

Annual Report of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters
16 June 2020 – 29 April 2021

Submitted by the Permanent Secretary
Mats Gyllenberg

By the time the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters held its annual meetings online on 15 June 2020, the Covid-19 epidemic had slowly started to improve and a certain optimism could be felt in society. This was also reflected in the closing words of the Chairman's greeting at the annual meeting: "Eventually, the pandemic will subside over time and life return to normal."

Unfortunately, this did not happen and the pandemic followed the same pattern as the Spanish flu pandemic (caused by the H1N1 A virus) in 1918-1920 when, after a relatively calm summer, a much deadlier second wave struck in the autumn of 1918. This was followed by a third wave in 1919 and a fourth in 1920. At the time of writing (April 2021), the third wave is slowing down in Finland, but in many parts of the world the pandemic is claiming more victims than ever before.

Finland has coped with the pandemic far better than most other countries. To date, just over 900 people have died of Covid-19, or 163 in a million. We have our authorities to thank for this: severe restrictions were introduced as early as March 2020 and have stayed in place in varying degrees throughout the pandemic. Sweden relied on recommendations instead of restrictions and bans, with the result that 14,000 lives have been lost, close to 1400 in a million.

The entire academic year 2020–2021 has been characterised by government-imposed restrictions. No in-class instruction has been provided at Finnish universities. It has been taxing on teachers and especially students. The students admitted to universities in 2020 have now studied for a whole year without having met a single teacher or fellow student. Student life - activities within nations and subject societies – has been non-existent. Needless to say, learning performance is bound to fall short of the standards that would otherwise be achieved under normal circumstances.

Research activities have also suffered. Even though scientific literature is today available in electronic format and meetings can be held online on web platforms, the importance of face-to-face meetings and contacts cannot be overrated.

Of course, societal activities have also been impacted by the pandemic, but not to the same extent as those of universities. Due to the restrictions, only one major public event could be held. However, many of the Society's activities, for example publishing and cooperation with other scientific organisations, are of such a nature that they could be successfully continued more or less normally. The same applies to the administration of the Society for which teleworking presents no significant obstacle.

At the annual meeting, a number of changes took place among the Society's officers. As Mr Meurman has served as Chairman of the Society for three years, he is now required to resign under the rules of procedure. He has managed his chairmanship flexibly and been a pleasure to work with. He has been a real asset to the Society and I wish to extend my warmest thanks to him.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr Riikonen, who has been a very active member on the Board for six years and is now stepping down.

Mr Roslin has served as the Society's auditor/operations inspector for 15 years and will resign after the 2021 annual meeting. His performance as the operations inspector has created a sense of

security; in this role, he has carried out his duties responsibly with close attention to detail. Many thanks!

Society's new statutes

The work to revise the statutes commenced in the previous year was completed during the reporting period. The amendments were necessary for a number of reasons. On the one hand, the old statutes included provisions that were at variance with the Associations Act, and on the other hand, there was a clear need to update other provisions. Under the old statutes, only Finnish citizens were eligible for ordinary membership of the Society. This provision is no longer consistent with the values cherished in today's academic world, where mobility and internationalism are the new buzzwords and universities are actively recruiting professors from abroad. Under the new statutes, the criterion for membership status is the registered domicile. A person domiciled in Finland may be admitted as an ordinary member irrespective of citizenship. Conversely, Finnish citizens can be invited to join as foreign members if they are permanently domiciled outside Finland. If a foreign member settles in Finland permanently, the Society may review his or her membership status. This new provision has already been applied once during the reporting period.

The new statutes were adopted by the Society in September 2020 and entered in the Associations Register on 12 January 2021. For the first time in the Society's 183-year history, the statutes were registered both in Swedish and Finnish.

Symposia and other events

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Society has been unable to hold symposia and colloquiums to the same extent as in the previous years. Even so, we were able to organise two highly successful symposia – one in the autumn of 2020 and one in spring 2021.

On 28 September 2020, a symposium entitled "World's many languages" was held in the Maija Room in the Helsinki Central Library Oodi. Mr Riikonen served as the moderator. The symposium was streamed. Subsequently, a 3.5-hour video of the event was posted on Youtube. The symposium in the Maija Room was attended by some 60 people while hundreds more watched it online. The video at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) has clocked over 550 views.

The "Vaccination past and present" symposium originally proposed in 2018 was finally held at a highly opportune time when vaccinations against Covid-19 started in Finland. The exact date was 30 March 2021. Mr Hedman and Mr Meri served as moderators. The moderators and lecturers were physically present in the Music Centre in Helsinki, but no audience was admitted because of the pandemic. The symposium was streamed and attracted some 400 online viewers. The technical facilities worked perfectly, thanks to the Music Centre's highly qualified staff. The participants were active asking a lot of relevant questions. The nearly 2-hour video posted at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) attracted over 2100 viewers over a three-week period after the event.

As in previous years, the Society was involved in organising the grand Nobel debate, which was streamed on 28 October 2020. On the panel of experts, the Society was represented by Mr Johansson. A video recording of the debate is available on Helsingin Sanomat's website.

During 13–17 January 2021, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, together with other Finnish scientific academies, the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies and the Finnish Cultural Foundation, organised the traditional Science Forum.

This year the event was held entirely online. The Permanent Secretary represented the Society in the Science Forum's steering group and Mr Sundberg in the organizing committee. The following Society members contributed to the Forum by delivering lectures or participating in panel discussions or interviews: Mrs Furman, Mrs Lähteenmäki, Mrs Reuter and Mrs Österbacka as well as Mr Lindén, Mr Nuorteva, Mr Sumelius and Mr Sundberg.

Meeting programme

The Covid-19 pandemic, which in the spring of 2020 compelled the Society to suspend all its meetings from March onwards, also affected the meeting arrangements during the 2020–2021 reporting period. As the House of the Estates was reserved exclusively for Government use for the entire year, the Society was unable to hold its meetings there. Thanks to the generous offer made by Mr Nuorteva, Director General of the National Archives, the regular September, October and November meetings in 2020 could be held in the old beautiful researchers' room in the National Archives. All scientific lectures and memorial speeches were streamed, and members were also able to participate in the meetings via the cloud-based Zoom IT platform. An electronic voting system guaranteeing the secrecy of the ballot was used to address matters where the statutes require voting by secret ballot.

In December 2020, the pandemic situation became aggravated to such an extent that meetings for the rest of the year were held exclusively online. Of course, an online meeting cannot be compared to a face-to-face meeting. Initially, we had some minor technical problems, but the online meetings began to proceed more smoothly as we gained more experience along the year. However, it was encouraging to note that attendance remained at the same level as in previous years, even increasing slightly from the year before. Many of the Society's foreign members also took part in the online meetings. Attendance ranged from 45 to 64 members, the average being 54 per meeting.

Due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to organize communal dinners after the gatherings. This is deplorable because the informal discussions at dinners between members representing different scientific fields are inspiring and an important part of the Society's activities.

Below is a brief summary of the meeting programme and the decisions taken.

17 August 2020

The Board called a meeting attended by the editors and section chairs to plan the forthcoming year's activities in the face of the current pandemic. A decision was made to hold ordinary meetings with a limited number of members physically present. Naturally, all members are welcome to participate using Zoom. All scientific lectures and memorial speeches are streamed and taped and subsequently posted on the Society's website. No communal dinners would be held after meetings. Members giving presentations will, however, be acknowledged when dinners can again be arranged.

An electronic voting system was put in place that guarantees the secrecy of the ballot and prevents the same member from voting more than once. The Board adopted the position that under the current atypical circumstances this voting system could be equated with voting by secret ballot, for example when new members are elected.

The Board decided that the symposium “The world’s many languages” would be held in the Maija Room of the Helsinki Central Library Oodi at 16–20 on 28 September 2020 with Mr Riikonen serving as the moderator. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, a maximum of 70 people could be admitted to the Maija Room. The symposium was to be streamed, taped and subsequently posted on the Society's website.

The Board decided to propose to the regular meeting that the Society’s rules of procedure be amended to allow proposals for new members to be submitted via the electronic Datalink system used for grant applications.

The Board found it appropriate to merge the Ernst Lindelöf Fund with the General Fund. The Treasurer put the proposal to the Board of Administration for final decision-making.

21 September 2020

The Board decided to grant the National Archives EUR 21,000 over a period of three years (2021–2023) to digitise the materials produced by four Finnish scientists (Erik Laxman, Anders Johan Lexell, Anders Johan Sjögren, Axel Gadolin) held in Russian archives.

The Board appointed a working group consisting of Mr Bruun (Chair), Mrs Eerola, Mrs Heinämaa, Mr Bonsdorff, Mr Sundberg and Mr Fortelius to review the objectives of the Society's grants system and award criteria including the decision-making process. Special grants for sabbaticals were introduced.

Mr Johansson, Mr Lindholm and Mr Lindström and Mrs Törmä were appointed to the grant committee of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation for the period 1 January 2021–31 December 2023.

The regular meeting was held in the old researchers’ room in the National Archives. Mr Pertti Hakala, a researcher at the National Archives, had set up an exhibition of the archives of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters deposited in the National Archives. As the exhibition was displayed outside the meeting room, the participants had an opportunity to view it before the meeting and during the recess.

The meeting started with a presentation by Mr Nuorteva, Director General of the National Archives, entitled “Overview of the archives of scientific societies held in the National Archives”. The presentation was followed by two memorial speeches. Mr Gahmberg delivered a speech commemorating Johan Järnefelt and Mr Meinander a speech commemorating Max Engman. The official part of the meeting was closed with a presentation by Mr Romantschuk entitled “How to make microbes work for you” and a presentation by Mrs Törmä entitled “New quantum phenomena: Bosen-Einstein condensate in nanophotonics and superconductivity in graphene”.

A number of important decisions were made behind closed doors after the main meeting. Mrs Eva Margareta Steinby and Mr Riska were appointed honorary members, and the new statutes were adopted after the second reading.

An amendment was adopted to the rules of procedure to make it possible to propose new members via the electronic system.

Mrs von Bonsdorff and Mrs Olsson as well as Mr Knif and Mr Lindén were elected to the prize committee for the Professor Theodor Homén 2021 Prize for the History of Finland.

19 October 2020

The Board elected Mrs Sundholm, Mr Fortelius, Mr Ehlers, Mr Westerholm and Mr Koskinen as members of the Sohlberg delegation and Mr D. Sundholm and Mr Bonsdorff as alternates.

The Board confirmed the amounts of the Society's prizes for 2021: Professor E.J. Nyström Prize EUR 30,000; Professor Theodor Homén Prize for the History of Finland EUR 20,000; Magnus Ehrnrooth Prize for Chemistry EUR 20,000; three teacher prizes of EUR 5,000 plus EUR 2,000 for the school; and the Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant EUR 10,000. Hence, the amounts are the same as in 2020.

The Board decided to set aside EUR 15,000 for the Maupertuis Programme in 2021.

The regular meeting began with a memorial speech for Professor Carl-Gustaf Standertskjöld-Nordenstam given by Mr U-H. Stenman, followed by three presentations. Mrs Päivi Happonen, Research Director at the National Archives, gave a talk on the subject of "Finns in Russia after the October 2017 revolution"; Mrs Karivieri on "Scientific methods employed in the study of Rome's harbour town Ostia"; and Mrs Spens on "Humanitarian logistics and university administration in the face of pandemics".

16 November 2020

The Board appointed Mr Norkko, to be deputised by Mr Koskinen, as the Society's representative on the Finnish National Committee of Quaternary Research for the period 2021–2023.

Two talks and three presentations were delivered during the regular meeting. Mrs Riska gave a speech commemorating Erik Allardt and Mr Tigerstedt another speech on Arne Rousi. Senior Researcher and Adjunct Professor John Strömberg gave a presentation entitled "National Archives as a heraldry authority", Mr Groop talked about "Diabetic renal disease, a modern-day mystery – a collision between heredity and the environment, and Mrs Isoniemi on "Living with a liver condition".

The intake of new members was discussed behind closed doors after the main meeting. The proposals submitted by the election committees of the Biosciences and Humanities Sections were adopted unanimously. The proposal of the election committee of the Mathematics and Physics Section was approved after a vote by secret ballot, whereas the proposal by the election committee of the Social Sciences Section was beaten by a counter-proposal. The matter was deferred to the following meeting.

10 December 2020

The Board approved the “Guidelines for grants awarded by the Finnish Society of Sciences And Letters” and submitted a proposal to the Society meeting scheduled for 21 December 2020 for final decision-making.

21 December 2020

On the recommendation of the Board of Administration, the Board passed three decisions: to set the management contribution at 0.6% of the market value of the assets at year-end 2020–2021; to award grants and scholarships up to a total amount of EUR 500,000 in 2021; to include the Ernst Lindelöf Fund in the General Funds as a separate tied fund as of 1 January 2021.

Potential cooperation with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters on the subject of the history of Finnish science during independence was discussed. Mr Koskinen and Mr Riikonen were authorised to conduct further talks with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

The Board decided to hold an online symposium on vaccination in March 2021 with Mr Hedman and Mr Meri serving as moderators.

The Board decided that the Society will sign the Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication.

A working group consisting of the Permanent Secretary, the Treasurer and Mr Koskinen was appointed to prepare a proposal for new rules of procedure consistent with the new statutes.

The regular meeting was opened with the presentation “An atypical invention – dubious or revolutionary?” by Mr Hedman.

The Society elected the following ordinary members:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Professor Matti Lassas (University of Helsinki) and Research Professor Johanna Tamminen (Finnish Meteorological Institute)

Biosciences Section: Professor Vesa Olkkonen (University of Helsinki)

Humanities Section: Professor Sami Pihlström (University of Helsinki) and Senior Lecturer Martina Reuter (Jyväskylä University)

Social Sciences Section: Professor Eeva Furman (Finnish Environment Institute) and Professor Karl-Erik Michelsen (Lappeenranta University of Technology)

Foreign members:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Professor Ville Kaila (University of Stockholm)

Biosciences Section: Professor Tomas Roslin (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Humanities Section: Professor Susanna Lindberg (Université de Strasbourg, University of Leiden) and Professor Gunhild Vidén (University of Gothenburg)

The Board's proposal for the Guidelines for grants awarded by the Finnish Society of Sciences And Letters was approved with minor changes.

18 January 2021

The Board appointed Mrs Sundström to represent the Society on the board of the Zoological and Botanical Publication Board for 2021–2024 and Mr E. Hæggström (deputised by Mr Poutanen) to the Finnish National Committee for Radio Science for the period 2021–2023.

The regular meeting was opened with a presentation by Mrs Fellman entitled “The GRACIAL children – new disease mechanisms offer hope for treating mitochondrial diseases”, followed by Mr Kaitala’s talk on “Population dynamics and environmental change”

The following grant committees were appointed:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Mr Gripenberg, Mr Keinonen (convener) and Mrs Riekkola

Biosciences Section: Mr Bonsdorff (convener), Mrs Lehesjoki and Mr Romantschuk

Humanities Section: Mr Brusila (convener), Mrs Karivieri, Mrs Lähteenmäki and Mr Miestamo

Social Sciences Section: Mrs Riska (convener), Mrs Sisula-Tulokas and Mr Sundberg

Mrs Kervanto Nevanlinna, a member of the prize nomination committee of the Humanities Section who resigned at her own request, was replaced by Mrs von Bonsdorff.

15 February 2021

The Board decided to propose to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that it approve the expert committee's proposal for the award of the Foundation's grants. It also decided to contribute EUR 11,000 to eleven projects in the Maupertuis Programme.

The Board appointed Mr Koskinen as the Society's representative on the Council of Finnish Academies’ Committee for International Affairs for the period 2021–2023. Mr Sundberg was appointed to represent the Society at the spring meeting of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies on 15 March 2021.

Two talks were held during the general meeting. Mr Johansson talked about “Gravitational waves emitted by colliding supermassive black holes” and Mrs Lehesjoki about “Epilepsy: from genetic findings to targeted treatment”.

The Society decided to change Mrs Lehečková’s membership status from foreign member to ordinary member.

Mrs Hakulinen, Mr Janhunen and Mr Tarasti from the Humanities Section and Mr Enqvist, Mr Fortelius and Mr Collan from the other sections were elected to the prize committee of the Professor E.J. Nyström 2022 Prize.

Mr Knif and Mr Linden and Mrs von Bonsdorff and Mrs Olsson were elected to the prize committee for the Professor Theodor Homén 2022 Prize for the History of Finland.

Mr Koskinen and Mrs Törmä were elected to the prize committee for the Professor Theodor Homén 2022 Prize for Physics.

Mrs Wiedmer, Mr Olkkonen, Mrs Kivistö and Mrs Stenius were elected to the prize committee for the 2021 teachers' prizes.

Mr Vesala, Mrs V. Fellman, Mr. Nynäs and Mrs. S. Fellman were appointed to the nomination committee for 2021 in addition to the members elected by virtue of their position.

15 March 2021

The 2020 financial statements were adopted and signed by the Board. The Board proposed to the annual meeting that the 2021 budget be approved.

The Board upheld the grant committees' proposals for the award of the Society grants and the FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant.

The Board decided to contribute EUR 2000 towards the costs of a plaque with the text "Erik Allardt, sociologist and member of the Academy of Finland, b. 9 Aug 1925, d. 25 August 2020, used to live in this building", which is to be attached to the external wall next to the entrance to the building at Unioninkatu 45 in which Allardt's home was located.

Two talks were held during the regular meeting. Mrs Matomäki's talk was entitled "About prime numbers" and Mrs Olsson's "Mickey-mouse research and misguided scientists? Passions aroused by research funding on social media".

19 April 2021

The Board approved the proposal of the working group (composed of Mr Koskinen, Mr Bonsdorff and the Permanent Secretary) concerning the provision of scientific advice in Finland in the future. At the same time, the Board approved a proposal by another working group (Mr Koskinen, Mr Lindholm and the Permanent Secretary) for a strategy for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

On the motion of the grant committees and the experts, the Board decided to propose to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that the prize for mathematics (EUR 20,000) be awarded to Professor Jaakko Kari.

Statutory annual meeting of 29 June 2021

The meeting confirmed the Society prizes (for a complete list, see the section "Prizes and grants").

The Permanent Secretary presented his report on the activities for the period from 16 April 2020 to 29 April 2021. The Treasurer presented his report for 2020 and the draft budget for 2021. The meeting adopted the budget. The Board was granted discharge from liability.

Mr Koskinen was appointed Chairman of the Society up to the 2022 annual meeting and Mr Sundberg Vice Chairman. Under the new statutes, the Society Chairman and Vice Chairman also serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Society Board.

The meeting confirmed the appointees to the Board proposed by the sections for the year 2020–2021 including their alternates as follows (alternates in brackets):

Mathematics and physics section: Mr Tenhu (Mrs Eerola)
Biosciences Section: Mr Bonsdorff (Mr Lindholm)
Humanities Section: Mrs von Bonsdorff (Mrs Kervanto Nevanlinna)
Social Sciences Section: Mr Sumelius (Mr Collan)

The Society's Permanent Secretary Mr Gyllenberg and Treasurer Mr Bruun were appointed to the Board up to the annual meeting of 2026. Mrs Wolf was appointed the 'ninth' member of the Board up to the annual meeting of 2022.

Mr Grönroos and Mrs Österbacka were re-elected as representatives of the Society and Mr Patrik Lerche, M.Sc. (Econ), and Councillor Henry Wiklund were re-elected as external experts to the Administrative Board.

Mr B. Nyholm, APA, was re-elected as the auditor of the society (deputised by Ernst & Young AB).

The Society's long-serving operations inspector Mr Roslin wished to resign and was succeeded by Mr Stenbacka. Mr Carlsson was re-elected as his alternate.

Publication activities

The Society's publications are published in collaboration with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, except for the yearbook *Sphinx* and the publications outside the series. A list of the books available to order is published each year. Mr Janhunen served as the editor of *Sphinx*, Mr Londen for the series *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk*, Mr Sundberg for the series *Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium* and Mr Rikkinen for the series *History of Learning and Science in Finland 1828—1918*. Mr Kajava was the editor of the series *Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum*.

The printing costs, including editing and distribution, incurred in 2020 amounted to EUR 93,614.44 while EUR 11,198.68 was earned in sales revenue. State support for the Society's publication activities was EUR 38,000 for 2020, and EUR 39,000 for 2021.

During the 2019—2020 reporting period, the Society published the following eight volumes with a total of 3444 pages:

Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk (ed. Londen):

Topi Artukka: Tanssiva kaupunki. Turun seurapiiri sosiaalisena näyttämönä 1810-luvulla. 2021. 344 pp.

Bo Lindberg (ed.): Vårt gemensamma innanhav. Finskt och svenskt kring Östersjön. 2021. 129 pp.

Heikki Nevanlinna: Ilmatieteiden vaiheita ja vaikuttajia Suomessa. 2021. 341 pp.

Ville Kajanne: Suomen puolesta, Euroopan edestä, Venäjää vastaan? Kansainvälinen vuorovaikutus ja yhteistyö vuoden 1899 kulttuuriadressissa. 2020. 348 pp.

Jens Grandell: Från ett årtionde i Finland. August Schauman, republikanism och liberalism 1855-1865. 2020. 267 pp.

Mardy Lindqvist: Uusi maksa, uusi elämä. Kirurgi Krister Höckerstedt keskustelee elämänvalinnoistaan Mardy Lindqvistin kanssa. 2020. 341 pp.

Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum (ed. Mr Kajava):

Martti Leiwo, Marja Vierros, Sonja Dahlgren (ed.): Papers on Ancient Greek Linguistics. Proceedings of the Ninth International Colloquium on Ancient Greek Linguistics (ICAGL9), 30 August – 1 September 2018. 2020. 356 pp.

Mika Kajava, Tua Korhonen, Jamie Vesterinen (ed.): Meilicha Dôra. Poems and Prose in Greek from Renaissance and Early Modern Europe. 2020. 578 pp.

Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium (ed. Sundberg)

Tuomas Savonen: MINNESOTA, MOSCOW, MANHATTAN. Gus Hall's Life and Political Line Until the Late 1960s. 2020. 503 pp.

Sphinx (ed. Janhunen):
Årsbok — Vuosikirja — Yearbook 2018—2019, 237 pp.

All new books will also be published in digital format and be freely available on the Society's website.

Prizes and grants

The purpose of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters is to promote science and scholarship. This is done, among other things, by awarding prizes and research grants. The prizes are usually presented at the Society's annual meeting on 29 April. For a second year in a row, this festive gathering had to be cancelled and prizes awarded and grants paid out without any ceremonies.

The Professor E.J. Nyström Prize is awarded annually for scientific accomplishments alternating between the four sections. This year the prize (EUR 30,000) went to Professor Taina Pihlajaniemi (University of Oulu) for her pioneering work in cell matrix biology.

The Professor Theodor Homén Prize is awarded annually alternating between physics and the history of Finland. In March 2020, the Society decided that in the future the prize will be awarded every year both for physics and history. Both prizes are worth EUR 20,000. This year, the prize for the history of Finland is awarded to Mr Meinander in recognition of his extensive research into the political history of Finland since independence. The prize for physics goes to Mr Vesala for his landmark results on the experimental determination of carbon sinks and the quantification of the biogeochemical carbon cycles.

The Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize is awarded annually alternating between mathematics, chemistry and physics. The 2020 prize (EUR 20,000) was awarded to Jarkko Kari, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Turku, in recognition of his extensive and successful research on computational science and automation theory, particularly cellular automation.

The Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant “to an eminent researcher mainly in theoretical physics and related fields” was awarded to Joonas Nättilä, PhD, of Columbia University, for his successful research the field of theoretical astrophysics. The grant is worth EUR 10,000.

The Society awards annually three teacher prizes to teachers whose students have successfully continued to pursue university studies in their respective fields. Each prize consists of a personal award of EUR 5,000 for the teacher and an award of EUR 2,000 for the school. The subjects vary from year to year. This year's winners are Irene Pörn, a mathematics teacher at the Korsholm Upper Secondary School, Timo Koivunen, a geography teacher at the Oulu Upper Secondary School, and Leena Lukkarinen, a Spanish teacher at the Mäkelänrinne Upper Secondary School in Helsinki.

In 2021, the Society awarded 36 grants and research grants totalling EUR 440,670, a much higher figure than ever before. The reason for this the Board's 2019 decision, on the recommendation of the Board of Administration, to significantly increase grant awards. Overall, the total amount of grants increased by 35% in 2021 and 94% in 2020 as compared to 2019. Over the same period, the average size of the grants has increased from EUR 5295 in 2019 and EUR 6510 in 2020 to EUR 12,240 in 2021. This is due to a policy of funding fewer projects of higher quality and granting the amounts requested.

This year and last year, the grants were distributed across the sections as follows:

	2021	2020
Mathematics and Physics Section:	2 €12,220	7 €23,550
Biosciences Section:	13 €244,690	11 €157,500
Humanities Section:	15 €149,141	12 €71,030
Social Sciences Section:	3 €21,419	9 €33,724
Sohlberg Fund:	3 €13,200	11 €39,681
Total	36 €440,670	50 €325,485

The Maupertuis Programme, which is a collaborative project between French actors (French Institute in Finland, Embassy of France in Helsinki and French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation), the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation and the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters, awards scholarships and grants for scientific exchanges between Finland and France and for conferences and symposia in these countries. Funding is also provided for cotutelle doctoral students. Cotutelle means that a doctoral student is registered at both a French and a Finnish university to complete doctoral degrees at both. In 2021, grants totalling EUR 36,500 were distributed, of which French financiers contributed EUR 17,750, the Society EUR 11,000 and the Academy of Sciences and Letters EUR 7,400. In addition, two cotutelle doctoral students received funding, one from the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters also assesses grant applications addressed to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation and submits its proposal for the grants to the Foundation’s board. In

2020, over EUR 1.9 million was awarded by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation for research in astronomy, mathematics, physics and chemistry, as well as medical chemistry. This amount includes half of the funding made available to two cotutelle graduate students.

The Society works closely together with the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation, which awards research grants in mathematics, physics and chemistry to younger researchers from Finland and Sweden. The Society's Permanent Secretary is a member of the Foundation's board and the Chair of the expert committee that issues proposals for grant awards to the board. The rest of the expert committee is composed of members of the Society and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. In 2021, the following nine researchers received grants totalling EUR 240,000: Erik Duse (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Malin Forsström (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Ragnar Freij-Hollanti (Aalto), Magnus Goffey (Lund), Cecilia Holmgren (Uppsala), Martin Leijnsne (Lund), David Stenlund (Åbo Akademi University) and Christian Webb (Åbo Akademi University).

Members

Mrs Eva Margareta Steinby and Mr Riska were appointed honorary members of the Society in September 2020.

Both were previously ordinary members – Mrs E.M. Steinby in the Humanities Section and Mr Risk in the Mathematics and Physics Section.

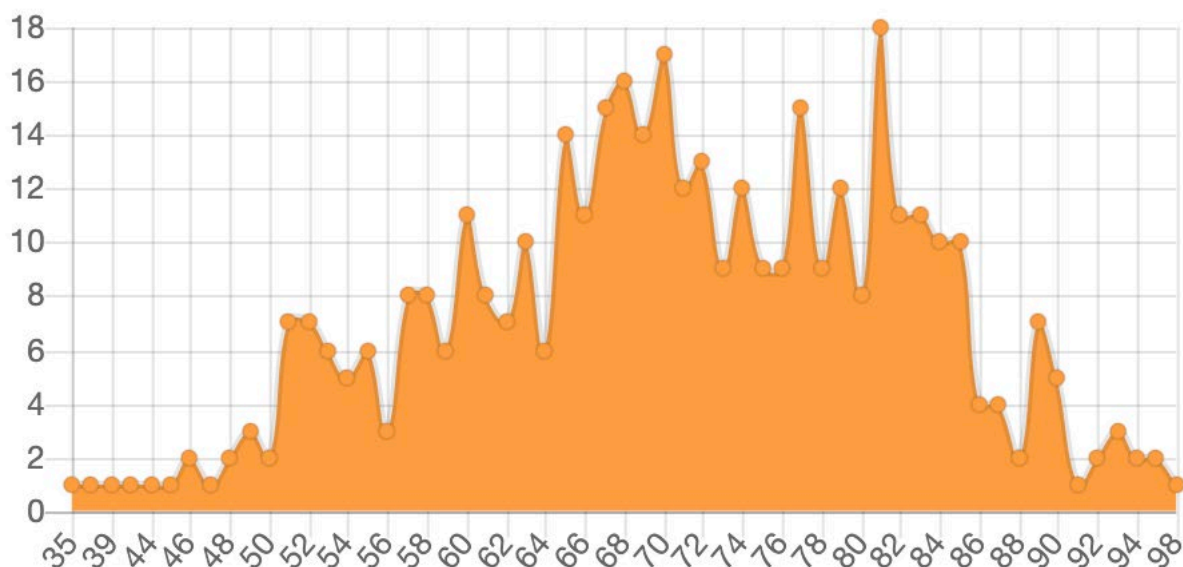
Eva Margareta Steinby is a world-leading scholar of the history and archaeology of ancient Rome. An active member of the Society since 1983, she served as the director of the Finnish Institute in Rome for two terms (1979–1982 and 1992–1994).

Dan-Olof Riska is a highly qualified researcher in theoretical physics. He is an expert on the structure and interaction of atomic nuclei, and has made a major contribution to the understanding of the hadron spectrum. He has held many important international positions of trust. Elected to the Society in 1981, he served with distinction as the Treasurer of the Society from 2006 to 2020.

At the end of the year, the number of members totalled 402. There are eight honorary members of whom six are Finnish. Of the ordinary members, 159 are over the age of 67, while 118 are under 67. The age and gender distribution of the membership by section is listed in the following table:

Section	Ordinary members					Foreign members	Honorary members	Total
	Over 67	50–66	Under 50	Total	Women			
Math./Phys.	34	27	3	64	9	32	3	99
Biosc.	46	26	2	74	16	26	0	100
Hum.	43	25	5	73	26	36	3	112
Soc.Sc.	36	26	4	66	17	22	2	90
Total	159	104	14	277	68	116	8	401

The average age of all members is 71. The age distribution is shown in the diagram below.



During the reporting period, the Society received several sad news of members passing away. Three of our honorary members, Academicians of Science (Academy of Finland) Erik Allardt, Albert de la Chapelle and Olli Lehto, as well as three ordinary members, Arne Rousi, Christian Ehnholm and Guy Bäckman, passed away during the year.

Erik Allardt was born on 9 August 1925 and died on 25 August 2020. He was appointed Professor of Sociology at the University of Helsinki in 1958. From 1970 to 1980, he served as a Research Professor (equivalent to Academy Professor today) at the Academy of Finland and was appointed to the Academy of Finland by the President of the Republic in 1995. He served as Chair of the Academy of Finland's Central Committee (equivalent to the Director General of the Academy) from 1986 to 1991 and as Chancellor of the Åbo Akademi University from 1992 to 1994. Invited to join the Society in 1961, he was appointed honorary member in 1988.

Albert de la Chapelle was born on 11 February 1933 and died on 10 December 2020. He was Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Helsinki from 1974 to 1997, after which he continued his work at Ohio State University until his death. From 1985 to 1995, he served as a Research Professor at the Academy of Finland. He was appointed to the Academy of Finland in 1997. Invited to join the Society in 1975, he was awarded the status of an honorary member in 1991.

Olli Lehto was born on 30 May 1925 and died on New Year's Even in 2020. He was a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Helsinki from 1961 to 1993, serving as Rector from 1983 to 1988 and as Chancellor from 1988 to 1993. From 1970 to 1975, he served as a Research Professor at the Academy of Finland and was appointed to the Academy in 1975. Invited to join the Society in 1968, he was appointed honorary member in 1988.

Arne Rousi (born Brusin) was born on 1 September 1931 and died on 12 July 2020. He was appointed Professor of Botany at the University of Turku in 1987 and served as Rector from 1987 to 1993. He was invited to join the Society in 1994.

Christian Ehnholm was born on 18 September 1939 and died on 7 September 2020. Among other positions, he served as a researcher at the Haartman Institute and as a head of department at the National Public Health Institute of Finland. He was invited to join the Society in 2001.

Guy Bäckman was born on 6 April 1940 and died on 20 February 2021. From 1967 to 1969, he was employed by Statistics Finland, served as a senior lecturer in social policy at the Swedish School of Social Science and was appointed Professor of Social Policy at the Åbo Akademi University in 1976. He was invited to join the Society in 1989.

Additionally, four foreign members passed away during the reporting period.

Victor Govardovskii died on 26 June 2020. Born on 9 January 1939, he served as the Director of Research at the Institute for Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He was invited to join the Society as a foreign member in 2005.

Sen-Itiroh Hakomori was born on 13 February 1929 and died on 10 November 2020. He was Professor of Pathology and Microbiology at the Washington University. He was invited to join the Society as a foreign member in 1987.

Françoise Winnik died on 13 February 2021. She was born on 2 March 1952. She was Professor of Chemistry at the Montreal University and was invited to join the Society as a foreign member in 2010.

Sergej Zilitinkevich died on 15 February 2021. He was born on 13 April 1936. He was research Professor at the Finnish Meteorological Institute and was invited to join the Society as a foreign member in 2012.

Board and positions of trust

The composition of the Society's Board during the reporting period was as follows (alternates in brackets):

Chairman: Mr Meurman

Vice Chairman: Mr Koskinen

Permanent Secretary: Mr Gyllenberg

Treasurer: Mr Bruun

Mathematics and Physics Section: Mr Tenhu (Mrs Eerola)

Biosciences Section: Mr Bonsdorff (Mr Lindholm)

Humanities Section: Mr Riikonen (Mrs Snellman)

Social Sciences Section: Mr Sumelius (Mr Collan)

Ninth member: Mrs von Bonsdorff

The following persons served as Chairs and Vice Chairs (in brackets) of the sections during the reporting period:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Mr Kupiainen.

Biosciences Section: Mrs Lindström (Mr Lindholm).

Humanities Section: Mrs von Bonsdorff (Mrs Kervanto Nevanlinna).

Social Sciences Section: Mrs Widén (Mrs Riska).

The nomination committee included the Permanent Secretary (Chair), Mrs von Bonsdorff, Mrs S. Fellman, Mrs V. Fellman, Mrs Lindström and Mrs Widén as well as Mr Bonsdorff, Mr Kupiainen, Mr Nynäs, Mr Riikonen, Mr Sumelius, Mr Tenhu and Mr Vesala.

Election committees:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Mr Kupiainen (Chair), Mr Hoyer, Mr Salmi as well as Mrs Riekkola and Mrs Stenberg.

Biosciences Section: Mrs Lindström (Chair), Mrs Mappes, Mrs Sistonen and Mr Meri.

Humanities Section: Mrs von Bonsdorff (Chair), Mrs Heinämaa, Mrs Wolff and Mr Saarikivi.

Social Sciences Section: Mrs Widén (Chair), Mr Bruun and Mr Bruun and Mr Sundberg.

Composition of the Board of Administration during the reporting period: Treasurer (Chair), Permanent Secretary, Mrs Österbacka, Mr Grönroos as well as Patrik Lerche, M.Sc. (Econ.), and Councillor Henry Wiklund.

The auditor was Bengt Nyholm, APA, and operations inspector Mr Roslin. The alternates were Ernst & Young and Mr Carlsson.

Members of the prize and grant committees

Prize and grant committees during the reporting period:

Professor E.J. Nyström Prize: Mr Fortelius (Chair), Mr Pyykkö and Mr Collan as well as Mrs Lehesjoki and Mrs Kervanto Nevanlinna.

Professor Theodor Homén Prize for the History of Finland: Mrs von Bonsdorff (Chair) and Mrs Olsson and Mr Lindén.

Professor Theodor Homén Prize for Physics: Mrs Eerola (Chair) and Mr Hämäläinen, Mr Kulmala and Mr Valtonen.

Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant: Mr Johansson and Mr Kajantie.

Grant committees for Society grants:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Mr Gripenberg and Mr Keinonen (convener) and Mrs Riekkola.

Biosciences Section: Mr Bonsdorff (convener) and Mr Romantschuk as well as Mrs Lehesjoki.

Humanities Section: Mr Brusila (convener) Mr Miestamo as well as Mrs Karivieri and Mrs Lähteenmäki.

Social Sciences Section: Mrs Riska (convener), Mrs Sisula-Tulokas and Mr Sundberg.

Sohlberg delegation: Mrs Sundholm, Mr Fortelius, Mr Ehlers, Mr Westerholm and MR Koskinen.

Grant committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation: Mrs Törma, Mr Johansson, Mr Lindholm and Mr Salmi.

Expert committee for the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation: Mr Gyllenberg (Chair), Mr Johansson, Mrs Wiedmer as well as Professor Johan Håstad (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences).

Memberships in external organisations

The Council of Finnish Academies is a forum for cooperation for Finland's four academies of science. The steering group of the Council is composed of the Chairs of the four academies of science. Consequently, the Society is represented in the steering group by Mr Meurman with Mr Koskinen serving as his alternate. The Permanent Secretary has the right to attend the meetings of the steering group.

The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies is an important, independent expert organisation focusing on research and research policy. The Federation includes 284 scientific societies and four academies of science. The Federation receives funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Federation distributes state aid to scientific societies for publishing and international activities as well as for the organisation of national and international scientific conferences. The Society is represented on the Federation Board by Mr Riikonen (Mr Meurman) and Permanent Secretary Gyllenberg (Mrs Snellman). Additionally, Mr Bruun deputises for the Society representative in the Law Society of Finland. Mr Gyllenberg serves as Chair of the Support Section.

Society members have also held positions of trust in the Academy of Finland. From 2019 to 2021, Mr Mickwitz served as Vice Chair of the Board of the Academy of Finland. Mrs Huhtala and Mrs Snellman as well as Mr Hämäläinen are members of the committee on research infrastructure.

The Permanent Secretary of the Society serves as the representative of the Council of Finnish Academies on the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC).

On the ICSU national committees, the Society is represented by Mr Tanskanen (geodesy and geophysics), Mr Poutanen and E. Hæggström (scientific radio research), Mr Fortelius (quaternary research), Mr Fortelius and Mr Leppäkoski (biology), Mr Hytönen, Mr Kupiainen, Mr Mattila and Mr Saksman (mathematics), Mr Stenberg and Mr Nordlund (mechanics), Mr Norkko (marine research), Mr Koskinen with Mr Norkko as deputy (polar research), Mr Poutanen (astronomy), Mr Finne (biosciences), Mr Kulmala and Mr Niemelä (Future Earth Finland), Mr Lindholm (brain research), Mr Leskelä and Mrs Wiedmer (chemistry).

The Society was represented on the board of the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation by the Permanent Secretary.

The Permanent Secretary represented the Society in the steering group of the Science Forum 2021 and Mr Sundberg in the organizing committee.

The Society was represented on the board of the Finnish Zoological and Botanical Publishing Board by Mr K. Donner up to the end of 2019 and by Mr K. Lindström as of 2020.

A more detailed list of the Society's representatives in scientific organisations and communities is published in *Sphinx 2020–2021*.

Financial management

The Society's assets and funds are overseen by the Board of Administration subordinated to the Board. More details of the Society's finances are disclosed in the financial statements and the Treasurer's report.

Office and library

Since its establishment in 1838, the Society has been engaged in the publishing of scientific papers, which is an important part of its activities. As a result, the Society has accumulated an extensive library, with the oldest books dating back to 1840. During the 2019-2020 reporting period, a number of books in bad repair were restored and a complete catalogue of the volumes in the library was drawn up. This year the catalogue was posted on the Society's website and is now available to all free of charge. Scientists all over the world can now access the contents of the Society's library and order copies of the desired material.

Kenneth Lundström of NuData is responsible for the Society's IT maintenance and support. The Society is very grateful for the expert help we have received from him.

The Society would not function as well as it does without the valuable efforts of Secretary Ann-Christin Geust. Possessed of excellent organisational skills and service-mindedness, she is an invaluable asset to the Society. For my own part and on behalf of the Society as a whole, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to her.