

Notes on the contents

■ The content of the Historical Journal 3/2008 is:

In her article "Suomalaisuus 1900-luvun alun Kiinassa" (Finnishness in early 20th century China), Tiina H. Airaksinen describes how Finns travelled eastwards carrying Sibelius, the sauna and coffee in their hearts and in their suitcases. A definition of Finnishness, however, requires a clearer classification between the self-sufficient civilisations of China and the West. As time went by, patriotism, a stereotypical type of westernism and a Christian worldview influenced the identity of Finns in China.

At times there have been discussions in Finland about how the Anglo-Saxon world does not understand the stage of Finland's history that played out during World War 2. In these discussions, it is common to only take into consideration the national Finnish perspective, without taking into account the opposing viewpoint – in this case that of Great Britain. Antero Holmila's article "Uskon, että uutiset ovat pelkkää potaskaa. Etenkin Suomesta." Talvisota brittilehdistön ja lukevan yleisön silmin 1939–40 ("I believe that the news is pure rubbish. Especially the news about Finland." The Winter War through the eyes of the British media and their readers 1939–1940) opens up a new historical perspective through previously

unused source material in Finland about how Britain perceived Finland's defence in the Winter War.

In her article "Miehistön vastarinnan muodot ja merkitykset jatkosodan alkuvaiheessa" (The forms and meanings of insubordination in the initial phases of the Continuation War), Mirkka Danielsbacka discusses insubordination among troops in the Finnish army during the Continuation War in a case study of a particular infantry regiment. Danielsbacka has studied the period of attack and the initial phases of trench warfare, and her article covers various stages of the war as well as different forms of insubordination. She has tried to understand what the significance of resisting military discipline actually was to those men involved. She has also used James C. Scott's

definition of everyday forms of resistance and Leonard V. Smith's interpretation of a military organisation in the power relations between those giving and receiving orders and of the related negotiations.

Professions that sell information and the right to sell information became heated topics of discussion during the Middle Ages. Salla Palmi-Felin discusses the new secular elite that consisted of lawyers, doctors and teachers from the perspective of the mendicant orders, using in particular material from the manuals of priests and background material for sermons ("Tietoa myyvät ammatit saarnamateriaaleissa 1215–1350", Professions that sell information in sermon material 1215–1350).

In the forced labour camp of Vorkuta, an unusually large-scale and far-reaching sect was

took root in the summer of 1953, soon after Joseph Stalin's death. Members of the sect took over the camp and one of the main demonstrators was a Finnish actor called Eino Prykä. He was among the first to be shot by the soldiers, but dozens of others were murdered as well. Jukka Rislakka investigates the bloody series of events in his article ("Vorkutan pakkotyöleirin kapina 1953 ja sen suomalainen johtohahmo", The 1953 Vorkuta Uprising and its Finnish leader). Anu Lahtinen poses the question of whether the study of history is fragmented in her column. ("Fragmentoitunut historiantutkimus?", Is the study of history fragmented?)

(Translation: *Valtasana Oy*)