



## Notes on the contents

■ The theme of the 3/2005 issue of *Historical Journal* is Europe and the essence of Europeanism.

In his article "Mistä puhumme, kun puhumme Euroopasta? Historiankirjoituksen Euroopat and eurooppalaiset" (What are we talking about, when we talk about Europe?

The Europes and Europeans in history writing), Heikki Mikkelin discusses the meaning of Europeanism and the European identity, and why it is debated now more than perhaps ever before. This flood of opinions has two central reasons: the Eastern enlargement of the EU and the constitutional reform. They have given rise to the question, what kind of Europe is built with the help of these changes? In both cases, the salient characteristics of Europe and Europeanism have been sought first and foremost from the history of the continent.

Riitta Oittinen discusses Europeanism through the example of the architect Rem Koolhaas in her article "Historiapoliittikkaa pikakelauksella. Rem Koolhaas eurosirkusteltailemassa" (Fast-forwarding the politics of history. Rem Koolhaas under the canvas of the eurocircus tent). EU institutions find that the history of Europe is far too sexy a topic to be left to scholars alone: for a couple of months during the Dutch presidency of the EU in 2004, a large popular-historical construction, a circus tent, stood near the Brussels EU quarters. It was designed to shake the concept of the EU as a dry-as-a-bone den of bureaucracy distant from the people.

The topic of Jorma Kalela's article "Jatkomenoinen uudistaminen" (Continuous renewal) is politics in history and historical research. Identifying one's position and making it visible is the duty of a scholar studying society and culture. As acquiring knowledge inde-

pendent of the scholar's personal choices is impossible in these disciplines, the public needs information that enables it to evaluate the sustainability and acceptability of the information produced, and also challenges it to do so. One of the three dimensions of a scholar's position covers the factors that irreversibly govern research. These factors are the conditions and assumptions of reality that exist prior to setting the frame of research and delimit it.

Satu Lidman's article "Kerjääminen ja kaupustelu kielletty! Syrjinnästä ja syjäytymisestä Baijerin herttuakunnassa 1500-luvulla" (Begging prohibited! Discrimination and marginalisation in 16<sup>th</sup> century Duchy of Bavaria) is one of two articles in this issue dealing with 16<sup>th</sup> century social history. Lidman says that a sense of normality and belonging are important building blocks of identity both historically speaking and today. Emphasising the difference of others strengthens the sense of normality in oneself and one's peer group. Discrimination and marginalisation are not new phenomena. With the administrative and justice systems under significant transition, the power elite in 16<sup>th</sup> century Bavaria made laws enabling the isolation of certain groups from the decent working, "honourable" population. This was a matter of conscious creation of inequality.

The second article on the same theme is Marko Hakonen's "Mikä oli klienttijärjestelmä? Klienttijärjestelmäkäsitteet uuden ajan alun Ruotsissa"

(What was the patron client system? The concepts of the patron client system in Sweden of the early modern period). Although the system as such is known and its existence acknowledged, the concept-building related to the phenomenon has remained fairly superficial.

Women and writing is the theme for two of this issue's articles. Since 2001, the Department of Cultural History at the University of Turku has hosted a project studying women's writing. The project is funded by the Academy of Finland. Ritva Hapuli explains in "Kirjoittaminen kulttuurihistoriasta" (On the cultural history of writing) what the researchers in the project mean when they refer to the cultural history of writing and its genderedness. Laura-Kristiina Moilanen sheds light in "Inhimillinen kokemus kaunokirjallisenä" (Human experience as a literary representation) on how fact and fiction merge in an interesting manner in biographical novels. The real person in question may well have experienced his or her life the way it is depicted in the book.

In her column "Humanismin lähettiläitä" (Messengers of humanism), Katariina Mustakallio takes a look at Italian art while Aki Rasilainen's commentary "Kuuluuko autonominen Suomen valtio historiatietoisuuteemme?" (Is the autonomous Finnish state part of our historical consciousness?) discusses the topical questions in 19<sup>th</sup> century history.

(Translation *Valtasana Oy*)