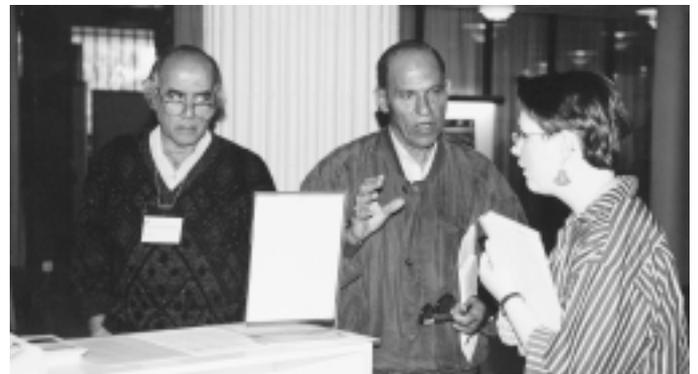


## Contents

● ISI Service Awards	2
● Jan Tinbergen Awards 1999	2
● Changes in the programme	3
● Correction	3
● Statistical Education	3
● Making Statistics Come Alive	4
● Behind the scenes and in the frontline, part 3	5
● IASS - International Association of Survey Statisticians	6
● Everyday elegance anyone can afford	6
● Golden era of Finnish art	8
● Ateneum, the "House for the Arts"	9
● Kiasma, the museum of contemporary art	9
● The spirit of the bottle	10
● Harvest in the Market Square	11
● Kuka hän on?	12
● For people on the move	12

## First day



Many questions were answered at the Information Desk.



Webmasters Markku (left) and Samppa mastering the Web.

# ISI Service Awards

From time to time, the President awards ISI Service Medals to persons whose outstanding activities were of particular significance for the Institute's activities. The Service Medals are named after three great statisticians who were instrumental in furthering international statistical co-operation:

Adolphe Quetelet (Belgium)  
Henri Willem Methorst (The Netherlands)  
Franz von Neumann–Spallart (Austria–Hungary)

The ISI Executive Committee considers the following persons as deserving candidates for an ISI Service Medal, to be awarded during the August 13 ISI General Assembly meeting in Helsinki:

## Adolphe Quetelet Medal

David Cox (United Kingdom)  
Mario Palma Rojo (Mexico)  
Vijayan N. Nair (Malaysia)  
Willem de Vries (Netherlands)

Ilkka Mellin (Finland)  
Timo Relander (Finland)  
Zoltan Kenessey (in memorial -USA)

## Henri Willem Methorst Medal

Constance van Eeden (The Netherlands)  
Raija Lofgren (Finland)  
Jozef L.M. Teugels (Belgium)  
Graham Pyatt (United Kingdom)  
Dennis Trewin (Australia)  
Michael Ward (United Kingdom)  
Jon N.K. Rao (Canada)

Agnes Herzberg (Canada)  
Joop Mijnheer (The Netherlands)  
Photis Nanopoulos (Eurostat)  
Bernard Silverman (United Kingdom)  
Fred Vogel (USA)  
René A. Padieu (France)

## Von Neumann–Spallart Medal

John C. Bailar (USA)  
Pilar Garcia (Mexico)  
Gerrit Stemerdink (Netherlands)

Paul Cheung (Singapore)  
Terry Holland (USA)  
Jaromir Antoch (Czech Republic)

# Jan Tinbergen Awards 1999

The ISI is pleased to announce the winners of the 1999 Jan Tinbergen Awards:  
– J.P. Ekwaru (Uganda) for his paper "An Approximation for the Rank Adjacency Statistic for Spatial Clustering with Sparse Data";  
– D. Gervini (Argentina) for his paper "A Robust and fully

Efficient Regression Estimator";  
– V. Swaminathan (India) for his paper "Semiparametric Estimation for Stationary Markov Chains with Continuous State-Space"  
These awards, previously known as the "ISI Awards for Young Statisticians from Developing Countries", were

renamed in honour of the late ISI member and world-renowned econometrician Jan Tinbergen. The Executive Committee is grateful to the Stichting Internationaal Statistisch Studie Fonds for providing each of the winners with a five thousand Dutch Guilder prize in addition to the

all-expenses-paid trip to the ISI Session in Helsinki. These prizes will be conferred during the August 13 General Assembly. The papers will be presented by their authors in a special meeting on August 14 at 9:00. Come and show your support for these young statisticians by attending their presentations.

# Changes in the programme

## Today

In *CPM1* at 13.00, the presentation of T. J. Rao has been cancelled.

In *IPM53* at 15.30, the presentation of Ivor Francis has been cancelled. Michel Jambu will NOT be a discussant at this meeting.

## Friday, 13 August

In *CPM46.1*, at 9.00, a new presentation is scheduled at 10.45, "estimation of Mean Square Error in Multi-stage Sampling by Kim, Kyuseong.

In *CPM136*, a presentation has been moved from 16.1. The presentation of Sylvia Frürwirth-Schnatter (AUSTRIA), on "Bayes factors and model selection for random effect models" is scheduled at 10.30.

In *CPM104.1*, a new presentation, "Demographic situation in Russia and problems of information on population" by Andrei G. Volkov (RUSSIA), has been added to start at 11.00.

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

In *IPM74*, at 9.00, the introduction will be given by

Denise Lievesley (FRANCE) instead of Mary H.Regier.

In *CPM73.1*, a presentation has been moved from 141: "Internal evaluation: an approach to use data for action in higher education quality improvement" by Abbas Bazargan (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN) is scheduled at 10.30.

## Monday, 16 August

In *IPM18*, "Multiway data in psychometrics and chemometrics", to be held 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.

In *IPM36*, Nick Fisher (AUSTRALIA) will be chair and presenter of the introduction. The presentation of Corinna Cortes (UNITED STATES), scheduled at 16.30, has been cancelled.

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 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; Ograjsek, Irena (SLOVENIA)

A new presentation for *CPM58*, starting at 15.30, will be heard at 17.15: Comparison of Predictive Accuracy of Neural Network Methods and Cox Regression for Censored Survival Data, by Azen, Stanley (UNITED STATES); Xiang, Annie; Lapuerta, Pablo; Ryutov, Alex and Buckley, Jonathan.

An addition to *CPM130*, starting at 15.30: Operational estimation of the Russian GDP dynamics, by Kosarev, Andrey. The presentation is scheduled at 17.15.

## Wednesday, 18 August

In *IPM62*, at 9.00, Joan Garfield has cancelled her appearance. The chairperson and

introductory speaker will be Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, FINLAND.

A new meeting, *IPM84*, President's Invited Paper Meeting on "Recent advances in probability and statistics", will be held at 13.00 - 15.15 in meeting room EL/136. The organiser is Willem van Zwet, the speakers will be

Jef Teugels  
Wind and Stochastics  
Elja Arjas  
Latent structures supported by point measurements  
David Siegmund  
Mapping quantitative trait loci  
Richard Tweedie  
Publication analysis in meta-analysis

In *IPM20*, at 13.00 - 15.15, the discussant Bertrand S. Clarke from UK, has cancelled his presentation.

In *CPM132*, 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.

In *CPM86*, scheduled at 15.30, the chairperson will be Paul Sommerville.

In *CPM38*, scheduled at 15.30, the presentation of Filzmoser, Peter (AUSTRIA) has been cancelled.

## Correction

The ISI General Information leaflet contains an error concerning the officers of the IASS. Please note that Clyde Charre de Trabuchi was the Vice President for the period 1997-1999 and John Kovar was the Scientific Secretary for the same period.

## Statistical Education

All participants who are interested in statistical education are invited to look at the web site <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/ics5/>. This site gives some information on events organized by the IASE. In particular it gives some details of sessions of special interest to statistical educators which are being held at ISI-52. Also everyone is invited to attend the IASE General Assembly on Monday August 16 at 11.15-13.00 in 1F/HH at which many activities of the IASE will be discussed.

# Making Statistics Come Alive

“When we spread knowledge about statistics, we should put more emphasis on how they can be used, instead of just explaining how they are produced,” says Doctor Marcel van den Broecke, Director of the ISI Permanent Office in Voorburg, the Netherlands.



Aulikki Järvinen

**Doctor Marcel van den Broecke, Director of the ISI Permanent Office.**

● “When we spread knowledge about statistics, we should put more emphasis on how statistics are used and affect everyday life, instead of explaining the principles of how they are made”, says Dr. Marcel van den Broecke, director of the ISI Permanent Office in Voorburg, the Netherlands.

“The image of statistics is not very positive, is my experience. Statisticians are dry number crunchers, and have no public appeal whatever to the general, uneducated public. It is only the interpretation of statistics which brings statistics alive. It is our task as statisticians to show that statistics have an important place in people’s everyday life. We must make statistics alive if we want the image of our profession to improve”, Dr van den Broecke continues.

“One statistical subject with immediate public appeal is the notion of risk. Everyone takes risks all the time, and has some awareness of this. Whether we cross the street, eat delicious but fattening substances, take medicines, travel by airplane, we take risks all the time.

Most people are not aware that professional statisticians have developed models to

calculate these risks. A chance of say 50% that something will happen is only meaningful when we are not talking about a single event, but about a series of event. For the individual, to have a chance of 50% that, say, it is going to rain, is intuitively rather meaningless. For the individual, it is either 100% or 0%. Similarly, when you bet, you either win or lose.

Statisticians try to make meaningful statements about chances and risks with the help of models which explain and (to some extent) forecast what is likely, or less likely, to happen. If people were helped to understand what risks mean for them, they would surely become more interested in statistics”, he believes.

## ISI unites statisticians

Statistics is a fairly young science, but has meanwhile developed into a number of specialisms. ISI is unique, and always has been unique, in uniting statisticians from the various statistical disciplines within official statistics, academic statistics, and statistics in the corporate world. This is achieved by bringing statisticians from these

disciplines together, as happens now here in Helsinki, so that they can learn what is going on in neighboring fields as well as exchange ideas with colleagues in their own field. So one of the “products” of the ISI and its sections is professional meetings.

Bringing statisticians together is an essential task. Another is publications. ISI is the only organization which, among its publications, produces a journal covering all areas of statistics, namely the International Statistical Review.

What ISI tries to do for the whole profession is what the five ISI-sections try to do for their specific branches: survey statistics, probability, official statistics, statistical computing, and education in statistics.

About every week, somewhere in the world ISI or one of its sections is organising a meeting. Together, they produce an impressive number of journals, proceedings, and books. Statistics as a scientific discipline is alive and well. I just think that every statistician should be more conscious of the importance of bringing his or her subject more alive for the general public.

---

## Association for Survey Computing

The Association for Survey Computing (ASC), which is affiliated to the IASC, has a new web site, at [www.asc.org.uk](http://www.asc.org.uk). This includes the latest version of the ASC Software Register, a classified list of more than 100 packages

concerned with Survey or Statistical Computing and Analysis. There are also details of the programme for the ASC conference on Survey & Statistical Computing, to be held in Edinburgh from 21st to 23rd September.

## Announcement to IAOS members

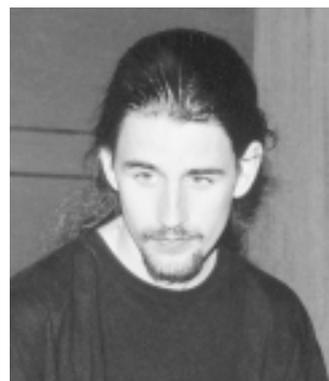
The IAOS General Assembly will discuss the “Final report on the review of the profile, mission and tasks of the IAOS”

on Monday 16 August at 17.45.

The report is available at the Information Desk.

# Behind the scenes and in the frontline, part 3

The presentation of the people who have contributed to the preparation of the conference continues. The earlier parts have been published in the Daily Bulletin 1-2 and 3. This will be an ongoing feature.



## **Samppa Kytömäki, 24**

ISI Webmaster, Samppa is the youngest member of the secretariat. His official job title at Statistics Finland is the somewhat ambiguous "Web Programmer", meaning, basically, that he is the technical expert of the office Web Trio.

In his scarce spare time, when he is not cooking obscure PERL scripts, creating web-pages or arguing about the conventions of web design, Samppa goes sailing with his friends or parents, restores his ancient BSA C15 Star motorcycle - "an eternal project in which everyone has lost hope of completion" - or goes to Finnish SciFi conventions.



## **Virpi Viertola**

Virpi is responsible for media liaison at the conference. At Statistics Finland, she heads the Press Office, which takes care of news service to the media and internal communication.

Virpi prefers to spend her leisure time taking physical exercise that is possible anywhere, anytime. She is particularly fond of getting to know strange cities by jogging early in the morning along empty streets - hints on interesting routes are welcome! Likewise, if anyone would like to know the best jogging routes in Helsinki, Virpi is the right person to ask.

Virpi's favourite music is jazz, funk and fusion, in particular, and all music you can dance to.



## **Markku Huttunen, 37**

Webmaster at Statistics Finland, whose work focuses on contents and renewals. In the ISI organisation, Markku's title is Information Technology Advisor, a term covering a lot more than the Web. He has studied international politics and communication.

Markku is a bachelor, who likes motorcycling, steam engines, science fiction, collecting, different beers (ales, bitters, porters).

Markku's favourite film is Ridley Scott's Bladerunner, but he also likes the films of the Finnish brothers Aki and Mika Kaurismäki.



## **Pertti Ruhanen, 57**

As a member of the IT team of the conference, Pertti is responsible for the acquisition, installation and user support of the computer equipment and programs. These are exactly the same things he looks after in the Information Technology Services unit at Statistics Finland.

Pertti's hobbies include bird watching, cycling, woodwork and genealogy. His family consists of a wife, two adult children and a dog. He prefers to listen to light, entertainment music, not pop or jazz.



## **Esa Järvinen, 52**

Esa is a member of the IT section of the secretariat and is responsible for systems for the conference management. Esa, too, has long experience at Statistics Finland. At present, he heads the IT applications team and is Deputy Director of IT services.

Music is Esa's main hobby, he played the saxophone in brass and dance bands for 15 years. In recent years, though, he has spent more time in the audience than on the bandstand.

Esa is married and has a married daughter of 25.

# IASS - International Association of Survey Statisticians

● Founded in 1973, the International Association of Survey Statisticians is the second oldest of the ISI Sections. Its object is to promote the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys and censuses. It also aims towards increasing interest in surveys and censuses among statisticians, governments and the general public.

The IASS has 1,200 individual members from 130 countries, as well as 17 institutional members. Its headquarters are situated in Libourne, France, and it operates, to a large extent, under the auspices of the French statistical agency INSEE (*Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques*).

The society is run by an Executive Committee, elected for a period of two years, and a Council, elected for a four-year period.

The IASS organises international meetings in conjunction with the ISI, and regional meetings and seminars. It publishes and distributes to its members a journal called "The Survey Statistician" and, naturally, the main ISI publications are also sent to the members of the IASS.

In connection with the 52nd Session of the ISI, the IASS has organised a satellite conference with three short courses on small area estimation in Riga, Latvia, on 20-21 August. Tonight, there will be an informal silver jubilee celebration after the General Assembly of the IASS to mark the association's 25 years of activity.

## Everyday elegance anyone can afford

In Sweden, Nokia mobile phones are more popular than their own Ericssons are. According to a recent newspaper article, one of the reasons is that Swedish women find the Finnish phones more elegant. Mobile phones are one of the latest links in a long chain of rational, everyday objects with stylish design and a price most people can afford.

● About two Finns out of three have a mobile phone, but every single Finnish household has something made by the Arabia glass and tableware factory. The factory, named after the part of Helsinki it was built in, has been in operation for 125 years. It started as a producer of luxurious exhibits, and was quite successful.

In 1916, a new energetic manager, Carl Gustaf Herlitz, decided to change the course. He wanted to sell products which were as good as possible to as many as possible as cheaply as possible. In a couple of decades, Arabia became the largest tableware factory in Europe.

Arabia is today part of the Hackman group. Tomorrow's tour includes a visit to the factory where the most popular designs have been in production ever since 1937. A round tour of the museum - the only one of its kind in Finland - gives an overview of



Kaj Franck's *Kilta* set is a true classic of the Arabia factory.

Museum of Art and Design/Wärtsilä Foto

the varying styles and fashions in Finnish tableware.

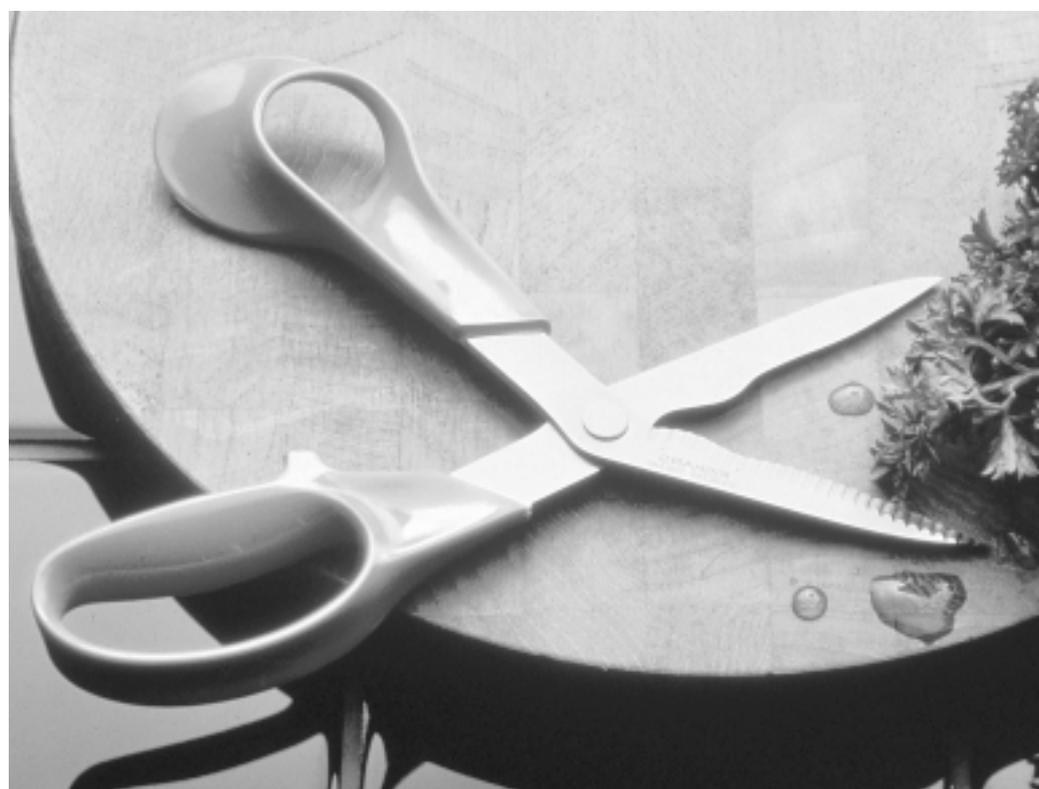
## Fiskars scissors for every hand

Probably the best known Finnish industrial product internationally are the Fiskars orange-handled scissors, designed by Olof Bäckström in 1967. They are made for every conceivable purpose, in a wide range of sizes, with special models even for the left-handed. Like every good product, they have had many imitators.

Fiskars ironworks was the first industrial plant in Finland, established in the 17th century. It has grown into a conglomerate producing, for example, electronics and rescue and fire control systems for industry, but it is best known for its consumer goods. The best sellers are axes and gardening tools such as cutters, spades and rakes.

## The glassy fifties

Functionalism gained ground in Finnish design in the 1930s, particularly thanks to the architect couple of Alvar and Aino Aalto. They combined architectural work with matching designs of furniture, lamps and glassware. They also founded the furniture shop Artek together with some of their friends. Alvar Aalto designed the interior of the Savoy restaurant.



Museum of Art and Design

The original Fiskars scissors.

The golden era of Finnish glass production was the 1950s. The best known designers were Tapio Wirkkala and Timo Sarpaneva, both of whom worked for the Iittala glass factory. They designed art glass as well as utility objects for mass production. Today, their work from fifties is very popular with collectors.

Although most Finnish design goes under the headline

“everyday elegance”, there is one exception in the past. The main designers of the famous Fabergé jewellers, a producer of exquisite objects for the court in St. Petersburg, were

Finnish. After the revolution, most of them continued their work in Finland, but had to simplify their style, as their new clients could not quite afford the imperial grandeur.

Read more at  
[www.formin.fi/finfo/english/design.html](http://www.formin.fi/finfo/english/design.html)  
[www.formin.fi/finfo/english/tsaripa.html](http://www.formin.fi/finfo/english/tsaripa.html)

## Earring lost

A silver clip earring was lost on Tuesday. If you find it, please return it to the Information Desk.

## Bus ticket

All participants have received a Helsinki City Transport ticket during registration in the plastic envelope together with name tags and entrance tickets. The ticket is a nine-day tourist ticket which allows unlimited travel on the Helsinki City Transport

buses, trams, metro and the Suomenlinna ferry, valid for nine days from the stamp.

On the reverse of the ticket there are instructions on how to use it. On your first trip, validate your ticket by stamping it.

# Golden era of Finnish art

In Finland churches, castles and manor houses had been decorated and portraits painted hundreds of years before the profession of an artist was officially mentioned for the first time. In the census of 1830, artists were placed above servants, but clearly below doctors, in the social scale.

● In the middle of the 19th century, idealistic landscape painting gained ground. Portraits and still lifes were also popular subjects of the time. Regular art education was started in 1848.

The years 1880 - 1910 are often called the golden era of Finnish art. Artists studied in Paris, adopted open-air painting and began to depict ordinary people, historic motifs and the Finnish nature in a realistic way.

## Kalevala inspired

The growing nationalism in the late 19th century brought national motifs into the art. One of the great inspirers was the national epic *Kalevala*, first published in 1835 and completed in 1849. Akseli Gallen-Kallela (1865-1931) won the competition for the illustration of *Kalevala* and used the motifs from it in his other paintings.

Albert Edelfelt (1854-1905) was in his own time the most esteemed Finnish artist abroad. He came from a wealthy family and could devote himself to his art free from financial worries. He studied art in Antwerp and Paris, and won international acclaim with his psychologically realistic open-air painting. He made portraits of, e.g., the children of the Russian Imperial family and Louis Pasteur. Later, he adopted a more impressionistic style.

One of Edelfelt's pupils was Akseli Gallen-Kallela, who was an exceptionally diversified talent. Apart from numerous paintings and frescoes of events and characters in *Kalevala*, he designed textiles, furniture, flags, bank notes, uniforms and decorations. He stayed some time in Africa, which influenced his later work.

Today's tour will take us to *Tarvaspää*, the home of Akseli Gallen-Kallela. Gallen-Kallela had his studio and home built on the seaside in Espoo in 1913. He had another home,



Albert Edelfelt painted this view of the Luxembourg Park in Paris in 1887.

*Kalela*, in Ruovesi, in the lake district, in the middle of wilderness in Southern Finland.

On Sunday's Cultural tour, we will visit some of the homes of the *Tuusulanjärvi* artists' community. Around the turn of the century, a group of artists with nationalist ideas - composer Jean Sibelius, novelist Juhani Aho and painters Pekka Halonen and Eero Järnefelt, among others - escaped from the distractions of the city to the shores of this lake north of Helsinki.



Akseli Gallen-Kallela, the illustrator of *Kalevala*.

Read more at [www.formin.fi/finfo/english/art.html](http://www.formin.fi/finfo/english/art.html)

# Ateneum, the “House for the Arts”

● If you want to have good overall view of Finnish art throughout the centuries, then Ateneum, or the Museum of Finnish art, is the place to go. The building at Kaivokatu 2, close to the Central Railway Station, was inaugurated with great ceremony in 1887. In those days, building such a grand establishment for art, was a major achievement in which also considerable sums of money were invested.

Originally, the Ateneum building housed four different types of activity. The Fine Arts Association of Finland kept its collections and Drawing School there. It was the home of the collections and offices of the Finnish Society of Crafts and Design, and also the School of Applied Arts.

The museum of the Finnish Society of Crafts and Design was the first to go within a few decades. Its successor, the Museum of Applied Arts, is today located in its own building at Korkeavuorenkatu 23. Each of the schools moved into their own facilities in the 1970's. What was left in the building came under government administration in 1990 as the Museum of Finnish

art, a part of the Finnish National Gallery. The two other parts of it are the Museum of Contemporary Art, Kiasma, and the Museum of Foreign Art, often called the Sinebrychoff museum, at Bulevardi 40.

The permanent collection of Ateneum displays the development of the Finnish art from the 18th century rococo portraiture to the experimental art movements of the 1920's and 1930's. The present special exhibitions are Lamina Magica, depicting the development of graphic art, and Reflections in glass, where you can see negatives of Daniel Nyblin's photographs of his contemporaries in 19th century Finland.

Ateneum is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and is closed on Mondays.

Read more at [www.fng.fi/](http://www.fng.fi/)



Kuvapörssi

# Kiasma, the museum of contemporary art

● Even before it was opened in May 1998, Kiasma met with criticism. Most of all, the critics did not find the site suitable. It would be too cramped, they claimed, and a modern building like that was not worthy enough background for the equestrian statue of Marshal Mannerheim.

The public debate, critical or otherwise, was good publicity for the museum, and visitors continue flowing in. Kiasma has many functions, and the building is easy to access because the entrance hall, with a café and a shop, is a free zone. There is also a computer room for children on the entrance level.

Graphic art and photography are placed on the first floor, the second and third present mainly the Museum's own collections, and the top



Kuvapörssi

floor is reserved for large exhibitions. Kiasma is not just an art museum, it offers

theatrical, dance and film performances as well as lectures, seminars and

workshops.

The present exhibitions display Finnish comics from the 1990's and part of the Kiasma collection, consisting of 61 works from 38 artists, among them Richard Serra, Carl Andre, Robert Longo, Julian Schnabel, David Salle, Markus Lüpertz, Anselm Kiefer, Louise Bourgeois and Mario Mertz.

Kiasma, at Mannerheiminaukio 2, a few hundred metres south of the Finlandia Hall, is open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and closed on Mondays.

Read more at [www.kiasma.fng.fi/](http://www.kiasma.fng.fi/)

# The spirit of the bottle

The consumption of alcohol in Finland is around the European average, about 7 litres per person per year. Finns sometimes have a reputation of being heavy drinkers, although most of us drink very moderately. Unfortunately some tend to drink too much at one sitting and both sound and look as if they have.

● Finns have cultivated grain for centuries, and the skill of brewing beer from barley and distilling spirits from rye was practised by many generations until the Prohibition Law came into force in 1919. Finland was then one of the driest countries in the world, but the total ban on alcohol resulted in almost the opposite of what was intended. It brought about extensive smuggling and trafficking. Because liquor was cheap and freely available, it was diligently consumed. The consequences were very much the same as in the United States, where a similar law was in force in 1920 - 1933.

As a result of the first referendum in the history of Finland, the prohibition was repealed in 1931 by 72 per cent of the votes.

## A monopoly with a bipartite function

After the prohibition in 1932, a centralised national monopoly was established for the production and retailing of alcohol. The monopoly - you can see the shops with a sign with dark red letters "Alko" - is there still in retail trade, but has been dissolved otherwise. Ordinary supermarkets have been allowed to sell beer (with less than 4.7 per cent alcohol by volume) since 1968 and wines of the same strength since 1995.

One of the derogations accepted for Finland in the process of accession to the EU in 1995 was the preservation of the alcohol monopoly and a substantial excise, based on the grounds of public health. Undoubtedly national economy was in the mind of the decision-makers as well: the excise duty on alcohol gives the state a revenue of 7 billion marks, more than twice as much as the excise on tobacco.



National Board of Antiquities

Confiscated tin cans and bottles of bootlegged spirits during the prohibition.

As a tradesman, Alko has been in a somewhat schizophrenic situation: large sales assure the state considerable revenues, but cause a great amount of social and health problems. It has been the duty of the monopoly to see to that drinking causes as little trouble as possible, and restrictions of availability, in addition to relatively high prices, have been the means in achieving this.

## Beer - the liquid bread

Finnish lager-type beer has won gold medals in international competitions, and is the most popular alcoholic beverage among the Finns: more than half of all the alcohol consumed is beer. Finns drink about as much beer as the Dutch and the Americans.

Beer is to be found in several strength categories: the lightest (*ykkösolut*) contains only 2.6 per cent alcohol by volume, the most popular "medium-

strength" beer (*keskiolut*) 3-4.7 per cent, and the strongest (*A-olut* or *nelosolut* only sold in restaurants and at Alko) can have a percentage of anything between 4.7 and 7.5 (some imported brands are even stronger). The Finnish names of the various categories originate in the old taxation system, where the lightest was in tax class I, the medium in class III and the strongest in class IV. These marks can still be found in the labels.

Wines (including sparkling wines) are also produced in Finland. They are mostly made of cultivated berries such as black and white currants and gooseberries. The gourmets prefer wines made of grapes, but the strong, sweet desert wine type may be worth trying. What instead is by many valued

as the finest products of the Finnish food industry are the berry liqueurs, particularly those made of wild berries such as cloudberry (*lakka*) cranberry (*karpalo*), arctic bramble (*mesimarja*) and lingonberry (*puolukka*).



Mikko Nurmi

Finns drink on an average 80 litres of beer per person per year.

# Harvest in the Market Square

The Market Square in Helsinki is a sight worth seeing, particularly towards the end of the summer. Crisp potatoes, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, tomatoes, and many other vegetables, fresh from the ground or greenhouse brim over the stands.

● Strawberries, blackcurrants and, if you are lucky, cloudberries, make your mouth water by their colour and aroma. You can taste smoked Baltic herring straight from the fishermen's boats or have an early morning coffee with the famous doughnuts in the marquee tent.

### Herring and baby potatoes

Midsummer, around the 20th of June, to honour the longest days of the year and commemorate John the Baptist, is celebrated with

bonfires by the lakes, and with plenty of good food, drinking, singing and dancing. The traditional Midsummer day lunch consists of pickled herring or slightly salted salmon and new potatoes.

Farmers have their own tricks for ensuring their new potatoes are the first in the market. News once reported of one who had electric heating installed under his potato field. Every home gardener, too, aims at producing homegrown new potatoes, not much bigger than a fingertip, ready for Midsummer.

The consumption of



Mikko Nurmi

**Fresh vegetables are at their best now.**



Mikko Nurmi

**Buying potatoes is not simple any more. There are several different sorts for different purposes.**

potatoes has declined slightly in Finland during the last couple of decades. Potatoes are a staple part of every Finn's diet, although pasta and rice have increased in popularity. Even city dwellers have become more "potato-conscious" as a result of extensive advertising about the qualities and best usage of different potato varieties.

### Feast of fresh vegetables

The consumption of vegetables has nearly doubled in Finland in less than 20 years. The level -

63 kilos per person per year - is higher than in Sweden, Norway and Iceland, but modest compared to the rest of the EU.

The first new carrots, beetroots, cauliflower and broccoli are eaten cooked *au naturel*, accompanied only by a knob of butter. Dill is used to season new potatoes, fish and crayfish.

*Kesäkeitto*, "summer soup" is a seasonal dish often made at home but rare in the restaurants. It consists of new season's potatoes, carrots, cauliflower, peas and spinach cooked in milk and seasoned with plenty of parsley, chives and dill.

# Kuka hän on?

Finnish has a very monotonous intonation, so questions are mainly expressed by interrogatives, such as

<i>mikä</i>	what
<i>kuka</i>	who
<i>missä/mistä/minne</i>	where/from where/where to
<i>milloin</i>	when
<i>miten</i>	how
<i>miksi</i>	why

## Some examples:

<i>Mikä tämä on?</i>	What is this?
<i>Mitä sanoit?</i> or more formally <i>Mitä sanoitte?</i>	What did you say?
<i>Kuka hän on?</i>	Who is he/she?
<i>Mistä voin ostaa postimerkkejä?</i>	Where can I buy stamps?
<i>Milloin bussi lähtee?</i>	When does the bus leave?
<i>Kuinka paljon tämä maksaa?</i>	How much does this cost?

Questions can also be expressed by suffixes *-ko*, *-kö* added to various forms of words, for instance

<i>Lähteekö bussi nyt?</i>	Does the bus leave now?
<i>Paljonko tämä maksaa?</i>	How much does this cost?

In general, Finnish has a normal word order. It can be inverted in some questions (as in "*Lähteekö bussi nyt?*"), but if something has to be emphasised, the words can be put in almost any order.

## Today's weather

Weather is unstable in Finland.

Partly cloudy skies and showers of rain possible. Temperature is in the afternoon about 20 degrees Celsius. Wind is from northwest and wind speed is 2-4 m/s.

# For people on the move



● The banks of Töölönlahti bay, behind Finlandia Hall, will form part of the scene for the year's biggest running event in Finland, the Helsinki City Marathon. On Saturday 14 August, approximately 5,000 participants from over 30 countries will start their course at the Olympic Stadium at 3 p.m.

The course of the Marathon follows the seafront streets and boulevards of Helsinki. Many runners find the route unusually beautiful.

You do not have to be a serious long distance runner to take part in the Helsinki City Marathon. The event also includes a street run of 10 kilometres, an inline skating route of 10 kilometres and a fun run of only three kilometres around Töölönlahti bay. The fun

run is designed specifically for children, but is suitable also for less competitive adults: the running time is not recorded.

The path around Töölönlahti bay is one of the most popular (if not THE most popular) jogging, walking and cycling routes in Helsinki. Apart from walking or running, you can also rent a pair of roller skates at Cat Sport, Töölönlahti, or a bicycle at Greenbike, Mannerheimintie 13.

Töölönlahti bay is lined by many points of interest: the National Opera, the Olympic Stadium and the Helsinki City Winter Garden. On the cliffs high above the railway tracks, there is a cluster of old wooden villas called *Linnunlaulu* (Birdsong). The area is particularly favoured by artists and writers. If you climb up, you will find an outdoor café at one of the villas, with a stunning view of the bay. Reija Helenius, who runs the café, is also an employee of Statistics Finland.

Helsinki City Marathon,  
Radiokatu 20, 00240 Helsinki  
Telephone: (+358 9) 3481 2405

Entry fee for the Marathon FIM 300 on Friday 13 August, FIM 350 on Saturday 14 August. Fun run, inline skating run and 10 km street run, each FIM 100.

Helsinki City Winter Garden, open Monday to Saturday from noon to 3 p.m., on Sundays noon to 4 p.m.

Café Linnunlaulu,  
Linnunlauluntie 11