To the editors,
European Political Science

Your review of my three volumes on the language situations of Switzerland, Belgium and Finland (Spring 2002, 1:2, 84-90) is greatly appreciated. Please tell your readers that the Finland volume is published in Helsinki and distributed in Europe by Bookstore Tiedekirja (Kirkkokatu 14, FIN-00170 Helsinki) for the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, (*Humaniora*, 306) 23.55 pbk ISBN 951-41-0873-6.

Over three decades I have been privileged to work on three lesser known European democracies seldom explored in classical comparative studies.

If my books have any particular merit, I would be the first to credit it to periodic immersions in each of these societies. In each case I have found stimulating institutional innovation and social science research perspectives seldom examined by 'mainstream' political scientists.

In the journey towards European Union, some of these particularities are fast disappearing, for example, in Finland. For young scholars, expanding possibilities for exchanges within the EU offer opportunities for observing, documenting and evaluating these particularisms from an outside perspective before they are forgotten.

If biodiversity is important for biology, so diversity of *poleis* is a storehouse of wisdom for our discipline, as Aristotle showed us long ago. While integrative studies are now the fashion, there are challenging apprenticeships to the discipline in documenting how any specific problem has been addressed differently in societies other than one's own.

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