

rationale behind the German *Hilfsschule* (auxiliary schools) in the period spanning from the German Empire to the rise of National Socialism. The article discusses the ideas of political decision makers and teachers of the schools on the *Hilfsschule* and its role within the contexts of the German Empire, Weimar Republic and the first year of National Socialist rule. The article also discusses whether the education provided in the *Hilfsschule*, in the light of the views of *Hilfsschule* teachers, served more educational rather than political goals.

Since 1918, the Ministry of Education and Culture has had five art councils. In his article "Vertaisarviointi ja vallankäyttö valtion taidelautakunnissa 1918–1939" (Peer evaluation and use of power in the national art councils 1918–1939) Sakarias Sokka discusses the background and operations of the councils in Finland during the interwar period. The article focuses on peer evaluation, which is an integral feature of Finnish arts policy-making and is based on representative democracy and executed by experts, as well as the use of power in the early days of the councils.

Elsa Maria Ryti (1895–1931) was a Finnish-speaking farmer's daughter who built a career in medicine for ten years from 1921 until her death. Heini Honkasalo's article "Elsa Ryti ja naisen mahdollisuudet 1920-luvun suomalaisessa lääketieteessä" (Elsa Ryti and women's opportunities in the medical profession in 1920s Finland), discusses the conditions that Ryti faced at that time as a woman of her social background.

There have been a huge variety of different taxes that have been levied in the course of the history of Finnish taxation, some of which

have been overlooked in academic research. One of these is the duty collected from foreign entrepreneurs in 1865–1897, which Pekka Nykänen discusses from the perspective of legal and economic history in his article "Ulkomaalaisten yrittäjien vuosien 1865–1897 elinkeinosuostuntavero" (Entrepreneurial tax levied from foreign entrepreneurs in Finland in 1865–1897). Why was this tax introduced, how was it implemented, how and why was it amended and why was it eventually repealed.

Finnish post-war writers were highly interested in the question of heroic death. In her article "Sankarikuolema sodanjälkeisessä kaunokirjallisuudessa" (Heroic death in post-war literature) Elina Martikainen examines the discourses constructing and deconstructing the hero myth in Eeva Joenpelto's novel *Veljen varjo* (1951), Helvi Hämäläinen's *Kadotettu puutarha* (1995) and Paavo Rintala's *Pojat* (1958).

The old covered market of Joensuu was completed in 1902, and demolished in 1968–1969. The demolition attracted wide interest throughout Finland, and later on, there has been debate whether a replica of the old building should be built in its place. In his article "Kun rakennus ei kuollutkaan. Tilan ja paikan merkitys Joensuun puisen kauppahallin uudelleenrakentamisyrykimyksissä" (When a building did not die: the significance of space and place in the efforts to rebuild Joensuu's old wooden covered market), Pekka Piiparinen shows that the conflict over the preservation of Joensuu's old covered market in the late 1960s and the efforts to rebuild it offer insights into what the significance of a certain place or building can be to local residents and the identity of the place.

Notes on the contents

The articles in *Historical Journal* (1/2012) cover topics such as education, science and art from the perspective of power relations as well as taxation, heroic death and the identity of space.

Jyrki Kaarttinen discusses in "Pedagogiikkaa kolmen valtiomahdin alla. Saksalaisen apukoulun idea 1871–1933" (Pedagogy under three eras: the idea of the German special schools 1871–1933) the