
Notes on the content

■ The theme of *Historical Journal* 4/2005 is the "State of the Environment". How did the Baltic Sea become an environmental problem? It is a difficult question to answer, because the study of the Baltic environmental history is only in its infancy. Simo Laakkonen and Antti Lehmuskoski approach the question from an aspect which has had a strong role in the recent history of the Baltic, namely the history of energy management and, in particular, oil spills, in their article "Musta meri. Öljyonnettomuuksien ympäristöhistoriaa Suomessa vuoteen 1969" (The black sea. The environmental history of oil spills in Finland until 1969).

Water and waste management are an elemental part of urban infrastructure. A city's inhabitants use these environmental services every day. In his article "Ympäristöpalvelujen synty Tampeella" (The development of environmental services in Tampere), Petri Juuti takes Tampere, the largest inland city in the Nordic countries, as the example of a municipality where the key decisions for environmental services were made in the late 19th century, but a host of problems in the field remained unsolved long into the 20th century.

In the section on art and society, Kristiina Linnovaara discusses the relationship between art and the business sector in the 1940s and 1950s in her article "Yritysmailma

taiteen sisäpiirissä 1940- ja 1950-luvulla. Esimerkkinä Suomen Taideakatemia säätiö” (Business and the inner circle of art in the 1940s and 1950s. Case Finnish Fine Arts Academy Foundation). Several captains of industry acted near or within the Finnish Fine Arts Academy Foundation. Members of the financial elite had no power in matters of taste in the Fine Arts Academy, although their support and contacts were valuable. The interests of the artistic and financial elites met but the impact of social change became more pronounced in the late collaboration of the business sector and the Academy towards the late 1950s.

Henna Korsberg’s article ”Uuden kulttuuripolitiikan haasteet ja Valtion teatterikomitea 1945–46” (Challenges of cultural policies and the National Theatre Committee 1945–46) studies the role of the National Theatre Committee, appointed by the Minister of Education Johan Helo in spring 1945, in the post-war cultural policies. The questions processed by the Committee were connected to the aims of the left-wing Finnish People’s Democratic League to make culture accessible to the whole nation.

The present issue of *Historical Journal* also has three articles on the resources of na-

tional defence. Jari Eloranta’s article, entitled ”Paljonko on paljon? Perspektiivejä Suomen sotilasmenojen kehitykselle maailmansotien välisellä ajalla.” (How much is much? Aspects of the development of Finland’s military expenditure in the interwar period.) discusses the development of military expenditure of Finland specifically from the perspective of internal politics, that is, whether the goals were met as set by the experts of the time. The article also introduces criticism based on the ”Cajander model” and analyses Finland’s military expenditure from a comparative perspective. The relatively high level of Finland’s military expenditure is, according to Eloranta, due to the activity of Finnish interest groups.

Lasse Laaksonen shows in his article ”Mannerheim ja kenraalien ristiriitojen historiografia” (The historiography of the conflicts between Mannerheim and the generals) that the view, prevalent since the Second World War, of the top leadership of the Finnish Defence Forces as being strongly unanimous in certain matters, is restricted and biased. Studies on the personal relationships and leadership of Mannerheim and the generals show that there were significantly more conflicts amongst them than has previously been

led to understand. The schisms are relevant when critically analysing the actions of high-ranking officials during the Winter and Continuation War.

Tomi Mertanen’s article ”Maan turva – henkisen maanpuolustuksen voimatekijä” (Maan Turva – a force in psychological national defence) deals with the organisation Maan Turva (Safety of the Country), which observed the general mood and engaged in active war propaganda during the Winter War. The operations and structure of the organisation have in previous research amounted to mere mentions in general works on the Winter War.

Raimo Salokangas’ analysis, entitled ”Mediahistorian tutkimuskohdetta etsimässä. Aatehistorian materiaalista kohti vientintähistoriaa.” (Searching for the subject of media history. From the material for the history of ideas towards the history of communications.), focuses on the development of the research field currently known as media history from being material for the history of ideas through the history of tools to comprehensive media history.

Jason Lavery writes in his column about the future of the Euro-Atlantic dialogue.

(Translation *Valtasana Oy*)