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## Notes on the contents

■ The articles in this issue of the Journal deal with networking among social elites, a portrait of antique philosophers and a discussion of Finland's recent political history.

The system of patrons and clients is one of the most fascinating and controversial research topics in early modern Swedish history, according to Mirikka Lappalainen in her article *Suosio, suoja ja sosiaalinen nousu. Aatelissuku ja patronus-klienttijärjestelmä uuden ajan alun Ruotsissa* ('Favour, protection and social mobility. Noble birth and the system of patrons and clients in early modern Sweden'). Relying on their patrons and trusting their clients, the early modern Swedish elites fought for position during a period when the centralised state was

crushing local power structures and the royal court in Stockholm became the stage on which they jostled for power.

How calculated were the marriage deals of the nobility in the late Middle Ages? A successful marriage would bring a nobleman or woman greater prestige, but who decided who would marry whom? Who remained unmarried, and why? Anu Lahtinen answers these questions in *Omaisuuutta, ystäviä ja vaikutusvaltaa. Avoliittojen merkitys Flemingien sukupiirissä* ('Property, friends and influence. The importance of marriage in the Fleming family'), in which she examines the marriage processes of the Fleming family and their various consequences.

In *Saarnatuolista sisäpiiriin. Alfred Kihlman ja liikesverkokosten muotoutuminen 1850–1860-luvun Suomessa* ('From the pulpit to the inner circle. Alfred Kihlman and the formation of networks of businessmen in the Finland of the 1850s and 1860s'), Pekka Hirvonen looks at the formation of networks of businessmen through the example of the educator and businessman Alfred Kihlman. Friendships and family ties between businessmen played an important role in the economic life

of Finland in the mid-19th century. Among other things, they were useful in accumulating capital for the establishment of new factories.

In *Paikka ajan aitiassa. Senaattori, industrialisti ja aatelismies Lennart Gripenberg* ('A place in the grandstand. The senator, industrialist and nobleman Lennart Gripenberg') Jaana Gluschkoff looks at the transformation of the elite in the society of the 19th and early 20th centuries, which was industrialising and becoming politicised in a way not seen before.

In her article "*Merkillisten naisten elämän ja työn kuvaaja.*" *Helmi Krohn elämäkerturina* ("Depicter of the life and work of extraordinary women." Helmi Krohn as biographer') Maarit Leskelä-Kärki examines the works of Helmi Krohn from the 1910s and 1920s in relation to national historiography and considers the opportunities open to women for creating their own history. Biography was one of the new literary genres taking shape in the early years of the 20th century. A professional writer in a range of genres, Helmi Krohn concentrated particularly on recounting the lives of women active in different branches of the arts.

Marke Ahonen takes as her

topic *Diogenes Laertios ja filosofit* ('Diogenes Laertios and the philosophers'). The philosophers of antiquity interested their public not just as thinkers, but as individuals. Diogenes Laertios' *Lives of the Philosophers* is not just a collection of biographies; it uses the events of its subjects' lives to describe the role of the Greek philosopher as a member of society and the prejudices, expectations and beliefs surrounding philosophers in antiquity. The portrait of a philosopher that emerges contains one or two surprises.

Since the early 1990s the debate on Finland's recent history has been extremely lively. In the past few years, however, interest has been dying down, only for the smouldering embers to burst out in flame once again this autumn when Lasse Lehtinen – with his background in journalism and politics – invaded the professional researcher's holy of holies. In this issue of the journal, professor Timo Soikkänen, Lehtinen's opponent at the examination of his doctoral dissertation, assesses the debate, the dissertation and the effectiveness of the institution of the doctoral examination.

(Translation: *Brian Fleming*)