
Notes on the contents

■ The new editor of the *Historical Journal*, Pirjo Markkola, draws attention in her editorial "Historiantutkimuksen ajankohtaisuus" (The topicality of historical research) to jubilee years that determine the relationship between scholars and publicity. In 2006 will see a demand for, at least, studies on the philosopher J.V. Snellman, Parliament and the history of women's political rights. One of the themes in this issue of *Historical Journal* (1/2006) is, indeed, Johan Vilhelm Snellman, the scriptwriter of the Finnish nation, who also shaped the Finnish gender order.

Marja Jalava analyses the significance of gender and masculinity in Snellman's thinking. In addition to the modern civic society and state, he also built a new gendered citizenship, as Jalava points out in her article "Kansakunnan miestä muokkaamassa" (Shaping the man of the nation).

Raimo Savolainen introduces Snellman's extensive body of writing in his article "J.V. Snellman kansakunnan käsikirjoittajana" (J.V. Snellman as the scriptwriter of a nation). In Snellman's jubilee year, it is appropriate to highlight his work and, through that, the power of education in the building of a nation. Snellman was a true scriptwriter for the Finnish nation, for he published 12,000 pages of texts as

correspondence, newspaper articles, statements, lectures and other publications.

Irma Sulkunen's inaugural lecture on 14 October 2005, published in this issue, discusses the truthfulness of history. Historical research should remind us of the dangers that the politically expedient use of the past may create and bring to the fore the forgotten aspects of understanding human life; identifying these aspects may offer alternative resources also for the future.

This issue also discusses the fate of Finnish soldiers around the world. Jussi Jalonen demonstrates in his article "Magersfonteinin miehet. Skandinaviska Kåren -komennuskunnan suomalaiset vapaaehtoiset buurisodassa 1899–1902" (Magersfontein's men. The

Finnish volunteers of Skandinaviska Kåren corps in the Boer War 1899–1902) that the Boer War evoked a volunteer movement through which a group of Finnish emigrants fought in the war. Who were the Finns fighting alongside Boers, what was their role in the events of the war and what did their compatriots in Finland think of them? What kind of imprint did the Boer War, and the heroic tales about the volunteers, leave in the historical memory of Finns? Jalonen's article answers these questions.

Tuomas Hoppu analyses the loyalty of Finns towards Russia during the First World War. For ninety years of Russian rule, until the February Manifest, Finns were pleased with their Emperor. The Feb-

ruary Manifest in 1899 caused a serious wound in the relationship, although the breach was not final. The First World War could have provided a new chance to return to the peaceful coexistence as experienced earlier during autonomy. It was an opportunity which was, however, left unused, as Hoppu points out in his article "Lojaalisuus Venäjää kohtaan ensimmäisen maailmansodan aikana" (Loyalty towards Russia during the First World War).

The columnist of this issue is the writer Sirpa Kähkönen. She discusses the Continuation War from the perspective of women and children: was it a separate or a joint war effort?

(Translation: *Valtasana Oy*)