

Notes on the contents

■ The theme of the *Historical Journal* 3/2006 is science, knowledge and power.

Ville Kivimäki discusses in his article "Psykiatrien paperisota. Suomalaisotilaiden psyykkisten vammojen diagnoosit ja hoito toisen maailmansodan aikana" (The war of the psychiatrists. The diagnoses and treatment of the psychological trauma of Finnish soldiers in the Second World War.) the views of Finnish psychiatrists about the diagnostics and treatment of Finnish soldiers who suffered mental trauma in the Second World War. The article describes the ideological background to the diagnostic principles, their development and effect on treatment. The key research question is, how much freedom the psychiatric practices left for soldiers to talk about the mental traumas caused by the war and receive help in dealing with them.

Antti Oikarinen's article "Kreikkalaistuva Rooma – Rooman tasavallan aikaiset kirjastot ja kreikkalaisen kirjallisuuden leviäminen" (Hellenised Rome – libraries in the Roman Republic and the spread of Greek literature) discusses the expansion of Greek culture through Roman libraries and book collections. Which libraries and collections were brought from the Greek

world to the Roman Republic? How were the libraries of the Roman Republic established, by whom, how did they develop and what kind of Greek literature did they collect?

Marko Junkkarinen discusses the potential of world view research from the perspective of historical research in "Maailmankuvatutkimus historian 'aputieteenä'" (World view research as an 'auxiliary' science to history). The concept of world view is used broadly both in colloquial speech and scientific contexts. History is no exception. Often a more specific definition of the concept and the methodological potential offered by it are overlooked.

The topic of Oiva Kuisma's article "Henrik Gabriel Porthanin estetiikka" (Henrik Gabriel Porthan's aesthetic views) is the renowned humanist Henrik Gabriel Porthan who worked in the Academy of Turku in the 18th century. Dissertations written under the supervision of Porthan, as well as the work *Porthans manuskript om estetik och den sköna litteraturen* (2001) (Porthan's manuscript on aesthetics and literature), show that the rise of aesthetics was acknowledged in the Academy of Turku only a couple of decades later than elsewhere.

Otto Wichterle, who invented the soft contact lens, was an active debater on the state of science and its future in the socialist Czechoslovakia of the 1960s. As Riikka Nisonen

points out in her article "Poliitiikkaa ja piilolinssejä – akateemikko Otto Wichterlen toiminta Prahan kevään ja normalisoinnin aikana" (Politics and contact lenses – Otto Wichterle and the Prague Spring and the ensuing normalisation), the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 led to widespread political cleansing, which also shook the scientific world. Wichterle's activities during the Prague Spring and the 'normalisation period' that followed the occupation of Czechoslovakia are a showcase of the close but troubled relationship between science and politics during a significant transition period in Czechoslovak history.

The question of the relationship between science and power is also discussed by Heini Hakosalo in her column "Valta ei ole abstraktio" (Power is not an abstraction). Arto Nevala examines the salient characteristics and perspectives of different research generations during the history of universities and discusses what could be the future emphases in research ("Korkeakouluhistorian linjoja"; Developments in university history). Seppo Hentilä reviews the work *Tutkijat ja sota* (Researchers and war), edited by Marjatta Hietala, which deals with the contacts and fates of researchers during the Second World War.

(Translation: *Valtasana Oy*)