
Notes on the contents

■ The political leaders in the early part of Finland's autonomy have often been portrayed as opportunists who managed to gain personal advantage from annexing Finland to Russia. This view is, however, relatively simplistic. Kati Katajisto's article "Isänmaan ja yleisen hyvän vuoksi. Suomen autonomian ajan alun johtomiesten uhrautuminen" (For fatherland and common good. The sacrifices of the Finnish political leaders during the early autonomous period) discusses these leaders from their personal perspective, through their correspondence. At the same time, this approach, which stems from the history of men and masculinities, creates a new image of the early autonomous period in Finland in general.

Conditions on the front were often described in wartime Finnish literature, including youth literature. What was the relationship between the hero and the nation at war like in the books for boys of that time and what kind of information did these books convey about the war? Books for boys offer a window into the more general meanings of youth in a society at war. This topic is touched upon in Tuomas Tepora's article "Poikien

sota. Toisen maailmansodan aikaiset poikien sotakirjat siirtymän kuvauksena” (Boys’ war. Second World War boys’ war books as a reflection of transition.)

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s “Six-Day Speech” delivered in 1927 was a strong patriotic manifesto, a mythical narrative of a nation’s rebirth, an account of the internal enemy in Turkey’s War of Independence and the determination of the people. Toni Alaranta analyses the speech as a key factor in shaping the official conception of the history of Turkey in his article “Mustafa Kemal Atatürkin vuoden 1927 kuuden päivän puhe Turkin tasavallan virallisen historiankäsityksen määrittäjänä” (Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s 1927 Six-Day Speech as a determinant of the official history of the Republic of Turkey.)

In 1786 Finland was plagued by a peculiar “epidemic”, which made many

leave their homes and travel towards the coast in order to sail to the small island of Saint-Barthélemy in the Caribbean. So far, Finnish history writing has overlooked this phenomenon almost entirely. The movement was the result of the colonial policies of Gustav III, which were not only a quirk of the pompous potentate but also the culmination of a long tradition. This topic is discussed by Pekka Masonen in his article “Kustavilainen siirtomaapolitiikka ja Saint-Barthélemyyn kuume” (The Gustavian colonialism and the rush to Saint-Barthélemy).

The methods and sources in historical research are the topic of Kimmo Rentola’s column and in Ville Vuolanto’s article “Tutkimusprosessi, metodit ja historiantutkimuksen ominaislaatu” (The research process, methods and the special characteristics of historical research). Vuolanto’s article discusses history research and

its special nature within the humanities. He approaches the question through the analyses of the research process: how do the various phases and levels of history research require (and thereby define) different ways of understanding the research.

In his review “New cultural history’ ja kielellisen käänteen ehtyminen” (‘New cultural history’ and drying up of the linguistic turn), Matti Peltonen introduces the latest developments in the debate on the effect of the so-called linguistic turn in history research, based on the recent books on the theory of history by William H. Sewell, Jr. and Geoff Eley. The key themes highlighted are the relationship between “the new cultural history” and social history as well as the ongoing “practice turn” in theoretical thinking.

(Translation: *Valtasana Oy*)