

ISI99 Daily Bulletin 1-2

Helsinki

Monday - Tuesday, 9 -10 August, 1999



Be punctual!

A note to the chairs: please see to it that speakers do not exceed their given time limits. All meetings should start and end punctually at the time indicated in the given schedule. Speakers, please show consideration to your fellow speakers by keeping within your allotment of time.

Say “cheese”!

Photographer Reino Havumäki will be taking photographs of the participants on the opening day and during the welcome reception on Tuesday 10 August. These pictures can be bought at the entrance level of the Finlandia Hall on Thursday 12 August for 30 FIM a piece.

Reino Havumäki will also take photographs on Friday 13 August at the General Assembly.

Another gentleman, who wishes you say “cheese” whenever you meet him, is Daily Bulletin’s own photographer Juhani Korpi. Pictures of both photographers will be published during the Session in the Daily Bulletin and on the website of the 52nd Session.

Sold out!

Some events on the social programme have been so popular that participants who have not booked their reservations well in advance, have unfortunately been left without tickets. You can ask for cancellations at the Registration Desk at the entrance level of the Finlandia Hall.

The concert on Friday night is fully booked. The church can only accommodate 700 listeners, and all seats are reserved.

Of the Sunday Tours, the Hiking Tour and the Lakeland Tour are also fully booked.

The Post Session Tour to Tallin, included in the social programme in the Information Bulletins 1 and 2, has been cancelled due to lack of interest. You can ask about other possibilities to visit the southern neighbour town of Helsinki at the Travel Agency at the entrance level of the Finlandia Hall.

Contents

● Welcome to Finland!	3
● Participants make the conference	4
● Opening ceremony	4
● ISI in a nutshell	5
● Changes in the programme	5
● Behing the scenes and in the frontline	6
● The Finlandia Hall	7
● The man who loved the waves	8
● A brief history of Finland	10
● Visit Statistics Finland	12
● Sights worth seeing	12
● A foreigner in Finland	14
● Teach yourself Finnish	15
● Try some crayfish	15

Cover photograph from Nature Photo Agency, photographer Heimo Rajaniemi:

The Red Admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) is a migrant in Finland, often seen on meadows towards the end of the summer.

Welcome to Finland!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Helsinki, Finland, and to the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute.

Statistics has a very important and acknowledged mission in modern society. The contribution of statistics to the advances in physics, biology, medicine, logistics, quality control and in several other fields is remarkable. With the aid of the latest statistical methods the description of economies and societies with statistics has continually sharpened and specified.

The early statistical analyses, which served to establish winning odds in gambling or describe natural phenomena, have grown to a science in which estimation of the degree of uncertainty and making due allowances for it when drawing conclusions are key elements. In fact, modern statistical science embraces scores of different scientific disciplines. Mathematical statistics forms its theoretical core, but the areas of application associated with it range from theoretical physics to linguistics and legal processes to archaeology.

Exhaustive and reliable statistics production is a necessary condition not only for the success of the corporate sector and market forces but also for the success of public administration and politics. A government's credibility and success also depend more and more on the quantity and quality of statistical data.

Finland is a modern society which – also in the light of international comparisons – makes exceptionally wide use of the latest

information and communication technology. During the last few years Finnish economic and social success has been built more and more on high technology areas of which the production of statistics is one. In the 1990s the transfer to the information society has been raised to an important political aim in Finland as in many other industrial countries.

Finnish society has long been quite well organised, which is seen in the fact that there are long traditions in statistics, too. In Finland we have, for instance, the oldest annual population statistics in the world. Statistics based on various registers have been integrated to the normal production of government statistics more thoroughly than in most other countries.

I am quite sure that we also need more global co-operation in the statistical world. In this area, the International Statistical Institute has a very important role. More and more problems in the economy and in society have a global dimension, too. In solving these problems we need high-quality statistics and harmonised statistical language.

I wish every success to this conference and also to the International Statistical Institute in its very important work to solve problems common to all nations.



*Martti Ahtisaari
President of the Republic of Finland*

Bienvenue en Finlande!

J'ai le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue en Finlande, à Helsinki et à la 52^{ème} Session de l'Institut International de Statistique.

La statistique a une mission très importante et reconnue dans la société moderne. La contribution de la statistique aux progrès réalisés en physique, en biologie, en médecine, en logistique, en contrôle de la qualité et dans de nombreux autres domaines est remarquable. À l'aide des plus récentes méthodes de statistique, la description des phénomènes économiques et sociaux s'est précisée et diversifiée.

Les analyses statistiques faites à l'origine sur les possibilités de gain dans les jeux de hasard et les phénomènes naturels ont pris la dimension d'une science dans laquelle l'essentiel est l'estimation du degré d'incertitude et la prise de décision qui le prend en considération. La statistique moderne comprend en réalité des dizaines de branches scientifiques différentes. La statistique mathématique forme le noyau de la théorie, mais un grand nombre d'applications s'y rattachent, depuis la physique théorique jusqu'à la linguistique, depuis les procédures judiciaires jusqu'à l'archéologie.

La production exhaustive et fiable de statistiques est une condition nécessaire non seulement pour la réussite des entreprises et pour les forces du marché, mais également pour celle de l'Administration et de la politique. La crédibilité et le succès d'un gouvernement dépendent de plus en plus de la quantité et de la qualité des données statistiques.

La Finlande est une société moderne qui - également à la lumière des comparaisons internationales - fait un usage exceptionnellement vaste de la plus récente technologie de l'information et de la communication. Ces dernières années, la

réussite économique et sociale finlandaise s'est de plus en plus édiflée sur la haute technologie dont la production de statistiques est l'un des domaines. Dans les années 1990, le passage à la société informatique s'est élevé au niveau d'un objet politique important en Finlande et dans beaucoup d'autres pays industrialisés.

La société finlandaise est depuis longtemps tout à fait bien organisée, ce qui se voit dans le fait qu'elle a également de longues traditions en statistique. Nous avons en Finlande par exemple la plus ancienne statistique annuelle de la population du monde. La statistique basée sur divers registres a été intégrée dans la production normale de statistiques gouvernementales d'une manière plus complète que dans la plupart des autres pays.

Je suis tout à fait certain que nous avons également besoin d'une coopération plus globale dans le monde statistique. Dans ce domaine, l'Institut International de Statistique joue un rôle très important. Les problèmes de plus en plus nombreux dans l'économie et dans la société ont également une dimension globale. Pour résoudre ces problèmes, nous avons besoin d'une statistique de haute qualité et d'un langage statistique harmonisé.

Je souhaite le plus grand succès à cette conférence et également à l'Institut International de Statistique dans son très important travail en vue de résoudre les problèmes communs qui concernent toutes les nations.

*Martti Ahtisaari
Président de la République de Finlande*

Participants make the conference

● The variety of the subjects to be presented during the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute in Helsinki reflects the great diversity of the international community of statisticians. The Session gathers together over 1,600 experts from all over the world and all areas of research applying statistical methods. They come from universities, national and regional statistical offices, central banks, international and intergovernmental organisations and research institutes working in forestry, health care, insurance, economic forecasting and computer technology, to name but a few.

It is a great challenge to the Programme Committees to create a scientific programme which will both take this diversity into account and make allowances for it while, at the same time, attracting writers to

produce papers interesting enough to their colleagues. One way of ensuring this is to engage a great number of organisations in the preparations. The process of preparing this conference has once again demonstrated the immense importance of good co-operation between the various organisations involved.

Modern technology has simplified the preparation process by, for example, facilitating swift communication regardless of time or place. Measured by the number of mobile phones and Internet connections, the latest information and communication technologies have advanced further in Finland than in most other countries. This meant that, for the first time in the history of the ISI, the abstracts of the papers appeared on the Internet months in advance. Without boasting, we can say

that this is an achievement we are proud of.

Yet, regardless of how efficiently or meticulously the preparations might have been executed, they only build the framework for the participants. As organisers, we are like stage designers who construct the set for the main players of the show. You, dear colleagues, are the body and soul of the conference. You make it, by having interesting discussions and fruitful debates, by exchanging views and ideas, forming valuable contacts as well as meeting old friends and making new ones. We raise the curtain on Tuesday, August 10 and, for the next nine days, the stage is yours.

We wish you all heartily welcome to the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute. We hope the Session will be a memorable event and that Helsinki will show you her fairest face.

*Timo Relander
Chairman of the
National Organising Committee*

*Hannu Niemi
Chairman of the
Local Programme Committee*

*Ilkka Mellin
Secretary General*

Opening ceremony

The Organising Committee has invited all participants and accompanying persons to attend the opening ceremony on Tuesday the 10 August at 4 p.m. in the Congress Hall on the first floor of the Finlandia Hall. Immediately after the ceremony, a welcome reception will take place in the foyer.

● The programme of the opening ceremony consists of four speeches, piano music and a multi image show. The speakers are Mr Timo Relander, Director General of Statistics Finland, Mr Paavo Lipponen, the Prime Minister of Finland, Professor Willem R. van Zwet, the President of the International Statistical Institute and Mr Yves Franchet, Director General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). The Secretary General of the 52nd Session, Mr Ilkka Mellin, will act as

Master of the Ceremonies.

The musical programme consists of compositions of Frederic Chopin, Jean Sibelius, Sergey Prokofiev, Aleksandr Scriabin and Igor Stravinsky. They will be played by Professor Matti Raekallio, 45. He has played at several remarkable music festivals in Finland and abroad and toured annually in the United States. He has been teaching the piano for 20 years, and during the present decade he has been a juror of a number of international piano competitions.

Matti Raekallio will play the piano at the opening ceremony.



Sibelius Academy

ISI in a nutshell

● The International Statistical Institute (ISI) was established in 1885, so it is one of the oldest international scientific associations. Its aim is to develop and improve statistical methods and their application by promoting international activity and co-operation. The over 1,900 elected ("ordinary") members of the ISI are the world's leading statisticians from over 90 countries, experts in official, applied and theoretical statistics. The 166 ex officio members are leaders of national and international statistical agencies and representatives of statistical societies. The total number of members in the ISI is 2,115. In addition to individuals, the ISI also has corporate members, such as national statistical

institutes and statistical societies.

A considerable part of the work of the ISI is done in the five sections, open to anyone interested in the goals of the organisation. The sections have over 5,000 individual members in all. The oldest of these sections are the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) and the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS), both founded in 1973. The Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (BS) was founded in 1975 and the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in 1985. The youngest section is the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), founded in 1991.

Objectives and funding

The ISI has as its objective "the development and improvement of statistical methods and their application throughout the world, all this in the widest sense of the words". In particular, it seeks to encourage international co-operation between statisticians, and the exchange of their professional knowledge, to further the international integration of statistics and contribute to the improvement of statistical education.

The Institute's activities are funded by grants from intergovernmental organisations, governments, local authorities, foundations, private business, and other bodies. Membership fees and proceeds from the sale of ISI publications are traditional sources of income.

Organisation

The Permanent Office of the ISI is situated in Voorburg, in the Netherlands. The General Assembly, open to all individual members of the ISI, meets in connection with the biennial ISI conferences. In the interim period, the activities are lead by the Council and the Executive Secretariat.

The Executive Council consists of five members: the President, the President Elect and three Vice Presidents. The Council has 29 members: the Executive Council, 16 other members and 8 ex officio members, such as the Past President of the ISI, the presidents of the five sections of the ISI, the Secretary/Treasurer of the ISI and the Director General of Statistics Netherlands.

Changes in the programme

Wednesday, 11 August

In *IPM56* "Improving the effectiveness of data collection through innovative technology", at 13.00, the name of the introducer is G. de Bolster, NOT W. Keller.

In *CPM75*, the paper to be presented at 11.00 has been omitted from the programme. The title of the paper will be "250 Years of Population Statistics in Finland", presented by Mauri Nieminen (FINLAND).

In *CPM 82* at 9.00 -11.15, the paper scheduled at 9.30, "A representation of the rate functions in large deviation principles for U-statistics with degenerate kernels" by Shuya Kanagawa from Japan, has been cancelled.

In *CPM 143.1* at 9.00 - 11.15, the paper scheduled at 10.30, "Influence analysis of structural equation models with polytomous variables" by Wai-Yin Poon (CHINA), Shu-Jia Wang and Sik-Yum Lee, has been cancelled.

The paper of Mario Palma (MEXICO) "Inegi's experience in technical cooperation on statistics", originally scheduled for *CPM137* on Monday 16 August at 13.00, has been

moved to *CPM116.2* "Technical co-operation to help countries to meet national and international requirements II", on Wednesday 11 August at 14.30.

Friday, 13 August

The meeting of the *Agricultural Statistics Committee* (Gregor Mendel Committee), originally scheduled for Monday 16 August at 11.15, has been advanced to Friday, 13 August, 11.15. The place will be announced later.

Saturday, 14 August

In *CPM73.1*, the paper of Patrick D. Bourke, scheduled at 9.00, has been cancelled.

Monday, 16 August

In *IPM18*, "Multiway data in psychometrics and chemonetrics", to be held on Monday 16 August at 9.00, the talks of Pieter Kroonenberg and Claus Andersson will be given in the reverse order. Mr Andersson will speak at 9.04, and Mr Kroonenberg at 9.39.

New item for *CPM81*: at 17.00, "Intervalle de confiance de l'indice de végétation, de

l'indice de brillance et de la matière sèche totale" by Abdellani, F. and Chamayou, J. F. (FRANCE).

Tuesday, 17 August

In *CPM134*, the paper "Generalised kernel density estimator" by Novak, Serguei (NETHERLANDS), scheduled at 9.30, has been cancelled.

IPM12 on "Whither statistical publishing?", scheduled on Tuesday 17 August at 13.00, has been cancelled.

Some names of the speakers of *IPM 42* "Statistical training of people working in and with official statistics" have been omitted by mistake in the Information Bulletin No 3. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17 August at 13.00 - 15.15. These should be added:

As organisers:
Blumberg, Carol Joyce, UNITED STATES

Smulders, René H. M., THE NETHERLANDS

As chairpersons:
Blumberg, Carol Joyce, UNITED STATES

Smulders, René H. M., THE NETHERLANDS
Papers: 13.25 Impact of

Internet on official statistics:
User opportunities

* Bregar, Lea; Ograjensek, Irena (SLOVENIA)

Wednesday, 18 August

A new meeting, *IPM84*, President's Invited Paper Meeting on "Recent advances in probability and statistics", will be held on Wednesday 18 August at 13.00 - 15.15. The organiser is Willem van Zwet, the speakers will be Jef Teugels "Wind and Stochastics"

Richard Tweedie
"Publication bias in meta-analysis"

Elja Arjas -Title to be announced later

David Siegmund -Title to be announced later.

In *IPM20*, on 18 August at 13.00 - 15.15, the discussant Bertrand S. Clarke from UK, has cancelled his appearance.

In *CPM132*, on 18 August at 13.00 - 15.15, the paper "Reseaux de neurones et regression logistique en finances" by Ana Silvia Haedo (ARGENTINA) and Leonardo Focsaner has been cancelled.

Behind the scenes and in the frontline

The preparation of the ISI 52nd Session is a joint venture of Statistics Finland, University of Helsinki, Finnish Statistical Society and the City of Helsinki. It would be impossible to mention everyone who has contributed to the preparation. The Executive Secretariat alone consists of nearly twenty experts. This is a short characterisation of the persons you are most likely to meet. The presentations will continue in the coming issues of the Daily Bulletin.



Left to right: Ilkka Mellin, Jussi Melkas, Raija Löfgren, Matti Jokela and Mikko T. Mäkinen.

Ilkka Mellin, 52

The Secretary General of the Conference and the initiator of the whole project, Ilkka is a statistician specialising in econometrics and regression analysis. Ilkka has been teaching statistics as assistant professor, lecturer and associate professor at the Department of Statistics of the University of Helsinki.

Ilkka's hobbies include active physical training (bodybuilding,

jogging, cycling), cinema (Bergman, Bresson, Bunuel), literature, art, music (from Bach and Brahms to Miles Davis, Elvis and Steely Dan), photography and video filming, among other things. He loves Italian food and wine, French cognac and Cuban cigars. He also likes travelling, preferably in Italy.

Ilkka is married with no children.

Jussi Melkas, 49

Jussi is Director of Information Services at Statistics Finland, and his main responsibilities at the conference are the preparation of information for the media and the overall management of the publicity section.

Jussi is married and has two children, one of whom already lives away from home. His favourite hobby is local history, particularly old maps, and he is

a friend of American intellectual cinema. He enjoys travelling with public transport because it gives him a moment of peace (which he often uses for reading) before or after a hectic day at the office.

Raija Löfgren

Assistant to the Secretary General, Raija has worked with the ISI99 project since 1995. She was also involved in the organising of the conference of the International Union of Forestry Research Organization in Tampere in 1995. Otherwise, Raija works in the Secretariat of the Director General at Statistics Finland.

Raija loves Greek music, Greek folk dancing and everything connected with Greece. She also likes to read, in particular novels by South American writers. Her favourite films include Kieslowski's Blue, Casablanca, and the films of Aki Kaurismäki.

Raija has a grown-up daughter who lives away from home.

Matti Jokela

Graphic Designer at Statistics Finland, Matti has been responsible for the numerous printing jobs for the conference, as well as contacts with printing houses. He claims not to have much time for hobbies, but likes sports, both as a spectator and as an active player of badminton and other games.

Matti prefers birdsong to all music, but on his way to and from work his car radio is tuned to the channel playing classical music.

Mikko T. Mäkinen, 49

Mikko is in charge of the Information Desk. He is accustomed to answering all kinds of questions also in his daily work as Information Specialist at the Library of Statistics. He has a B.Sc. in Economics, and is a qualified translator, and also regards studying languages as his hobby. Mikko likes to read biographies, memoirs and books on political history. He is also fond of theatre.

Mikko spends a lot of time on the football ground servicing and assisting his 14 year-old twin sons when they play in matches and tournaments all over southern Finland.

Jussi Melkas

The Finlandia Hall



Unto Säälä

as Kiri Te Kanawa or the Three Tenors.

People in the lead

The main spaces of the building are the concert hall and foyer, the chamber-music room and the restaurant. The great foyer is dominated by a glass wall with a view to *Töölönlahti* bay. The colours of the main concert hall are dark blue and white, and those of the chamber music room dark red and white.

Doctor Göran Schildt, author and biographer of Alvar Aalto, writes: "All materials and colours speak in nature's own subdued way without anything artificial to distract. This is in keeping with Aalto's conviction that architecture serves as a background for human beings. It is not startling forms or interiors with vivid colours that are supposed to attract attention, it is the audience and the performers."

Finlandia Hall is a protected building. According to the preservation decision of 1991 the facade, the allotment of space, materials, colours and fixtures have to remain identical to the original. The building and its environments must also be used in accordance with its architectural and culture historical value.

Alvar Aalto designed the Finlandia Hall originally as a part of his scheme for a new monumental centre of Helsinki. Starting from the Parliament House, it was to form a chain of cultural buildings alongside of the *Töölönlahti* bay.

● Aalto's plan will probably never be realised, but the basic idea seems to be accepted by the city planning department. The new National Opera building was erected further north-west of the Hesperia Park, and a new concert hall has been planned on the present rail freight terminus near *Kiasma*, the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Finlandia Hall was designed in 1962 and the construction work was completed in 1975, just in time for the summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It was also the venue of the Helsinki Summit in 1997.

A few figures

Finlandia Hall can accommodate up to 3,000

visitors in its 22 conference rooms. In the main building, the main auditorium (the main concert hall) has 1,700 seats, the small auditorium (the chamber music hall) seats 340 and the terrace hall 300. In addition, there are five committee rooms of various sizes. The conference wing houses two large congress halls, one with 600 and the other with 250 seats, committee rooms of different sizes, plus a couple of press rooms. There is also a restaurant and the lobbies have several catering points.

Finlandia Hall is the home of the Helsinki City Philharmonic Orchestra and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. It is a popular venue for all kinds of concerts, too small only for megastars, such



Museum of Finnish Architecture/Ernst Hüsser

The man who loved the waves



Museum of Finnish Architecture/Heikki Havas

Alvar Aalto with his second wife Elissa.

The centenary of Alvar Aalto, the famous architect and designer of the Finlandia Hall, was celebrated throughout last year with exhibitions around the world. The celebration started and ended at the Alvar Aalto Museum in Jyväskylä in central Finland. Jyväskylä was his home for 24 years, and contains more buildings designed by him than any other place in the world.

● Alvar Aalto was one of the first major architects of the modern movement to emerge in Scandinavia. He is also said to be one of the most individual and poetic masters of functionalism. However, he always emphasised the human factor. "Architecture cannot disengage itself from natural and human factors. Its function is to bring nature ever closer to us", he said.

The bent wood signature

The soft undulating line is to be found in so many of Aalto's

works that it is almost like a signature: the word "aalto" means "wave" in Finnish. In the Paimio Tuberculosis Sanatorium, built in 1933, every detail in the patients' rooms was planned with precision and care, including the beds, lamps and washbasins. The Paimio chair, made of bent plywood and laminated birch, became a model repeatedly imitated.

In the Vyborg Library auditorium (1927-1934), the acoustic ceiling is made of wood and bent into a wavelike form, (...)"it did little to improve the sound distribution but



Alvar Aalto Museum/Matti Kapanen

The Paimio chair

looked stunning,” as Richard Weston put it). The brick walls of the dormitory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology also curve like the surging surface of the sea, but perhaps the most commonly seen Aalto “signature” today is the Savoy vase, a popular gift and souvenir sold in many sizes and colours. The vase was originally designed for the interior of the Restaurant Savoy in Eteläesplanadi in Helsinki, where even the serving tables have a similar form. The restaurant is there even today but, unfortunately, not quite in the original form.

Alvar Aalto was inspired by the Finnish nature and its elements: forests, wood, lake and seashores and granite rocks. He liked to use natural materials and plant his buildings into the environment as an organic part of it. He also brought nature indoors by using wooden columns and large windows to face the shore whenever possible.

Italy brought home

Alvar Aalto was unusually cosmopolitan for his era, widely travelled and multilingual. He was fond of the Mediterranean

countries, Italy in particular. Italian influences can be seen in his use of marble, in the Finlandia Hall, for instance.

During his career of 60 years, Aalto designed not only public buildings such as concert halls, theatres or town halls, churches, educational institutes and headquarters of large companies, but also residential buildings. Among his best-known works in Finland are the Finlandia Hall, the House of Culture, and the Helsinki University of Technology in the Helsinki metropolitan area, Säynätsalo town hall and Jyväskylä University in central Finland and the church of the “Cross of the Plain” in Seinäjoki in Ostrobothnia.

The original Savoy vase was made of clear, greenish glass.



Museum of Art and Design

ALVAR AALTO BUILDINGS IN HELSINKI

(realised and remaining)

Building	Location	Year (completion)
Aalto's house	Riihitie 30, Munkkiniemi	1936
Savoy restaurant interior	Eteläesplanadi 14	1937
Erottaja pavilion	Erottaja	1951
Finnish Engineers' Association Offices	Ratakatu 9	1952
Enso-Gutzeit Oy clubhouse	Kallvik, Vuosaari	1952
National Pensions Institute housing	Riihitie 12–14, Munkkiniemi	1954
Rautatalo office building	Keskuskatu 3	1955
House of Culture	Sturenkatu 4, Vallila	1956
National Pensions Institute	Minna Canthin katu 15, Töölö	1957
Enso-Gutzeit headquarters	Kanavaranta 1, Katajanokka	1962
Aalto's office and studio	Tiilimäki 20, Munkkiniemi	1963
Union Bank of Finland		
(nowadays MeritaNordbanken) annex building	Fabianinkatu 31	1965
Academic Bookshop	Pohjoisesplanadi 39	1969
Power Company office building	Kampinkuja 2, Kamppi	1975
Finlandia Hall	Karamzininkatu 2	1975

MOST IMPORTANT WORKS ABROAD

Building	Location	Year (completion)
Municipal library	Vyborg, Russia	1935
Student dormitory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA	1947
Theatre	Essen, Germany	1959
Cultural centre	Wolfsburg, Germany	1963
Institute of International Education, interior	New York, USA	1965
Scandinavian House	Reykjavik, Iceland	1968
Mount Angel Benedictine College library	Oregon, USA	1970
Art museum	Aalborg, Denmark	1972
Church and parish centre	Riola di Vergato, Italy	1978

A brief history of Finland

The first known inhabitants arrived in Finland about 9000 – 8000 BC. The early settlements of Finland were mainly concentrated along coastal areas and rivers, and the people lived off hunting and fishing.

● From about 1500 BC, or the Bronze Age, the Finns have had close cultural and trading contacts both to the east and west.

The Swedish era

Finland was part of the Kingdom of Sweden from the early 13th century until 1809. The roots of the Finnish social system, legislation and culture originate from this period. During the Swedish era, the most important towns were founded (Turku 1229, Helsinki 1550), a university was established in Turku (1640) and

Finnish coastal towns were given the right to engage in foreign trade.

During the Middle Ages, the development of Finland was characterised by a deep impact of the Roman Catholic and European culture. Its legacy are the almost 100 surviving stone churches, societal thinking according to the Roman law, and German urban culture with its technical and consumer novelties.

The Reformation reached Finland in the 16th century, and Lutheranism became the official religion. Mikael Agricola translated the New Testament

into Finnish, and the publication of his translation in 1548 has been considered the starting point of Finnish as a written language.

During the period of Sweden as a great power (1617 - 1721), Swedes were often appointed to high offices in Finland. This naturally strengthened the position of the Swedish language in Finland.

The age of autonomy

Sweden and Russia fought over Finland in 1808-09. The so-called "War of Finland" ended in Swedish defeat, and Finland was ceded to Russia. Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia with its own laws, legislative assembly and administration. Helsinki was made the capital of Finland in 1812.

Each of the Russian Czars had his own way of ruling and, accordingly, the age of autonomy included both liberal, progressive periods and times of repressive authoritarianism. During the more liberal periods, Finnish was accorded equal status with Swedish as an official language and Finland was granted its own currency.

Nationalistic ideas gained ground during the latter part of the 19th century, and in 1906 the Czar and the Diet of Estates set up a unicameral Parliament and introduced universal suffrage. Finnish women were the first in Europe to receive the right to vote.

Independence at last

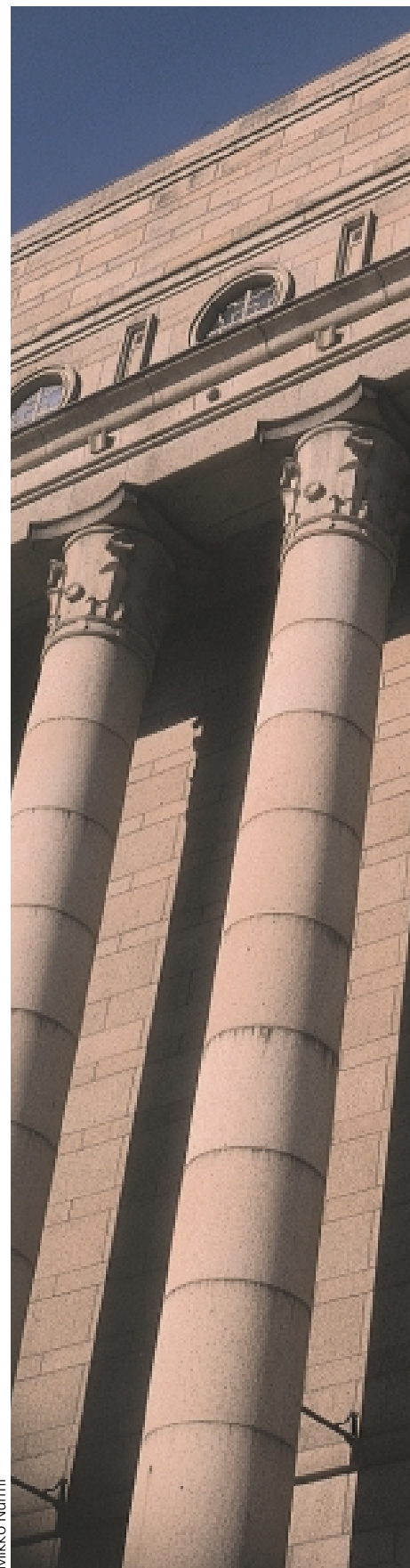
Shortly after the October revolution in Russia, the Finnish Parliament approved the Declaration of Independence on December 6, 1917. Soviet Russia recognised it on New Year's Eve the same year.

The differences between social groups became aggravated in January 1918, and a Civil War broke out



Mikko Nurmi

Turku is the oldest town in Finland.



Mikko Nurmi

The house of the Parliament was built in 1931.

between the revolutionary Reds, and the Whites who supported the legal government. The White troops were better equipped, better trained and better lead (the supreme command was held by C.G. E. Mannerheim), and suppressed the revolt by May.

The Finnish Constitution, largely effective even today, was enacted in 1919. Finland became a parliamentary republic with relatively extensive presidential powers.

The miracle of the Winter War

In November 1939, the Soviet Union attacked Finland as a result of Finland's refusal to accept territorial exchanges and leases of military bases. Finland's survival against an overpowering enemy became legendary all over the world, as did the commander-in-chief, Field Marshal C.G. E. Mannerheim.

The Winter War ended in March 1940, but peace did not last long. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Finland entered the war

as a cobelligerent with Germany. The "Continuation War" ended in an armistice in September 1944, and on the basis of the armistice treaty, yet another war was fought in Lapland to drive the Germans out of the country.

A total of 90,000 men were killed in the wars, 450,000 Karelians lost their homes, and vast land areas were ceded to the Soviet Union.

The refugees, 12 per cent of the population, were resettled in a couple of years. New farms were established by distributing farmland to them by legislation, both state-owned and purchased by the state from private owners.

Helsinki was one of the three capitals of European countries involved in the Second World War never occupied by foreign forces. The other two were London and Moscow.

Neutrality as a basis of foreign policy

After the war, Finland had to rearrange the relationship with the Soviet Union. A Treaty of



Winter War evacuees from Karelia.

National Board of Antiquities



Finland and Sweden have always had close relations. President Urho Kekkonen (on the right) chatting with the Swedish prime minister Olof Palme in 1975.

National Board of Antiquities



Mikko Nurmi

Marshal Mannerheim has statues in many Finnish towns. This one is in Mikkelä.

Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance was signed in 1948, and remained in force for the next 40 years. The presidents J.K. Paasikivi and Urho Kekkonen pursued an active policy of neutrality which meant staying out of all superpower conflicts.

In spite of the close relationships with the Soviet Union, Finland has always remained a market economy country. Until the 1980s the impact of the state on the economy was quite strong with a great number of state-owned or state-controlled companies. The arrangement was very much like that in the other Scandinavian countries.

The reconstruction after the war and the reparations to the Soviet Union brought about

the industrialisation and urbanisation of Finland. During the post-war decades the grounds were laid for the present welfare state.

Neutrality, however, did not mean staying outside international organisations. Finland became member of the World Bank in 1948 and joined GATT in 1950. In 1955, Finland joined the UN and has played an active role in, for instance, peacekeeping operations. Finland became an associate member of the EFTA in 1961 and a full member in 1986. In 1995 Finland became a member of the European Union. The decision was made after a referendum, in which 57 per cent of the voters supported the membership.

Visit Statistics Finland

On Thursday, 12 August, you will have a chance to visit Statistics Finland, to have a look at the premises in *Sörnäinen* and to learn about the production and dissemination of official statistics in Finland.

● After a general presentation, there will be four product demonstrations on electronic services. "Key on Europe", a database containing regional data of Europe, and basic information on all countries in the world. The Theme-CD has regional data placed on maps, and the StatFin service includes regional and time series data bases plus a number of specialised statistical databases. You will also get acquainted with the Internet services of Statistics Finland.

A short introductory tour

will follow, with a visit to the Library of Statistics.

According to interest, one (in the morning only) or two (in the morning and in the afternoon) visits will be arranged. A bus transportation will leave from the Finlandia Hall at 8.30 a.m. (and 1.30 p.m.), return transportation will start at noon (and at 5 p.m.). Please register at the Information Desk or electronically via the conference website at <http://www.stat.fi/isi99> on Wednesday noon at the latest.

Sights worth seeing

The centre of Helsinki is crammed on a narrow cape, and the most important sights are close to each other. The two squares that form the heart of the city are the Market Square, *Kauppatori*, and the Senate Square, *Senaatintori*. Only the block containing the City Hall separates the squares from each other.



Restaurant Kappeli ("the chapel") in the Esplanade park is packed on sunny afternoons.

● The neo-classical buildings around the Senate Square were designed by an architect who also took part in the planning of St Petersburg, C.L. Engel. The white Cathedral with its green cupolas has become a symbol for Helsinki. On sunny days you can see people sitting on the steps leading up to the cathedral enjoying the warmth and the scenery.

Other buildings surrounding the square include the University of Helsinki, The Council of State and the Kiseleff Bazaar with small shops, cafés and restaurants.

The statue of the Czar

The statue in the centre of the square has puzzled many visitors: why have the Finns wanted to erect a monument to a Russian Emperor? The statue of Czar Alexander II was a cunning protest from the Finnish side. He was a liberal monarch, and Finland enjoyed a wide autonomy during his reign.

Both his predecessor and successor treated Finland less gently and, as a protest against the Russification of the late 19th century, the statue was



made to remind of better times. Czar Alexander III, the reigning emperor, could not oppose to the action.

The fair lady in bronze

Besides the cathedral, another symbol of Helsinki is Havis Amanda, the statue of a mermaid, in the Market Square. Her bold nakedness upset the moralists when the statue was unveiled in 1908, but people soon got used to her. Today it is the most popular statue in Helsinki, and when Finland



Mikko Nurmi



The Sibelius Monument is a visual expression of the way Sibelius' music depicts nature.

from the Market Square to *Mannerheimintie*, the main street, was also a part of Engel's design.

Modern architecture and sculpture

A few kilometres from the Market Square, most sightseeing coaches stop at two places exhibiting modern Finnish architecture and sculpture: the *Temppeliaukio* (Temple Square) Church and the Sibelius Monument.

Again, both were fiercely debated about when they were first built in the sixties. The abstract Sibelius Monument consists of pipes of welded steel, but to satisfy the more traditional viewer, the sculptress Eila Hiltunen had to add a bust of Sibelius on one side.

The *Temppeliaukio* Church has been quarried in the bedrock. With its glass door and 180 skylights it has plenty of natural light which, together with the rough stone surface of the walls inside, gives a feeling of being close to the nature. The church is a popular concert hall due to its acoustic qualities.

became the world champion in ice hockey in 1995, people gathered round Havis Amanda to celebrate and dressed her in the team shirt. The impressive row of buildings behind the Market Square includes the Presidential Palace, the Swedish Embassy and the City Hall. C.L. Engel was involved in the renovation work of the Presidential Palace at the beginning of the 19th century. The City Hall was originally designed by him, but the interior was almost totally rebuilt in the sixties.

The Esplanade Park, running



Mikko Nurmi

Mikko Nurmi

"The Church in the Rock" can accommodate 700 listeners to a concert.

A foreigner in Finland

by Iain Muir, Managing Director,
Get Smart Finland Oy Ltd.



So, what's it like living in Finland as a foreigner? I've only lived here on a permanent basis for five years, but have been coming backwards and forwards to Finland five years prior to settling here. There are many other 'Brits' who have been here infinitely longer.

The oft' asked question is, "why did you move to Finland?". I don't suppose that answering "the weather" is an understandable response. OK, I'm British, Scottish actually, so this means that I can talk about the weather. Extremes! Take this past winter for example, down to -51 in parts and then, just recently, we've had glorious summer sunshine giving us +29. I don't really notice the darkness of the winter days, but maybe that's because I wasn't born here, but I do notice the length of the days during the summer.

Winters give us the opportunity to participate in outdoor sports, cross country skiing, downhill skiing and winter fishing - boring a hole in the ice before trying your luck. Walks across the frozen sea to the nearby islands - my friends in Britain find that a difficult

concept to appreciate. I don't know that we foreigners have too many ski-jumpers based in Finland though!!

Spring is short, heralding the verdant lushness of summer - trees suddenly turn a rich hue of green and the city is wrapped in a mantle of leaves. Pavement cafes sprout along the main streets and Finland comes to life. Helsinki's market place becomes even more of a bustle with the wonderful colours and selection of Finnish berries and vegetables, inter island ferries scuttling to and fro, the influx of tourists, the atmosphere visibly changing almost overnight.

Things have changed

Things have changed in Finland over the last five years, and presumably entry into the full European Union is now beginning to have an effect. Shops now have a much wider range of available products. I can get Tesco marmalade and HP sauce easily, although instant coffee has yet to create an impact. It must be noted, that Finns consume more coffee per capita than any other nation and their own brands are excellent. Also, the electric kettle has only recently become commonplace.

The selection and quality of clothing has improved enormously - no longer the stereotype humour of the Finnish business person wearing white socks with his suit. The stereotype these days is technological, particularly in communications. I think it true to say that market penetration of the cellular phone is greater in Finland than any other country - even young children have them - I always wonder who pays the telephone bills!! Restaurants have improved in their range of selections, but service in many of the

establishments sometime fails to meet the quality of the food.

Finns

Many adjectives are used to describe Finns, it's difficult to select just one, but if I had to, then perhaps it would be taciturn. I would then go on to add: honest, reliable, direct in speech, efficient and hard working, suspicious and sometimes envious of others, almost to the point of being apologetic for buying a new car, or having two holidays a year.

One criticism that I hear levied against Finns is their rudeness. I find this difficult to accept in a linguistic sense, because Finnish is no ruder than other languages. But, if we compare it to English, and a Finn is using English as a lingua-franca, then this I understand. When working with British managers here, I point out to them that the actual word 'please' does not really exist per se in Finnish. This of course causes concern and astonishment to a nation who are perhaps overtly polite linguistically. I must admit though, it would be quite nice if someone said "thank you" when I hold the door open for them and not treat me as part of the door mat.

'Small talk' is an interesting area for the foreigner here. Not too much of it in Finland amongst Finns. Of course there is small talk, but it still has this direct style. The one thing that does amaze me, is that the person sitting next to you in the train, metro or bus, will make every effort not to engage in conversation with fellow passengers, but does not mind the rest of the compartment knowing the most intimate details of their life when speaking to a friend/colleague on their mobile phone!

So, why am I here?

I am married to a Finn, probably like many other permanent ex-pats in Finland. It may be difficult to include Finnish women as an invisible export, but certainly many are married to foreigners. It seems to be the standard response to why one is here.

Seriously, though, if you are prepared to work hard, professionally and sincerely, there is a lot of work available in my particular field (linguistics and management consulting). Not that I'm encouraging the competition to expand, The work is enjoyable and Finns are very appreciative of other people's efforts, their openness to new ideas and approaches is refreshing and exciting.

What's it like living in Finland? To answer this question would take many pages, and possibly bore others who are not so enthusiastic to death! Of course there are things that drive me mad, but that's my problem as a guest in Finland. It suits my lifestyle to be here. I like the winters, I like the summers and use them in a positive way.

Perhaps it's difficult to get to know Finns, but when you do, they become true friends. People can and will help each other here. The family unit is still comparatively strong. The infrastructure is excellent, forests, lakes, clean air and the natural world, sauna and cricket. Yes, cricket in Helsinki! Finnish design, Finnish technology are well advanced, and probably, most of all, with one of the lowest densities of population in the world, there are vast deserted areas where I can go to, and don't have to speak to anyone at all!!!

Päivää

● Almost all the languages spoken in Europe are related to each other, as they belong to the same Indo-European family of languages (Swedish, German, Russian, English, for instance). For the speakers of Indo-European languages, Finnish may seem difficult because of its different grammatical structure and vocabulary.

Linguistically, Finnish belongs to the Finno-Ugrian family of languages, consisting of a couple of dozens of minority languages. Hungarian is the most widely spoken of these, but only very remotely related to Finnish. Estonian, with its 1.5 million speakers, is a closer relative. Finns and Estonians understand some of each other's speech, although words may have different meanings. The Sami (formerly Lappish) language, spoken in Lapland by approximately 2,000 persons, is also a Finno-Ugrian language.

Pronunciation

Finnish pronunciation is very regular. One letter corresponds to one sound. The main stress is always on the first syllable. Vowels have almost the same pronunciation in unstressed as

in stressed positions. The distinction between voiced and unvoiced consonants (B and P, for instance) is not as clear as in, e.g., English.

The following letters may be difficult to pronounce:

J is like the consonantal Y in English

R is a relatively clear R-sound, like in Italian

Y is like the French U, or

German U-umlaut (Ü)

Ä is roughly like the A in HAT

Ö is roughly the same letter as in German, or the EU in French, the nearest equivalent in English is the long vowel in FUR.

Please note that A is pronounced as U in the British English CUP, AA as the A in the British English AFTER. E is like the E in HEN, I is like the I in FIT, U is like the U in the English FULL, and the consonants K, P and T are a lot softer than their equivalents in most other languages.

Diphthongs occur frequently in Finnish. OU is pronounced roughly as OW in the English word SHOW, AI is pronounced like the English pronoun I, and EI is pronounced like the AY in the English word MAY.

Everyday phrases

Hei or Terve, more formally

Päivää

Hyvää huomenta

Hyvää iltaa

Hyvää yötä

Näkemiin or, less formally,

Hei

Kyllä

Ei

Kiitos

Anteeksi

Hello

Good morning

Good evening

Good night

Goodbye

Yes

No

Thank you

Excuse me/I'm sorry

One of the main difficulties to a foreign learner of Finnish is the fact that the meaning of a word may change completely if you alter the length of a vowel or a consonant. For instance:

taka	back (a prefix)	tuli	fire
takaa	from behind	tuuli	wind
takka	a fireplace	tulli	customs office
taakka	a burden		

Try some crayfish!

● Finland's food tradition has been influenced by fashions from east and west. As part of the Kingdom of Sweden for more than 600 years and the Russian Empire for 110 years, Finland adopted habits and tastes from both. Although some people claim that today's Finns hardly know themselves what Finnish food is - ready-made pizza from the freezer is a typical snack in busy families with working mothers - there are some characteristic elements, typical ingredients and indigenous ways of preparing food.

Finns still live close to the nature and the four seasons affect their everyday life, including the diet. The finest ingredients of Finnish food are fish from the fresh clean waters and berries, mushrooms and game from the forests. The long summer days give a rich

milk products. Various types of cheese, yoghurt and *viili* (soured milk, a bit like yoghurt but more solid in consistency) are often eaten at breakfast and milk is also used in cooking.

August is considered by many to be the best season, as the market stalls are piled up with an abundance of fresh vegetables, herbs and berries, and wild mushrooms start sprouting in the forests. It is also the time for the crayfish, a rare delicacy caught in the clear waters of the streams, lakes and ponds. Catching crayfish is only allowed for a short period from late July to October in order to preserve the population.

The highlight of the summer: a crayfish party

Eating crayfish and, particularly, the rituals connected with this feast, is of Swedish origin. Crayfish are usually eaten as a starter, because there is not much to eat in these small shellfish. They are tricky to catch and, accordingly, fairly expensive.

Preparing crayfish is very simple, although it may sound cruel. You simply put the live crayfish into plenty of boiling water (don't worry, they'll die instantly without feeling a thing provided the water IS boiling all the time!), seasoned with salt, sugar and dill and let them cook for 10 minutes. They will turn beautifully red as soon as they are plunged into the water. When they are cooked, the pan is removed from heat, more dill is added and the crayfish are left to cool in the water.

Crayfish are eaten cold, with hands, using special knives. The meat is removed from the shells (see instructions on the next page) and the best parts are piled on a slice of toast.

At some parties, people have "a schnapps for every claw", but this is not recommended to a novice. Other drinks usually served with crayfish are chilled, dry white or sparkling wine, beer and mineral water.



Mikko Nurmi

August is the season for chantarelles.

aroma to the herbs and berries and, because of the cold climate, farmers need far less pesticides than in warmer countries.

The milky ways

Regardless of the season, Finns have a taste for rye bread, potatoes, Baltic herring, beer, coffee and *pulla* (sweet yeast bread made of wheat dough seasoned with cardamom, served either as small buns or slices of plaited loaves). Finns are second in the world after Russia in the consumption of

How to enjoy the crayfish



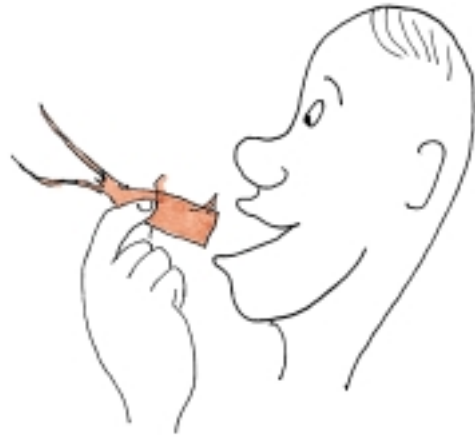
1. Detach the claws from the base and remove the smaller pincers. Pierce the tip of the larger claws with a crayfish knife. Suck out the juice. Open the side of the claw with the knife and remove the flesh.



2. Remove the back shell by twisting...



3. ...or cutting it with the knife behind the eyes. Then keep the crayfish on its back to keep the juice inside.



4. Pour the juice from the back shell into your mouth. Scrape out the crayfish butter from the inside of the shell.



5. Suck the juice and flesh from the body. Remove the roe (in some female crayfish) whole and eat it on a slice of toast.



6. Twist the tail off. Take it in both hands and press the shell off of one side. You can also use a crayfish knife.



7. Twist off the strip of flesh on top of the tail piece and remove the bowel underneath.