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The IASS General Assembly

In the description of the IASS in yesterday's Daily Bulletin there was an unfortunate misprint stating that the IASS General Assembly and a silver jubilee would have taken place yesterday. Both occasions will be on **Monday 16 August**.

Remember your ticket

Please remember to take your concert ticket with you tonight. Unfortunately, no one without a ticket will be allowed in.

The concert has been one of the most popular events in the Social Programme. The organisers are very sorry that all interested participants could not obtain a ticket due to the limited availability of seats in the *Tempeliaukio* church.

You can ask if any tickets have become available due to cancellations at the Registration Desk.

Excursion to Suomenlinna

The excursion to the Suomenlinna fortress on Saturday afternoon will comprise some walking in the open air, partly on cobbled alleys. This is the time to wear your most comfortable pair of shoes.

The weather has been rather unstable during the week, so please remember also to take an umbrella or a raincoat with you (one has been supplied in the Conference pags).



General Assembly

Today at 15:30 the ISI General Assembly will take place in the main Congress and Concert Hall. Please take note of the following Agenda:

International Statistical Institute

**Meeting of the General Assembly
Helsinki, Finland
Friday August 13, 15:30 – 17:45**

1. Welcome and Minute of Silence
2. Announcement of 2 Member Auditors
3. Executive Committee Report
4. Financial Report
5. Member Auditors Report
6. Announcement of the Election of Officers and Council
7. Composition of the Nominations Committee
8. Announcement of Membership Elections
9. Presentation of ISI Service Medals
10. Presentation of Winners of the Jan Tinbergen Awards and Cochran-Hansen Prize
11. Future Sessions of ISI
12. Video Presented by 53rd Session Hosts
13. Reports by the Presidents of Sections
14. Report by the Chairman of the Publications Committee
15. Report of Programme Committee of the 52nd Session
16. Cafeteria System Announcement
17. Closing

L'Assemblée Générale

Aujourd'hui, à 15 h 30, l'assemblée générale de l'IIS se tiendra dans le grand auditorium, salle 1F/CH. Veuillez noter ci-après l'ordre du jour:

Institut International de Statistique

**Réunion de l'Assemblée Générale
Helsinki, Finlande
Vendredi 13 août, de 15 h 15 à 17 h 30.**

1. Accueil et minute de silence
2. Annonce des deux membres désignés comme commissaires aux comptes
3. Rapport du Comité exécutif
4. Rapport financier
5. Rapport des commissaires aux comptes
6. Proclamation des élections des dirigeants et du Conseil
7. Composition du Comité des nominations
8. Proclamation des élections de membres
9. Remise des médailles de service de l'IIS
10. Présentation des lauréats des prix Jan Tinbergen et Cochran-Hansen
11. Futures sessions de l'IIS
12. Présentation vidéo par l'hôte de la 53^e session
13. Rapports des présidents de sessions
14. Rapport du président du Comité des publications
15. Rapport du Comité des programmes de la 52^e session
16. Annonce du système « à la carte ».
17. Clôture

Changes in the programme

Please check the full programme of meetings where changes have occurred at the door of the meeting room in question.

Today

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

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 to **meeting room 1F/1**.

The following presentation has been advanced from *CPM16.1* (Monday 16 August) to *CPM136*, today at 10.30: "Bayes factors and model selection for random effect models" by Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (AUSTRIA).

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.

The following presentation has been moved from *CPM132* to *CPM11.2*, scheduled at 11.00: "An iterative algorithm for learning by support vector machine. The pattern recognition case" by Cornelia Enachescu (ROMANIA) and Denis Enachescu.

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.

A new presentation for *CPM104.1* at 11.00: "Demographic situation in Russia and problems of information on population" by Andrei G. Volkov (RUSSIA).

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).

In *CPM70*, the presentation scheduled 13.45 "Availability of repairable systems governed by semi-Markov processes" by Rafael Pérez-Ocón (SPAIN) and Inmaculada Torres-Castro has been cancelled.

Tuesday, 17 August

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

The following presentation has been moved from *CPM5.1* to *CPM7.1*, scheduled at 10.45: "Some remarks and misunderstandings in multiple comparisons methods" by Cheslaw Domanski (POLAND), Dariusz Parys and Lechoslaw Stepien.

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; Ograjensek, 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 Stanley Azen (UNITED STATES); Annie Xiang; Pablo Lapuerta; Alex Ryutov and Jonathan Buckley.

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

In *CPM30*, the presentation of Y Wu (CANADA), scheduled at 15.30, has been cancelled.

Behind the scenes and in the frontline, part 4

This is the last part of the presentation of the members of the Executive Secretariat and some other people who have contributed to the conference preparations. The previous parts have been published in issues 1-2, 3 and 4 of the Daily Bulletin.



Eero Paananen

As Co-ordinator of Information Technology at the conference, Eero is responsible for the Internet services and IT equipment. After graduating from the Helsinki University of Technology, he has been working in various IT duties at Statistics Finland for more than 30 years. His present formal job title is Chief Information Management Officer.

Eero likes gardening, travelling, boating and roller-skating. Apart from being his job, IT and the Internet are also his hobbies.



Kauko Hämäläinen, 54

Kauko's motto is "Virtually, I do not work, I network", which also describes his job. At the ISI Session, he is responsible for the communications of the workstations at the Finlandia Hall, including the Internet connections. At Statistics Finland, he heads the unit responsible for data connections, including servers.

During his holidays, Kauko likes to go hiking in Lapland. He prefers hikes longer than 100 kilometres.



Pasi Apajalahti, 39

Pasi, who is responsible for logistics at the conference, is Head of Security and Office, Telephone and Postal Services at Statistics Finland. He is a sociologist by education.

Pasi's principal hobby is golf, he has a handicap of 14. As far as music, films or books are concerned, he has no preferences, anything goes.

Pasi is married with no children.

International Association for Statistical Computing, IASC

● The International Association for Statistical Computing, IASC, was founded in 1977 to foster world-wide interest in effective statistical computing and the exchange of technical knowledge. Its other aims are improving statistical methods and facilitating their application

through the computerisation of statistics, and communicating news about important software and practices.

The Association pursues its objectives with special attention to developing countries. It promotes collaborative efforts within organisations and institutions having similar aims

and fosters evaluations of statistical computing techniques and programs.

There are 721 members in the Association. It has an Executive Committee consisting of nine members, and a Council with 21 members in all. All members of the Executive Committee are also members

of the Council.

Like the other sections of the ISI, the IASC publishes periodicals and other proceedings. The official journal of the IASC is entitled *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*.

IASC organises international meetings and training courses.

Pricing of statistical journals

by Marcel van den Broecke
Director of ISI

There are some 250 to 300 scientific periodicals dealing with the various branches of statistics (depending on how one may classify those publications that can be considered to fall on the periphery of what may be considered to be defined as "statistics"), most of them produced by commercial publishers.

● After a period of intensive merging, the largest of these publishers are now Elsevier-Reed, Kluwer and Springer respectively. It might be more appropriate to say that the journals are marketed and sold by these publishers, because it is the authors and editors, helped by external reviewing colleagues, who are responsible for the content of these journals. Typically, one full-time desk editor at a commercial publisher handles 6 to 10 journals. This handling consists of taking care of the logistics between the editor, typesetter, proof-reading author, printer, binder and shipper, some of the aforementioned tasks being contracted out to specialist companies (printing and typesetting in particular).

Subscription prices doubled

Invoicing and the collection of subscription dues complete the task of the publisher for the publication of a journal. Prices for subscriptions have doubled over the past five years, and continue to rise. Since library budgets remain stable, at best, this has led to a substantial (30-50%) reduction in library subscriptions to journals. Publishers compensate for this loss by further price hikes. Clearly, the statistical community which generates the contents of the journals but can no longer afford to buy its

own products suffers as a result. This situation, incidentally, is not restricted to journals on statistics.

Fortunately, not all journals are produced by commercial publishers. Many non-profit scientific societies, including ISI, produce journals for reasonable prices. But unfortunately, this has not deterred the commercial publishers from pursuing their aggressive pricing policy.

We seem to have reached a point where the producers as well as the libraries are joining forces to halt this never-ending spiral which is to the advantage of the shareholders of large publishing companies, but to the detriment of everybody else. The editors are usually bound by contracts that leave pricing policy to the publishers, and they are usually forbidden by the contract to start a journal of their own that the publisher might regard as a competitor. Should they decide to take the publishing task into their own hands, they are also contractually prohibited from continuing to use the same title.

What can be done? Authors can decide to stop submitting papers to overpriced journals, even if the journal's reputation is good. This kills an overpriced journal instantly, but requires a concerted effort on the part of the authors, which may be difficult to achieve. It did happen to the journal

Stochastics and Stochastic Reports after some outrageous price hikes. It enjoyed a good reputation, and now leads a marginal existence.

Editors on strike?

The alternative is that the editors threaten to go on strike. They are usually not paid at all, or only very marginally, for their efforts. The commercial publishers rely on the expectation that the editor's academic status is so much enhanced by their position as editor that this is reward enough. Should editors go on strike and declare their journal to be "contaminated by overpricing", this will deter high ranking colleagues from taking their place, and the journal faces sudden death.

In a recent case, viz. *The Journal of Probability Theory and Related Fields*, published by Springer, the editorial board was able, with the help of ISI, to obtain a 38% reduction off its library price in this way. Similar situations are bound to follow. Publishers are beginning to feel the heat. I quote from a leaflet Elsevier Science sent to "Dear Librarian" in June of this year:

"Starting with subscription year 2000, it is our intention to hold our annual print price increases for the entire package of Elsevier Science journals to less than 10%...Specifically, for

subscription year 2000, the overall price increase for Elsevier Science journals will be approximately 7.5%".

Note in this context that inflation has been below 2% in recent years.

Scientific publishing to scientific societies

To obtain a publishing environment where we can produce affordable journals, we must return to the situation that was prevalent before the emergence of big commercial publishers: non-profit scientific societies (such as ISI) should take the publishing of scientific journals into their own hands. Alternatively, contract negotiations with large publishing companies should be conducted with the knowledge that the profession will stand behind those empowered to negotiate reasonable price reductions.

Like the "Guilds" that served to unify merchants and craftsmen during the medieval ages, ISI members must present a united face to publishers in the pursuit of this common goal. If the commercial publishers do not voluntarily relinquish their journals, or price them at a reasonable level, I predict a Doomsday scenario in which authors and editors withhold their services until publishers comply. All it takes is your co-operative, concerted effort.

In my experience

by Professor Willem van Zwet
President of the ISI

The ISI Session in Paris in 1961 was the first scientific conference I attended as a graduate student. It was extremely gratifying to see that the famous people whose papers you had read, such as Jerzy Neyman and Sir Ronald Fisher, actually existed. I was also tremendously impressed by the lavish parties where you could talk to these people over a glass of wine on a boat on the river Seine.

● To me this has always been the essence of ISI Sessions: scientific interest combined with pleasant informal contacts. I believe this is nowadays called *networking* but we just thought of it as having fun. After a little while I discovered that the main personage in all of this was ISI director Bart Lunenberg who had all kinds of important duties to perform but always had time for a chat with the younger generation where he would explain what ISI was all about.

I'm not sure that we were always sufficiently respectful of our famous senior colleagues. One of these, a British colleague whose first name was David, once wrote me a letter starting with 'Dear Franz'. Now people usually call me Willem or Bill, so I was not quite sure what to do about this. I thought I finally found the correct answer and replied with 'Dear Siegfried'. Luckily no offence was taken though we later had an unfortunate misunderstanding that lasted for many years.

In 1971 I became a member of ISI, so by now I've been around for a quarter century. During these years ISI has encountered many problems, some of which were solved and some of which keep coming back in one form or another. The seventies were rich years for ISI. Bart Lunenberg and ISI-treasurer Maurice Kendall had come to the conclusion that ISI had to find outside funding for its activities and the idea of starting a research

programme was born.

Under Kendall's inspiring and forceful leadership the World Fertility Survey became a resounding success and the overhead from this programme alone kept ISI financially strong for many years. One of my first tasks in ISI was to sit on a Future Directions Committee chaired by Joe Duncan. This committee made many good recommendations for the future of ISI, but generalizing from past experience it also recommended creating a research arm of ISI. This recommendation was adopted a bit too enthusiastically and a considerable investment in money and staff was made to solicit funding for new research programmes.

Times had changed, however, funding was much more difficult to find and in a few years the research effort became a permanent drain on ISI finances rather than a source of income. What I remember most vividly of my time as vice president during 1985-89 under presidents Moriguti and Fellegi, are the efforts to stop the financial bleeding caused by the research activities. I learned that it is very difficult to kill something that was started only a few years ago with such enthusiasm. A great deal of credit should go to Zoltan Kenessey for restoring the financial health of ISI after the research centre was finally closed down. Hopefully we have left these financial problems behind us for good.

The relation between ISI and its Sections is a complicated

problem that has been around for many years and will be with us for many more. The original rationale for having Sections was not only to recognize the increasing specialization in the general area of statistics, but also to open up ISI to a wider circle of statisticians than just the elected members. The first Section was IASS and the Bernoulli Society came immediately after. The latter was not really a new initiative on the part of ISI, but an effort to provide an umbrella for a number of already existing activities.

Bart Lunenberg was helpful, but I do remember Maurice Kendall's comment to watch out that the Sections would not become the tail wagging the dog. At this moment we have five Sections which are important international societies in their respective areas of statistics and more groups are demanding Section status. In itself this is excellent inasmuch it proves that the Sections serve a vital interest of ISI. On the other hand, it seems to me that we have to re-think the relation between ISI and its Sections, decide on criteria for new Sections and at the same time consider how many Sections we really want. Obviously a few more won't hurt but, say, 15 Sections would rip apart the fabric of ISI. I don't think ISI should become a mere union of a large number of specialized statistical associations.

A problem that has not been 'solved' one way or another but that has become

more manageable over the years concerns the working languages of ISI. In the past the number of invited papers meetings at an ISI Session was limited by the enormous cost of providing simultaneous translation for each of these meetings. Within these limits, ISI could simply not present a scientific programme that covers a sufficiently broad segment of statistical science at its Sessions. Under a new set of rules we have now come to an understanding to provide translation when it is really needed and as a result the scientific programme has become more attractive to a much larger group of statisticians. I think this is not only a great improvement but also proof that even very delicate matters can be settled amicably in ISI.

I was asked for memorable occurrences during my time in ISI and advice I could give to my successor. When I acted as master of ceremonies during the opening ceremony of the centenary Session of ISI at Amsterdam, I asked someone to put the text of my opening remarks on the lectern so that I wouldn't have to fumble with sheets of paper when I got on the podium. Of course he forgot and I was standing there without notes and with only a vague idea of what to say, whom to thank etc. Since then I strongly recommend keeping your text with you at all times, but my successor Jean-Louis Bodin is much too smart to need such advice.

ISI Marco Polo Committee on Statistics of Travel and Tourism COSTT

The 2nd Administrative Meeting of those interested will be held on Friday 13 August 11.15 - 12.15 in 1F/25.

Agenda

1. Review of Mission and Objectives
2. Report on Activities to date
3. Activities of Related International Professional Organisations
4. Suggested Plan of Activities - including establishing an

- International Public Data-exchange Network and Data Laboratory, encouraging University Teaching of Tourism Statistics
5. Election of Officers
6. Papers for SCORUS 2000 & ISI 2001
7. Any other business.

A Newsletter, Registration Form (no financial obligation) and further details are available at this Meeting or during most of this ISI Session from Scott Meis (Director, Research: Canadian Tourism Commission), Chairperson Raphael Raymond Bar-On (Consultant, Israel), Founding Chair

The Committee on Women in Statistics...

Invites all participants to attend the following meeting and to take part in discussions that will follow the presentation:

IPM74 on Saturday, 14 August at 9 am, room 1F/CH, on the topic "The Role of Women in Statistics in the New Millennium"

Speakers:
Lynne Billard; Dennis Trewin

Discussants:
Barbara Bailar; Ivan Fellegi;
Pilar Martin-Guzman

Statistical Education – ICOTS-5 Proceedings

ICOTS-5, which was held in Singapore last year, was a very successful meeting in which many statistical educators from around the world presented their latest research and experiences. The Proceedings give the best continuing record of the conference. These can be ordered on the web site <http://www.nie.ac.sg:8000/~wwwmath/THEFINAL.html>

or can be obtained from

CTMA Ltd
425 Race Course Road
Singapore 218671
Tel: (65) 299 8992
Fax: (65) 299 8983
Email: ctmapl@singnet.com.sg

Price:
IASE/ISI Member \$65 plus shipping/handling
Non-member \$80 plus shipping/handling
Prices in Singapore dollars

All involved with statistical education are encouraged to obtain copies of these proceedings.

Young virtuosi in concert tonight

Tonight's concert at the Tempeliaukio church will present Finnish music performed by the violinist Pekka Kuusisto, accompanied by the Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Tuomas Rousi. The Sibelius Academy is the only music academy in Finland and one of the biggest in Europe with its 1,500 students.

● The soloist, Pekka Kuusisto, is only 23 years old but has won several prizes in violin competitions, performed with prominent orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, in London, Paris and New York, and toured in Japan and Italy.

Pekka Kuusisto is a member of a family of composers, musicians, conductors and music teachers. He started to

study the violin at the age of three. In 1995, he won the International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition as the first Finnish violinist and was awarded a special prize for the best performance of the Sibelius' Violin Concerto. He has studied in Bloomington (USA) at the Indiana University School of Music under Professors Miriam Fried and Paul Biss.

Tonight's conductor, Tuomas Rousi, is also a violinist. He is 32

years old, and received his diploma in conducting at the Sibelius Academy in 1999. He has a violin diploma from the Netherlands as well as from the Sibelius Academy. He has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany and France. He has conducted several Finnish orchestras.

The Sibelius Academy was first established on a private initiative as the Helsinki Music

Institute in 1882. The college's nominal and symbolic figurehead, the composer Jean Sibelius, studied and later taught at the Institute. Since 1980, the Academy has been a state university.

Read more at www.siba.fi/welcome-eng.html



Iris Bask

Tonight's soloist, Pekka Kuusisto.



Sibelius Academy

Conductor Tuomas Rousi

Statistics a basis for democracy

The IASS held a pre-Session workshop on recent trends in the methodology of social and business surveys in Jyväskylä, central Finland. The local newspaper *Keskisuomalainen* published an extensive article on the workshop on Monday 9 August. The following is an abstract of the article, written by Maarit Lantto-Tolvanen.



● Statistical data is vital for the development of society. The deficiency of these data in the developing countries worries doctor Nanjamma Chinnappa. The organisation over which she presides, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, IASS, has taken researchers from the developing countries under its wings and supported their professional skills in using statistical methods since the 1970's.

Nanjamma Chinnappa, who visited the international statisticians' meeting in Jyväskylä, described the process of transferring data to statistics. When the data is captured on foot and calculated by hand, the statistics are not completed until a long time after.

The citizens' well-being depends partly on a good and reliable statistical system. The producers of statistics must be professional and impartial. How can you lead and develop a country without extensive knowledge of the reality people live in?

This question is still topical in the developing countries,

where it is difficult to obtain information. The Indian-born, Canadian national doctor Nanjamma Chinnappa presides over an organisation, one of whose main tasks is to educate researchers from developing countries to improve the statistics of their own country.

Both doctor Chinnappa and professor Kirk Wolter, the President Elect of the IASS, believe that the statistical infrastructure has advanced in both India and China.

Jyväskylä is the right place for survey statisticians, because the education and research of statistical methods is, according to Erkki Pahkinen, professor in statistics in the University of Jyväskylä, centred in Jyväskylä. The workshop was arranged jointly by the university and Statistics Finland. The workshop was a sort of an introduction to the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute, starting in Helsinki on Tuesday.

The IASS has organised short courses also after the ISI Session. They will be held in Riga, Latvia, starting on 19 August.

The church in the rock

The *Temppeliaukio* (“temple square”) church, which is the venue of tonight’s concert, is one of the most peculiar tourist attractions in Helsinki. The architect brothers Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen designed the church, and the construction was completed in 1969.



Matti Tirri

Only the dome is visible from above of the *Temppeliaukio* church.

● Instead of setting the building up on the hill, the Suomalainens decided to have it quarried into the bedrock.

The construction work was accompanied by a fierce public debate. Some people thought that the local parish was in urgent need of a church of their own. The opposite side pointed out that there were plenty of churches in central Helsinki and that the money would have been better spent on relieving famine in the developing countries. The criticism faded away soon after the construction period.

Stone, copper and glass

The outer stone wall is made of quarried stone. The church is

covered by a copper dome joined to the rock by reinforced concrete beams. Between the beams there are 180 skylights.

The inner walls of the church consist of bedrock and quarried stone. The surface has been left rough for acoustic and aesthetic reasons, and here and there water trickles from cracks in the rock face. The balcony above the rear is lined with copper panels. The floor is on the street-level, and the door is made of glass, so any accidental passer-by can have a glimpse of what is going on inside.

Because of its materials and dimensions, the *Temppeliaukio* church has good acoustic qualities, and is a popular place for concerts and recitals.

The Finnish religious system

The *Taivallahti* parish has about 10,000 members, and a Swedish-speaking parish of the same size also uses the church. The 750 seats of the *Temppeliaukio* church are adequate for both, as Finns are not frequent churchgoers. Most people like to have church weddings, and have their children christened and confirmed in church.

Finland has a state church system, and the two National Churches, Evangelic-Lutheran and Orthodox, have a right to tax individuals and companies. Every school child who is a member of one of these churches, has to take part in

religious instruction at school. Because of the freedom of religion, there are various smaller denominations, but 86 per cent of all Finns are members of the Evangelic-Lutheran church.

About one per cent of Finns belong to the Orthodox church. The Orthodox church has a small monastery and a convent at Heinävesi, in eastern Finland.

Helsinki is more secularised than the rest of the country: every fourth inhabitant has no religions affiliation. The respective proportion for the whole country is only 12 per cent.

Sibelius, the sound of Finland

Jean Sibelius was undoubtedly Finland's most prominent composer. He was born in 1865 into a Swedish-speaking family in the provincial garrison town of Hämeenlinna, where his father worked as a doctor. He came into contact with the Finnish language, literature and mythology for the first time at school. His was the first secondary school in the country to use Finnish as the teaching language, instead of Swedish and Latin.

● The national epic, *Kalevala*, was a great source of inspiration to Sibelius and influenced his early works, the first two symphonies and the suites *En Saga*, *Karelia* and *Lemminkäinen*, in particular.

Sibelius was originally a violinist, with the ambition of becoming a great violin virtuoso. Partly because he did not start to study the instrument until the age of fourteen and partly because of chronic stage fright, he never quite made it. Jokingly, it has been said that he took his revenge by producing one of the most difficult and most brilliant violin concertos of all times.

International fame follows

In 1904, Sibelius moved away from the bustle of the city, saying: "In Helsinki all song died in me." In his new home, at Järvenpää, he wrote his greatest masterpieces and gained international fame on concert tours all over Europe. The house, named "Ainola" after his wife Aino, near lake Tuusulanjärvi, is today a museum. From a modern standpoint, the house seems rather small for a family of seven. The children, five daughters, were strictly forbidden to make any noise while their father was working.

Sibelius has been regarded as one of the most important writers of symphonies and tone poems in the 20th century. Apart from being a national romanticist, he can be described as a modernist and a pioneer. According to some scholars, the way he used the orchestra was revolutionary in his time.

The silence of Järvenpää

During the last 30 years of his long life - Sibelius lived to be 92 - he published no new compositions. He complained that: "Work no longer proceeds with the same speed as before, and self-criticism is getting out of all proportion". In the forties, he burned a large number of his works, and the eighth symphony he had been working on, was never finished.



Someone once claimed that a new deep fold appeared on Jean Sibelius' brow with every new symphony.

National Board of Antiquities/Helander

Read more at
www.abo.fi/fak/hf/musik/sibelius/EN/index.htm
virtual.finland.fi/finfo/english/sibelius.html

Festivals in the forests

Every summer, Finland bursts into music, song and dance from the shores and parks of Helsinki to the schools and churches of the smallest villages. Some music festivals are arranged in the major towns of Helsinki, Turku and Tampere, but the most important ones are held in provincial towns, or downright in the middle of the wilderness.

● There are festivals for certain types of instruments and festivals specialising in a particular kind of music. Ikaalinen, near Tampere, is the home of the Sata-Häme Accordion Festival. Annual Organ Festivals are arranged in Lahti (a town of 100,000 inhabitants some 100 kilometres north of Helsinki). The Crusell Week in the small south-west coast town of Uusikaupunki, the birthplace of the composer Bernhard Henrik Crusell, is dedicated to woodwind instruments.

The spirit of Kuhmo

The Savonlinna Opera Festival, staging performances in the courtyard of the 15th century Olavinlinna Castle in the lake scenery of south-east Finland, was initiated by the Finnish prima donna of the Paris Opera, soprano Aino Ackté, in 1911. The programme consists of beloved classics, such as the *Magic Flute* by Mozart, as well as contemporary operas from Finland and abroad.

Further north, in the middle of the forests of the eastern border province of Kainuu, the cellist Seppo Kimanen started organising Chamber Music Festivals in Kuhmo 30 years ago. The remoteness of the site has created a special atmosphere to the festival, and attracts artists and audiences to experience the spirit of Kuhmo year after year.

The small Ostrobothnian town of Kaustinen is the scene of a Folk Music Festival. The folk music tradition is particularly strong in the area. Further south down the west coast, friends of jazz gather

every summer to Pori, an old industrial town - although the festival's concept of jazz has been widened to cover rhythm and blues, funk and Latin American music. This year's stars included names like Ray Charles and Marianne Faithfull.

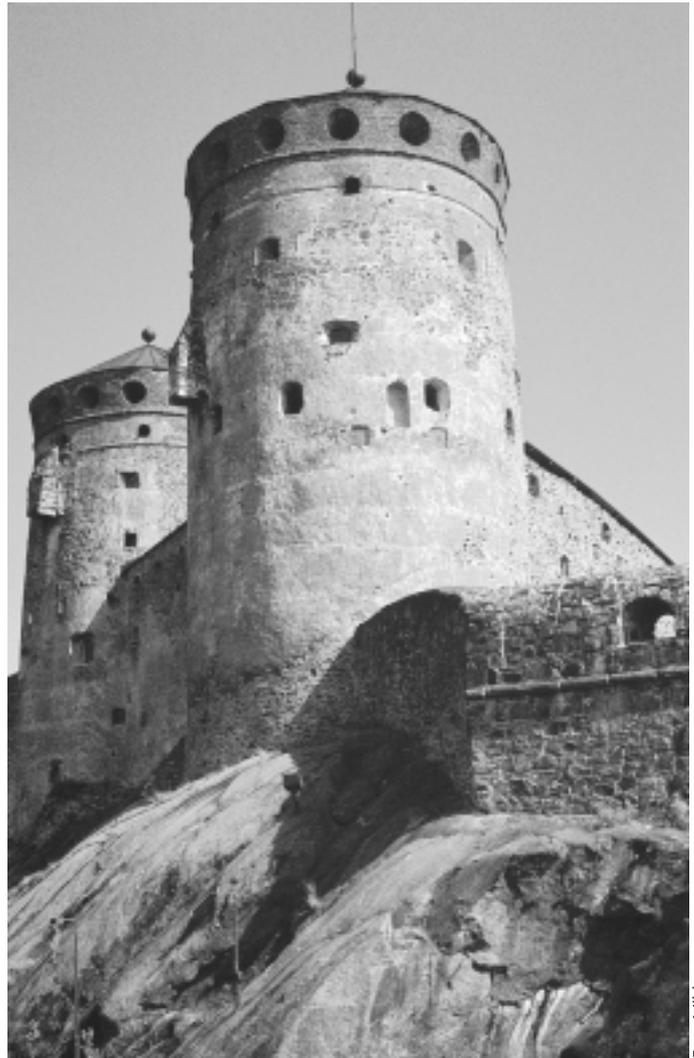
A versatile friend of music only has one problem with this immense supply: many of the main festivals overlap because they are held during a period of two to three weeks in July. This is because July is still the main summer holiday month in Finland.

Conductors as export items

A relative newcomer among the music festivals is the *Avanti! Suvisoitto* ("Summer Sounds") in Porvoo, a medieval town about 60 kilometres east of Helsinki. The event was created in 1983 by two young conductors, Esa-Pekka Salonen (born 1958) and Jukka-Pekka Saraste (born 1956) as a forum for the *Avanti!* Chamber Orchestra. The ensemble varies in size from a string quartet to a symphony orchestra and claims to be "specialist in all". The repertoire is diverse, with the emphasis on the contemporary side.

Today, both originators of this festival mainly work in North America. Salonen is the conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Saraste works as the conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Most Finnish conductors of the younger generation have been pupils of Leif Segerstam (born 1944) or Jorma Panula (born 1939). Panula is also a composer of musicals, operas



Eero Mikkonen

The medieval *Olavinlinna* castle is the scene of the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

and orchestral and choral works. Segerstam has co-operated particularly with operas, such as Deutsche Oper in Berlin, La Scala in Milan, Staatsoper in Vienna and Covent Garden in London.



Antero Aaltonen

Pori Jazz is the biggest and most prestigious jazz festival in Finland.

Read more at
www.festivals.fi/english/index.html
virtual.finland.fi/finfo/english/salonen.html
virtual.finland.fi/finfo/english/saraste.html

An enviable minority

The Swedish-speaking Finns are in a position most other linguistic minorities would consider enviable. Only six per cent of Finns have Swedish as their mother tongue, but Swedish has a strong standing in Finland on historical grounds.

● Finland was part of Sweden for over six centuries. This made Swedish the dominant language of government, business and culture. The constitution of the independent Finland in 1919 gave Swedish an equal status with Finnish.

Most bilingual

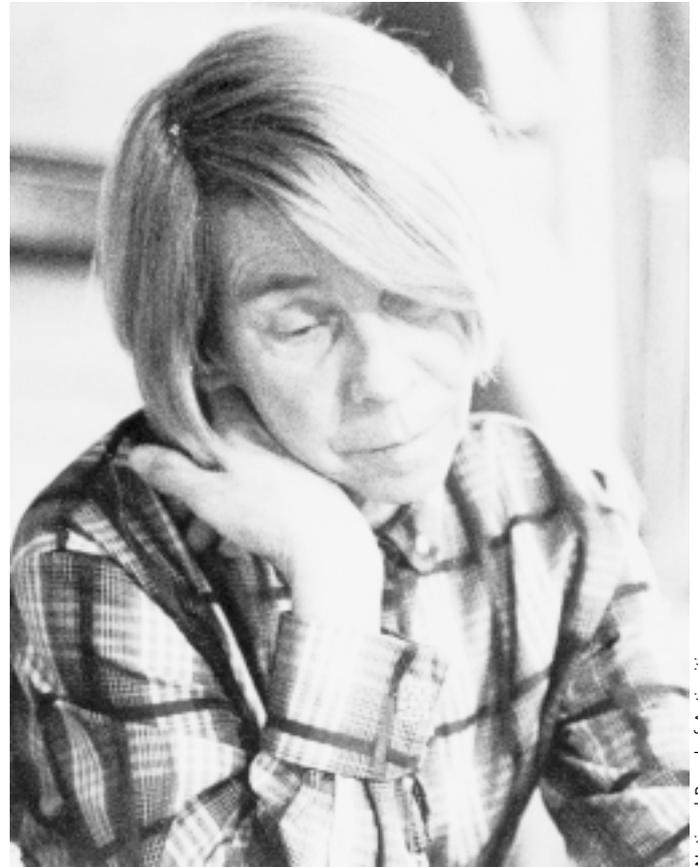
According to the constitution, every citizen is entitled to public service in Finnish or Swedish. Government officials and local authorities in bilingual municipalities are required to demonstrate a certain minimum level of proficiency in both official languages. This is why the Swedish language is a compulsory subject in Finnish comprehensive schools.

The Swedish-speaking minority has diminished through emigration and intermarriages. From 13 per cent at the turn of the century, the proportion of Swedish-speaking Finns has come down to about six per cent of the

total population in recent years.

In Helsinki, the proportion of the Finnish-speaking population increased in line with industrialisation. Most internal immigrants came from all-Finnish speaking inland areas. The position of the Finnish-speakers in, for example, municipal administration was not always self-evident, and ardent language feuds raged as late as in the 1930s. Today, the bilinguality can be seen in street signs, for example in Helsinki, where all street names are in both Finnish and Swedish.

In bilingual areas, most of the Swedish speakers of working age are more or less bilingual. According to an estimate of *Svenska Finlands Folkting*, the Swedish Assembly of Finland, one third of the Swedish speakers are monolingual. They are mainly elderly people living in Swedish-dominated municipalities in the coastal areas. The autonomous area of the Åland Islands is monolingual by law.



National Board of Antiquities

The mother of the Moomin characters, Tove Jansson.



Mikko Nurmi

The Helsinki Court of Appeal - signs in Finnish (left) and Swedish (right).

Education at every level

There are some areas in Finland where it is possible to live all your life using the Swedish language. In bilingual and Swedish-language municipalities there are Swedish day-care centres and schools. There is one Swedish university, *Åbo Akademi*, and a variety of bilingual ones, as well as other specialist educational institutions.

Finland's oldest newspaper, *Åbo Underrättelser*, is Swedish, and there are about a dozen others. The Finnish Broadcasting Company maintains two Swedish radio channels, and the Swedish

television department accounts for one tenth of the total national television broadcasting time. Books and magazines are published in Swedish, and there are four permanent Swedish or bilingual theatres in Finland. Probably the best known characters of Finnish literature internationally, the Moomins, were created originally in Swedish, by the artist and writer Tove Jansson.

Naturally, some parishes of the Evangelic-Lutheran church are Swedish, and so are some military units in the Defence Forces. The Swedish People's Party (*Svenska Folkpartiet*) was founded in 1906, and has been represented in most governments since 1917.

Read more at www.formin.fi/finfo/english/finnswedes.html

Pääsy kielletty

Some people say that in Finland everything is forbidden unless the authorities specifically allow it. A joke, of course, but a smoker, for instance, may feel his or her freedom considerably limited in Finland. Here is a list of common signs and notices you may come across:

<i>avoinna/auki</i>	open
<i>ma-pe</i>	Mon-Fri
<i>arkisin/ark</i>	on weekdays
<i>suljettu/kiinni</i>	closed
<i>la-su</i>	Sat-Sun
<i>vedä</i>	pull
<i>työnnä</i>	push
<i>Ale/lennusmyynti</i>	sale
<i>WC</i>	toilet
<i>N (naiset)</i>	Ladies
<i>M (miehet)</i>	Gentlemen
<i>Varattu</i>	Occupied, reserved
<i>Vapaa</i>	Free, vacant
<i>Täynnä</i>	Full
<i>Loppuunmyyty</i>	Sold out
<i>Epäkunnossa</i>	Out of order
<i>Sisään/sisäänkäynti</i>	Entrance
<i>Ulos</i>	Exit
<i>Varatie/varaueloskäynti</i>	Emergency exit
<i>Hissi</i>	Lift, elevator
<i>Tupakointi kielletty</i>	No smoking
<i>Pääsy kielletty</i>	No entry
<i>Asiaton oleskelu kielletty</i>	No loitering
<i>Pysähtyy</i>	will stop (a sign in buses and trams)

Photographs

Photographs taken by Reino Havumäki during the welcoming reception will be sold today starting at 11 a.m. in front of the Registration Desk. The selling will continue until 1 p.m.



Something for the sweet tooth

An everyday meal does not necessarily include a dessert in Finland. On more festive occasions, ice creams, parfaits and sorbets made of, or served with, berries are popular. A typical Finnish dessert is *kiisseli*, fool, made of stewed berries or berry cordial and thickened with potato flour.

● In a country where forest covers two thirds of the land area, and most of it is in private ownership, it would be a shame if the natural products would be an exclusive right of the landowners. The so-called everyman's right allows the Finns traditionally to pick flowers, berries and mushrooms on somebody else's land, provided one does not go too close to the buildings and keeps off cultivated areas.

The berry season starts in late June with strawberries, *mansikat*, which are usually eaten as such or with some milk (or, better still, ice cream). The wild version is a lot smaller and sweeter than its cultivated cousin. Wild strawberries have become rare during the last decades because of underground drainage of the fields. The best places to find them are roadsides and ditch-banks.

The first garden strawberries are usually shockingly expensive at the market place - at least on a rainy summer, as they are grown on open fields. Strawberry is probably the most popular berry in home gardens, along with blackcurrant, gooseberry and raspberry.

The treasures of the marsh

The golden-yellow cloudberry, *lakka* or *suomuurain* and the wine red cranberry, *karpalo*, are the most valued berries, not only because of their excellent taste, but also because of their rarity. They grow on marshlands, and require some skill from the picker. They are more common in the northernmost parts of Finland, and many Lapland style menus contain cloudberry in one form or another.

Cranberries are said to be the tastiest very late in the autumn, after they have been bitten by frost. This has

probably inspired the chef who invented one of the most extraordinary Finnish desserts: cold, almost frozen cranberries served with hot toffee sauce.

Late July to early August is the season for blueberries, *mustikka* and raspberries, *vadelma*. Blueberries are most commonly served as topping on a pie made of sweet wheat dough, or cooked into a fool, *kiisseli*. They dye your teeth dark blue for a while, but on the other hand, are beneficial for the digestion. Raspberries - wild or cultivated - are often made into jam to be eaten with ice cream or thin small pancakes, *letut*.

Berries in liquid form

The bright red *puolukka*, lingonberry, in season in August and September, is a multi-purpose berry because of its somewhat sour taste. It is very common, much used by the food industry, and a favourite of many who pick it for own use.

Crushed lingonberries, seasoned only with a small amount of sugar, match perfectly the taste of, for instance, cabbage rolls, cabbage casserole or grilled liver. Lingonberry is also used to make jam, cordial and liqueur. Lingonberry cordial is a traditional mixer for vodka.

Meals in Finland are often ended with a cup of coffee, and a glass of berry liqueur makes an excellent accompaniment. Drinking cloudberry liqueur is one way to avoid getting the tiny seeds in these berries between your teeth. Another delicious berry, so rare that a liqueur bottle may be the only place to find it, is *mesimarja*, arctic bramble. The first part of the Finnish name, *mesi*, is the old word used for honey, which was the sweetest and finest taste our forefathers knew.



Berry-picking is a healthy form of recreation.

Antero Aaltonen



Every year, 200 million kilos of lingonberries ripen in the Finnish forests.

Mikko Nurmi

Children's Helsinki

Helsinki Zoo is situated on an island, *Korkeasaari*, a couple of kilometres off the Market Square. The Zoo has operated there for more than 100 years, and from the early years on it has specialised in species of Finnish origin.

● There are, though, animals from Amazonia to the Arctic Tundra, such as apes, tigers, leopards and many kinds of birds. In contrast, the Zoo has given up polar bears because it was difficult to arrange enough space and stimuli for this active animal. Other species of bears still exist on the island, as well as red bearcats (*pikkupanda*).

The easiest way to get to Korkeasaari Zoo is by a waterbus from the Market Square.

Up and down and round and round

The *Linnanmäki* Amusement Park is the most popular tourist attraction in Finland. It is relatively small, but there is

something for everyone: hair-raising gadgets for the adventurous, good old roller coaster for the traditionalist and the Toy Museum for anyone who has ever been a child. There are also several restaurants, snack bars and stalls selling candyfloss and waffles with jam.

Linnanmäki is situated on a hill a couple of kilometres north of the city centre. You can get there by tram 3T or 8.

The *Kaivopuisto* park in the southernmost part of central Helsinki, about one kilometre south of the Market Square, is a popular destination for a Sunday picnic. On Sunday 15 August, thousands of people will gather there to listen to

good music. The organisers, the Helsinki Society for Live Music, offers "music for adults and children on three stages". The only thing told about the programme is that the Helsinki Philharmonic will start with classical music at noon. The admission is free.

Swimming outdoors or inside

If you feel like taking a dip in the sea, there are 24 beaches in the Helsinki city area, many of them on islands. The most popular one is *Hietaniemi*. The water is usually clean and safe for swimming, but rather cool, around 14 - 18 degrees centigrade.

About 20 kilometres north-



Eero Mikkonen

The Korkeasaari Zoo.

west of Helsinki, in the *Serena* water park, the air and water are tropically warm all year. The attractions include terraced pools, whirlpools, water slides, a wave pool, a river ride and, naturally, saunas and restaurants. Bus 399 from platform 43 at the Bus Station will take you there.

Korkeasaari Zoo, open daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Water bus from the Market Square

Fees: entrance at the Mustikkamaa bridge; adults FIM 25, children 7 to 16 years FIM 15, children under 7 years free
water bus (incl. transport and entrance fee) adults FIM 40, children 7 to 16 FIM 20, children under 7 years free

Linnanmäki Amusement Park, Tivolikuja 1, 00510 Helsinki, open daily from 1 to 10 p.m. (until August 15), or 4 to 10 p.m. (August 16 onwards)

Trams 3T and 8

Fees: adults FIM 15, children 6-16 years FIM 10, under 6 years free
Toy Museum, open when the Amusement Park is open.

Kaivopuisto, Iso Puistotie 1

Trams 1A and 3B

Serena water park, Tornimäentie 10, 2970 Espoo (Korpilampi), open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bus 399 from platform 43 at the Bus Station

Fees: all day pass FIM 80, children under 4 free
evening pass 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. FIM 60

Read more at
www.lpg.fi/serena/water.html

Today's weather

Cool air from northwest.

Partly sunny at daytime, showers of rain possible but not very likely. Temperature in the afternoon almost 20 degrees Celsius. Wind is northwesterly, speed 3-4 m/s.