political Science Association (IPSA) 1966-2009

IPSA became his great passion from the very beginning. Jean saw IPSA as an ideal vehicle to nudge the direction of political science research. Since 1967 he attended almost all the Roundtables and Congresses.



Contrary to first impression, Jean was not offering a Papal blessing. As a newly elected president of the association, in Edinburgh in 1976, he was merely expressing thanks to his U.K. hosts for their hospitality.



Edinburgh Congress, 1976. Jean was just elected president of IPSA



11th IPSA Congress, Moscow 1979. Jean presides at the opening, (centre front). To his right sat Prof. Shakhnazarov, president of the Soviet Political Science Association

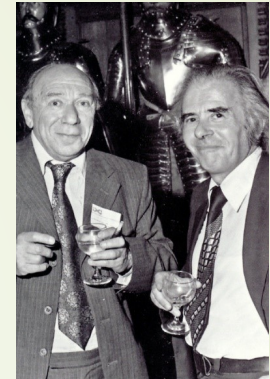
Close Friends



Serge Hurtig,
Sciences Po



Jerzy J. Wiatr, University of
Warsaw



Sam E.
Finer,
Oxford



John Meisel, his closest friend and
intellectual collaborator. In Paris with
Jean, his mother and wife.

April 1994 Jean was asked to serve as a member of the Carrington-Kissinger mediation team for South Africa-Zulu conflict



Jean is second person on the left. Kissinger is seated on a green chair, Lord Carrington is in the light brown suit.

Buthelezi's advisers suddenly called Jean in Nagoya, pressured him return the next day to Vancouver in order to fly to Johannesburg to join the Carrington-Kissinger mediation team. All the hysterics were needless. Two days later Buthelezi and the South African prime minister came to a mutual agreement, and the mediators returned home exhausted, but from jet lag, not mediation.



Johannesburg, April 1994. Jean and Lord Carrington share lunch.



Not everyone knew that Jean had other talents. He built almost all the furniture in his home; from chairs, to dining room tables. Every room in the house had Laponce originals.

He was also noted for his inventions. A message board wrapped around his desk lamp became a legend in the Department. With tongue in the cheek, many of his colleagues encouraged him to patent this design...But it served him well.



Jean, the artist

It began when he decided that it was time to save money, so instead of purchasing paintings, he himself became the painter. Later, he used this as an aid to his writing. He would compose his text, take a break, go to rethink it while he painted. Here he is in his "academic period"; Faculty in mortar boards play with balloons (i.e. abstract ideas)



Jean's depiction of one of the Department's weekly meetings: mortar boards, balloons while Jean is trying to visualize his colleague, Mark Zacher, sitting on the left side of the picture, being split "right down the middle" over some new proposed policy



Retirement: 1992-2005

1992-2002 lectured at the University of Ottawa as a professeur invité

1994-1997 lectured at Aichi Shukutoku University in Nagoya as an instructor in the Language and Culture section of the Graduate Programme in Communication

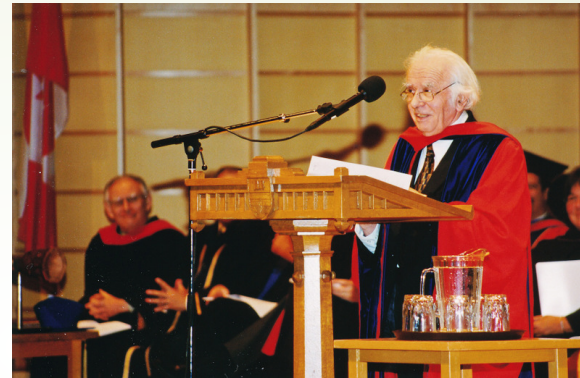


Teaching a seminar course in Nagoya



May 2003 the academic parade

May 2003 Jean was awarded an honoris causa doctorate from UBC



Jean delivered his acceptance speech extolling the value of traditional university libraries



UBC president Martha Piper, Jean's former honours student Paul Tennant, later his colleague, and UBC Chancellor, Allan McEachern



Thanksgiving 2014 with some of his children and grandchildren