

From the Editor:

COMMONWEALTH is only two years old, a veritable fledgling among political science journals. Young as it is, this publication did not spring fully-formed from the head of its Editor. Several years of discussion and planning preceded the publication of the inaugural issue in 1987. In 1984, a committee to investigate the feasibility of producing a journal was commissioned by the parent body, the Pennsylvania Political Science Association. Members of that body, listed by name in each issue, have been a valuable source of advice, then and since. Also in Pennsylvania, two institutions listed as providing extra financial support, Gettysburg College and Widener University, should be singled out for special mention. So must our Managing Editor, Annette Steigelfest, for packaging a publication which, in the words of one reader, “looks, tastes, and feels” like a scholarly annual should. A special word of thanks should also be extended to Widener University’s Computing Services staff for computer typesetting.

Our superb Editorial Review Board (listed in each issue) continues to aid and abet us in forwarding the enterprise, as do a number of reviewers who shall remain anonymous for the time being for obvious reasons. We are, as always, grateful to our authors, both those whose work we print and those whose work we don’t, for doing the difficult, creative work which gives us, in the end, articles worth publishing. We hope that if our tough Editorial Review Board and referees are more demanding than our authors expected, our “Instructions to Contributors” and our recently completed “Style Sheet” (available from the Editor on request) ease the path to publication by clearly spelling out important guidelines and requirements.

Many who have helped us over the years since the first feasibility study was conducted have not been recognized for this elsewhere; it is time that they were, for they deserve our thanks and appreciation for their valuable ideas and their support. They include a number of friends and editors of other political science journals, all lending a hand so that the “new kid on the block” could do well: Walter E. Beach (Brookings Institution and Capital Area Political Science Association); Thomas E. Mann (ex-American Political Science Association, now Brookings Institution); Martin Slann (*Journal of Political Science*); Donald T. Wells (*Southeastern Political Review*); Jerome M. Mileur and Anwar J. Syed (*Polity*); Charles O. Jones, Dina A. Zinnes and, more recently, Samuel C. Patterson (*American Political Science Review*); Susan Webb Hammond (*Congress and the Presidency*); and that continuing

source of solid advice and unflagging support, Catherine E. Rudder (American Political Science Association, ex-*PS*). The “kid” certainly had a fine set of surrogate parents.

Finally, an important historical note: COMMONWEALTH may be young, but the Pennsylvania Political Science Association is preparing to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary at the 1989 Annual Meeting next April. A full announcement, designed to encourage maximum participation, can be found elsewhere in this issue. Read it -- and join us if you can. It promises to be an exciting occasion.

We now direct your attention to the varied series of treats which the authors of our current set of articles have prepared for you. From the relationship of political economy and colonialism in another Commonwealth (Puerto Rico) to the link between politics and sports in a city in this Commonwealth (Pennsylvania) and embracing works on campaign contributions, women's issues in Congress, and Plato's philosophy, we trust that COMMONWEALTH has heeded its mission to publish “important scholarly research and writing” germane to political science. Have we? Let us know.