

## **Annual Report of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters 30 April 2021 – 29 April 2022**

Issued by Permanent Secretary

Mats Gyllenberg

### **Ukraine**

24 February 2022 will go down in history in the same way as 1 September 1939 or, in the case of Finland, 30 November 1939. Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine, accompanied by war crimes and crimes against humanity, is something that Europe has not seen since the Second World War. Over five million people have already been compelled to leave Ukraine and are now dispersed across Europe. Willingness to help the victims of war has been strong. During the so-called European refugee crisis in 2015, 1.3 million refugees arrived in Europe, mainly from Syria. Now that the number of displaced persons is four times higher, nobody is talking about any refugee crisis.

Among the Ukrainian refugees there are also scientists and research students, who have lost not only their homes but also their laboratories and research materials. The Society took prompt action to help Ukrainian scientists affected by the war. Just a little more than a week after the outbreak of war, the Society made grants available for scientific research in Finland for Ukrainian scientists who sorely needed assistance. Grants have been awarded to Ukrainians who were forced to flee their native country, but also to Ukrainian researchers visiting Finland who are unable to return home because of the war. Needless to say, these grants have been much sought after, and therefore it has only been possible to approve a fraction of all the applications. By mid-April 2022, the Society had awarded grants to Ukrainians in the total amount of EUR 150,000.

We are pleased to note that both the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Finnish Medical Society have copied the Society's concept and established similar programmes for Ukrainian researchers.

### **New rules of procedure**

The Society's new statutes were adopted in September 2021 and entered in the Associations Register on 12 January 2021. The new Statutes also led to amendments to the rules of procedure, which were implemented during the reporting period 2021–2022.

The biggest change was related to the procedure governing the admission of new members. Under the old rules of procedure from 1982, slightly revised in 1999, it was the election committees of each section that proposed new members. The individual sections used to discuss the proposals, each in its own corner of Room 15 of the House of the Estates, before the regular meeting held in November. Next, the sections' proposals were presented to the regular meeting, which selected the candidates who would go forward to the final vote at the December meeting. One disadvantage of this system was that usually only a handful of members attended the section meetings, and, hence, important decisions on the election of new members were *de facto* taken by a very small group of people. To address this anomaly, the rules of procedure were revised before the 2016 admissions. As a result of this revision, section meetings were replaced by an electronic advisory vote. However, even this system proved inadequate. Once a proposal by the section election committee, which had received broad-based support in the consultative vote, was overturned by an *ex tempore* proposal at the November meeting.

The new rules of procedure adopted at the Society's meeting on 18 October 2021 made electronic voting within the sections binding and strengthened the position of the election committees. Now the proposal submitted by each section to the Society's November regular meeting must include the candidates who received the highest number of votes in the electronic ballot as well as at least half of the votes cast if proposed by the election committee, and two-thirds of the votes cast if not proposed by the election committee. It is no longer possible to submit counter-proposals opposing those of the sections at the November meeting. The matter is tabled until the December meeting, where a resolution will be passed by secret ballot as in the past. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least two thirds of the votes cast.

The new rules of procedure took effect on 1 January 2022 and the new election procedure will be applied for the first time in autumn 2022.

Another amendment worth mentioning is that now it is the Board that makes the final decisions on the Society's grants and prize awards. Under the old rules of procedure, it was the annual meeting that formally took these decisions. Needless to say, the annual meeting could not derogate from the proposals of the prize and grant committees as the winners had already been invited to the annual meeting to receive the honours. Under the new rules of procedure, grants can be disbursed as early as March instead of May as in the past, which is an improvement from the grantees' point of view.

### **Updated form of address**

When I was admitted to the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, I was mildly amused at the way people addressed each other as "Mr" and "Mrs" at the meetings. I assumed that the reason was that all members had PhDs anyway or that they did not want to distinguish between members who held the title of a professor and those who did not. Later I found out that the real reason was that in 1838 the members did not want to make distinction between those of noble birth by addressing them as count, baron or baronet; instead, within the Society, everyone was to be appreciated on the basis of scientific merit regardless of birth. I posted a blog text on this topic on the Society's website in February 2019.

In 2021, several members, both men and women, reacted strongly to the use of "Mr" and "Mrs" at the Society's meetings and similar forms of address in the newsletters. They find this usage hopelessly outdated and also believe that Swedish "fru" and Finnish "rouva" indicate marital status (although both the Swedish Academy's Dictionary and the Dictionary of Contemporary state that "fru" and "rouva" mean not only a "married woman or widow" but also an "educated, not too young a young woman belonging to the upper or middle class, regardless of marital status" - rather an apt description of the Society's female members).

The Society needs its younger members and cannot take the risk that they are alienated from the Society because of outdated traditions. Moreover, sooner or later, the Society is bound to admit – if it has not already done so – persons who do not wish to define themselves as either man or woman, and so we cannot continue to address one another as "Mr" and "Mrs". Consequently, the Board felt it appropriate to modernise the form of address and use gender-neutral language both at the meetings and in the newsletters, minutes and in the Sphinx Yearbook. At the Society meetings, the Chair and the Secretary will address members by their first and last names without any title. Similarly, first and last names will be used in all correspondence, minutes and Sphinx. If necessary, the term 'member' can be added to the name. The decision was taken at the Board meeting on 17

January 2022 with immediate effect, and the new form of address was used right away at the regular meeting on the same day. However, the decision was not publicly announced. Those few who noticed the new practice have given highly positive feedback.

## **Symposia and other events**

August 2021 marked 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Uusikaupunki. As in 2019, the Society participated in the organisation of the Peace Symposium at the Crusell Cultural Centre in Uusikaupunki on 11–14 August 2021. This time the Society was responsible for a full day's programme in the four-day symposium. Put together by Charlotta Wolff, the programme focused on three themes: The future of the Baltic Sea; demographic trends in Finland and the world; and truth and lies in the media and politics. Talks were held by Society members Eeva Furman, Hannu Koskinen, Wolfgang Lutz and Gunilla Widén. Other speakers included Anna Rotkirch of the Family Federation of Finland and Anna Törnroos-Remes and Kim Strandberg from the Åbo Akademi University. Serving as the moderator for the Society's programme was reporter Jussi-Pekka Rantanen.

Other Society members contributing to the symposium were Laura Kolbe, Nils Erik Villstrand and Charlotta Wolff.

The symposium was a great success attracting a large audience.

The Social Sciences Section's symposium "Nordic Perspectives on Self-Government: Åland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands" was originally scheduled to take place in May 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was postponed until March 2021 and could finally be held on 25 August 2021 at the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre. As only a limited number of participants could attend the symposium because of Covid-19 restrictions, the entire event was streamed. The video recording is available on the Society's YouTube channel.

Serving as the chair of the programme committee was Jan Sundberg. Presentations were given by Minister of Justice Anna-Maja Henriksson; Chair of the Board of the Hanasaari Cultural Centre Kimmo Sasi; Senior Adviser, Legislative Affairs, Janina Groop-Bondestam; Professors Jan Sundberg (Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters) and Stefan Sjöblom (University of Helsinki); Assistant Professor Hallbera West (University of the Faroe Islands); Associate Professor Maria Ackrén, (University of Greenland); and Ida Jansson (University of Lund). The debate at the seminar was chaired by Adjunct Professor Pär Olausson of the Mid-Sweden University. Premier of Åland Veronica Thörnroos took part in the discussion.

As in previous years, the Society was involved in organising the grand Nobel debate held on 14 October 2021 in the Media Square in the Sanoma Building in Helsinki. The debate was streamed and the video recording is available on the Helsingin Sanomat website.

The Ministry of Education and Culture, the Academy of Finland and the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies have declared 2021 as the Theme Year for Research-Based Knowledge. All the above-mentioned symposia and events are included in the programme of the theme year. Additionally, the Society participated in the organisation of the University of Lapland's Science Days during 30 September–1 October 2021, an event that was also part of the theme year.

## **New premises**

In 2021, the Society bought a flat at Fabianinkatu 4 B 10 in the Sirius housing company. It sits next door to the office at Pohjoinen Makasiininkatu 7 A 6. Following completion of the transaction, the Society now owns the entire fourth floor of the Sirius building. While most of the new flat is rented out, the Society has converted one large space into a conference room for its own use. A new connecting door between two of the units provides access from the office to the conference room. The law firm that used to occupy a room in the office was offered new premises in another Society flat in the Sirius building. As a result, the Society was able to expand its office.

The new conference room is equipped with modern technology, making it easy to organise hybrid meetings. Seating up to fifty people, it is also large enough to hold symposiums. Society members may use the conference room free of charge.

## **Meeting programme**

Due to the pandemic, only three regular meetings, the November 2021 meeting, the March 2022 meeting and the annual meeting on 29 April 2022, could be held at the House of the Estates; the other meetings were organised using the Zoom web platform, which allowed members to participate remotely. All presentations have been streamed and the video recordings are available on the Society's website.

Although the post-meeting dinner at the Helsinki Bourse Club, now discontinued, has been an important part of the monthly meetings, remote meetings have also offered some advantages. For one thing, attendance is higher than at in-person meetings. It is particularly gratifying to see that many of the Society's foreign members have participated in the remote meetings regularly. As the pandemic is now waning and the Society can resume its regular meetings, we will continue to stream and record the public part of the meetings. By contrast, meetings held behind closed doors must be attended in person.

Below is a brief summary of the meeting programme and the decisions taken. A separate list of presentations and eulogies is provided after the summary.

### *17 May 2021*

The Board decided to contribute EUR 15,000 to the Maupertuis Programme in 2022.

An announcement was made at the regular meeting that positions of ordinary members were vacated as follows during 2021: Mathematics and Physics Section 3, Biosciences Section 6, Humanities Section 2 and Social Sciences Section 2. The sections announced the appointments made by their respective selection committees (see Board and positions of trust).

### *Planning meeting on 23 August 2021*

Since the publication of scientific literature is an essential part of the Society's activities, the Board has for a number of years held planning meetings with the editors of the Society's publication series.

The meeting addressed the practical aspects of arranging meetings and symposia during the pandemic as well as long-term strategic issues. An important question was how to develop internal and external communications. Additionally, the meeting discussed the Permanent Secretary's proposal for the new rules of procedure, especially the renewal of the election procedure. The working party composed of Mats Gyllenberg, Hannu Koskinen and Dan Lindholm had submitted a proposal for a grants strategy for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation. The proposal was adopted.

#### *20 September 2021*

The Board approved, with minor amendments, the proposal for the new rules of procedure and referred the matter to the regular meeting scheduled for 18 October 2021. The Board appointed a working party composed of Pauline von Bonsdorff, Erik Bonsdorff, Niklas Bruun (convenor), Jan Sundberg and Heikki Tenhu, which was tasked to outline a communications policy for the Society. Hannu Koskinen (convenor), Kari Enqvist and Päivi Törmä were appointed to the prize committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Prize, which will be awarded to a physicist in 2022. The Board also decided to catalogue the Society's library and draw up a complete list of all Society members since 1838. The list will indicate the members' names, section affiliation, year of admission, date of birth, as well as the date of death and eulogies of deceased members.

#### *18 October 2021*

The Board confirmed the amounts of the Society's prizes for 2022. A decision was made to contribute EUR 15,000 to the Maupertuis Programme in 2022. The Board decided to award its silver medal to the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences in Finland on the occasion of the Academy's 100th anniversary celebrated on 12 November 2021.

The regular meeting adopted the new rules of procedure.

#### *15 November 2021*

A decision was made at the joint symposium held together with the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg (KVVVS) during 14–15 October 2019 to arrange the following symposium in Helsinki in autumn 2022. The Board decided to propose to the KVVVS that the theme of the symposium be "Science in the service of democracy" and to start planning the symposium.

The regular meeting discussed the election committees' proposals for the admission of new members. The consultative vote taken prior to the meeting had not caused the election committees to amend their proposals. The meeting approved the election committees' proposals and tabled the matter until the meeting of 20 December 2021 for final decision-making.

After the meeting, 49 members and the Secretary had a dinner at the Helsinki Bourse Club inviting the speakers of the evening to attend as guests.

#### *20 December 2021*

The Board decided to propose to the Board of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that it make a donation to the University of Helsinki to enable the University to establish a Swedish chair in artificial intelligence. The Society's communication policy was approved. On the recommendation of the Board of Administration, the Board set the management contribution for 2022 at 0.6% of the market value of the assets at the end of the year. The Board decided that the Society would award a

little over EUR 600,000 in grants and prizes. Each section will receive an appropriation in the amount of EUR 2000 to revive activities.

At the general meeting, the election of new members was decided by secret ballot using an electronic voting system. Two-thirds of the votes cast were required for admission. All the candidates were approved.

The Society elected the following ordinary members:

*Mathematics and Physics Section:* Professor Minna Palmroth (University of Helsinki), Associate Professor Indre Zliobaite (University of Helsinki), Professor Monika Österberg (Aalto University).

*Biosciences Section:* Professor Sarah Butcher (University of Helsinki), Professor Ulrika Candolin (University of Helsinki), Academy Professor Eero Castrén (University of Helsinki), Professor Mikael Fogelholm (University of Helsinki), Professor Miska Luoto (University of Helsinki), professor Jouko Rikkinen (University of Helsinki).

*Humanities Section:* Adjunct Professor Ruth Illman (Donner Institute)

*Social Sciences Section:* Professor Eeva Heiskanen (University of Helsinki), Professor Erika Löfström (University of Helsinki).

Foreign nationals invited to join:

*Biosciences Section:* Professor Antonio Bascones-Martinez (Complutense University, Madrid).

*Humanities Section:* Hans Walter Gabler (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich).

*17 January 2022*

The Society's foreign member Dmitry Murzin has been a permanent resident of Finland for a long time and is now also a Finnish citizen. The Board decided to propose to the general meeting that Dmitry Murzin's membership status be updated from foreign member to ordinary member.

On the motion of the Permanent Secretary, the Board decided to abandon with immediate effect the old tradition of addressing members as "Mr" and "Mrs". From now on, the Chair and the Secretary will address members at the meetings by their first and last names without any title. Similarly, first and last names will be used in all correspondence, minutes and Sphinx. If necessary, the term 'member' can be added to the name.

The sections' appointments to the election committees were announced at the general meeting. The meeting decided that Professor Theodor Homén's Prize will be awarded for physics in 2023 and thereafter alternatingly for Finnish history and physics.

*21 February 2022*

The Board decided to propose to the Board of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that it award prizes, scholarships and grants and make donations to a total value of EUR 2,300,480 in 2022. This amount includes a donation of EUR 400,000 to the University of Helsinki for the establishment of a Swedish chair in artificial intelligence. The Board also made the final decision on its proposal for this year's winner of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize in Physics.

The Board decided to fund twelve mobility projects of EUR 1200 each under the Maupertuis programme.

The general meeting approved the change in Dmitry Murzin's membership status from foreign member to ordinary member. Finally, the sections' choices of representatives in the teacher prize committee, non-automatic members in the nomination committee and the members in the prize nomination committees were announced at the meeting.

*3 March 2022 (e-mail meeting)*

The Board decided to make grants available for Ukrainian researchers in Finland.

*21 March 2022*

The 2021 financial statements were adopted and signed by the Board. The Treasurer presented the 2022 budget and the Board decided to propose to the annual meeting that the budget be approved. The Board decided on the award of the Society's prizes and grants based on the recommendations of the prize and grant committees.

The Finnish Academy of Science and Letters has withdrawn the Maupertuis Programme. To compensate for this loss, the Board decided that the Society would participate in the Maupertuis Programme for the next three years with an annual contribution of up to EUR 20,000, provided that the Society's contribution does not exceed that of the French funding bodies.

The Board decided to award eight research grants of EUR 12,240 each to distressed Ukrainian citizens for research to be carried out in Finland. Additionally, the Board decided to set aside EUR 150,000 for the Ukraine grants and authorised the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Permanent Secretary to jointly decide on the award of these grants.

A symposium entitled "Science in the service of democracy" was held in the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre during 9–10 November 2022 in collaboration with the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg. A programme committee composed of Jan Sundberg (Chair), Niklas Bruun and Mats Gyllenberg was appointed.

The Board nominated a candidate for the Young Academy Finland.

At the general meeting, the new members Ulrika Candolin, Eero Castrén, Ruth Illman, Miska Luoto, Erika Löfström, Minna Palmroth, Jouko Rikkinen, Indre Zliobaite and Monika Österberg received their membership diplomas. Foreign members Antonio Bascones-Martinez and Hans Walter Gabler watched the ceremony online. Sarah Butcher, Mikael Fogelholm and Eva Heiskanen were unable to attend. The new members also received a facsimile edition of the Society's original statutes of 1838, a Sphinx tie or scarf, the Society's pin as well as a brochure about the Society. The Society's fanfare "Fanfare, quasi improvisando" composed by Mr Tarasti was performed by Arttu Sipilä.

Those awarded a half or full grant by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation received their diplomas from Foundation Chair Mikael Swanljung. After this, champagne was served to welcome the new members and to pay tribute to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation laureates.

After the meeting, 58 members and the Secretary had a dinner at the Helsinki Bourse Club inviting the new members to attend as guests.

### *Statutory annual meeting of 29 April 2022 at the House of the Estates*

The Permanent Secretary presented his annual report for the period 30 April 2021–29 April 2022. The Treasurer presented his report for 2021 and the draft budget for 2022. The meeting adopted the budget. The Board was granted discharge from liability.

Hannu Koskinen was appointed Chair of the Society up to the 2023 annual meeting and Jan Sundberg Vice Chair. Under the new statutes, the Society Chair and Vice Chair also serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Society Board.

The meeting confirmed the appointees to the Board proposed by the sections for 2021–2022 including their alternates as follows (alternates in brackets):

Mathematics and Physics Section: Heikki Tenhu (Minna Palmroth),  
Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff (Dan Lindholm),  
Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Jussi Pakkasvirta),  
Social Sciences Section: John Sumelius (Mikael Collan).

Charlotte Wolff was appointed the ‘ninth’ member of the Board up to the annual meeting of 2023.

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

Robert Söderlund, APA, was elected the auditor of the Society (deputised by Ernst & Young AB). Rune Stenbacka and Christer Carlsson continued to serve as operations inspector and deputy inspector, respectively.

After the annual meeting at the House of the Estates, the members went to the Old Student House for a festive meal with their companions and other invited guests. Before dinner, the Chair and the Permanent Secretary presented the Society Prize. Bengt Nyholm, who had served as the Society’s auditor since 2011 and was about to resign, was awarded the Society’s bronze medals. The speech of the evening was delivered by Markku Suksi. The string quartet Loisto entertained the guests playing Mozart, Mancini and Monnot.

### **Presentations given at Society meetings during the reporting period**

Monday 17 May 2021 (remote meeting)

Elina Ikonen: “Fat research at cellular level”

Camilla Lindholm: “Is it possible to give advice on communications?”

Monday 20 September 2021 (remote meeting)

Kai Mikkonen: “The terrorist novel and the structure of sympathy”

Janne Saarikivi: “The Eurasian and European background of the Finnish language. New interpretations of the origin of Uralian languages”

Peter Söderlund: “Voting for individuals and its consequences”



Monday 18 October 2021 (remote meeting)

Johanna Mappes: "150 years since Alfred Russel Wallace's research: Can animal colours still teach us something new about natural selection?"

Charlotta Wolff: "Digital source criticism and enlightened networks: the philosophical Europe of Count G. Ph. Creutz, 1774-1783"

Monday 15 November 2021 at the House of the Estates

Maria Lähteenmäki: "New coastal history: new approaches to environmental history"

Matti Miestamo: "On the research into the complexity of languages"

Monday 20 December 2021 (remote meeting)

Sirpa Wrede: "Intersections of old age, immigration and social disadvantage"

Monday 17 January 2022 (remote meeting)

Martin Gustafsson: "The importance of pause for human action"

Elina Pirjatanniemi: "Multidisciplinary refugee law - can the legal scientist benefit from quantitative research design"

Monday 21 February 2022 (remote meeting)

Kirsi Jahnukainen: "Fertility of a child with cancer can be preserved"

Altti Kuusamo: "The mystery of identification. Problems of pictorial semiotics."

Monday 21 March 2022 at the House of the Estates

Sara Heinämaa: "Science as Vocation and Values of Love: A Phenomenological-Philosophical Explication"

Annual celebration, Friday 29 April 2022 at the Old Student House

Markku Suksi: "Digitalisation of the workings of government through automated decision-making and AI: background, boundaries and regulatory efforts"

### **Eulogies given at Society meetings during the reporting period**

Monday 15 November 2021 at the House of the Estates

Kai Simons: Eulogy for Professor Christian Ehnholm

Carl G. Gahmberg: Eulogy for Academician Albert de la Chapelle

Monday 21 March 2022 at the House of the Estates

Juhani Härmä: Eulogy for Professor Timo Riiho

Pauliina Remes: Eulogy for Professor Lilli Alanen

### **Publication activities**

Scientific publications are an important part of the activities of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters. Most books are published in one of the Society's series, of which *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk* is the oldest still in print and been published since the 1850s.

In the early 1960s, Society member and then Chancellor of the University of Helsinki Edwin Linkomies put forward the idea of publishing a monograph series on the history of science and learning in Finland during the period of the Imperial Alexander University from 1828 to 1918. The Society accepted the challenge and announced at its 125th anniversary on 29 April 1963, in the presence of the President of the Republic Urho Kekkonen, that such a series of 27 volumes would be published. The first editor of the series was Georg Henrik von Wright and the first volume, No. 8. The History of Botany in Finland 1828 - 1918 by Runar Collander and Yrjö Ilvessalo, was published in 1965. Now, 59 years later, we are pleased to announce that the series has finally been completed – the last volume on the history of philosophy and psychology, written by Juha Manninen, Juhani Ihanus, Marja Jalava and Ilkka Niiniluoto and edited by Kalevi Rikkinen, was published in autumn 2021. A book release was held in Helsinki on 27 October 2021 at the meeting of the Philosophers Club.

The Society has already initiated a new book project, this time on the history of science during Finland's independence. The initiative has been welcome by the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, the Finnish Literary Society, the Finnish Historical Society, the National Archives and the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, and the project will be implemented in collaboration with these organisations.

The Society's publications are published in consultation with the Finnish Academy of Sciences 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. Juha Janhunen served as the editor of *Sphinx*, Stig-Olof Londen for the series *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk*, Jan Sundberg for the series *Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium* and Kalevi Rikkinen for the series *History of Learning and Science in Finland 1828—1918*. Mika Kajava was the editor of the series *Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum*.

The printing costs, including editing and distribution, incurred in 2021 amounted to EUR 89,773.08 while EUR 14,088.02 was earned in sales revenue. State aid for the Society's publication activities was EUR 39,000 for 2021, and EUR 42,000 for 2022.

In the 2019–2020 reporting period, the Society issued eight volumes, totalling 2,283 pages as follows:

*Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk* (ed. Stig-Olof Londen):

219 Markus Ahlskog: A review of Finland's early nuclear history. 2022. 266 pp.

218 H.K. Riikonen: From Finland and abroad. Yrjö Niiniluoto and his literary works. 2021. 329 pp.

*Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum* (ed. Mika Kajava):

141 Heikki Solin: Da Rodolfo Pio ai Farnese. Storia di due collezioni epigrafiche urbane. 2021. 432 pp.

140 Ilkka Kuivalainen: The Portrayal of Pompeian Bacchus. 2021. 285 pp.

*Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium* (ed. Jan Sundberg)

81 Kristiina Silvan: Legacies of the Komsomol. Afterlife of the Leninist Communist Youth League and Contemporary State - Affiliated Youth Activism in Post-Soviet Russia and Belarus. 2022. 115 pp.

80 Veera Laine: Nationalism as an Argument in Contemporary Russia. Four Perspectives on Language in Action. 2021. 177 pp.

*The History of Learning and Science in Finland 1828-1918* (ed. Kalevi Rikkinen)

19 Juha Manninen, Juhani Ihanus, Marja Jalva, Ilkka Niiniluoto: A History of Philosophy and Psychology in Finland, 1809-1917. 2021. 424 pp.

*Sphinx* (ed. Juha Janhunen):  
Årsbok — Vuosikirja — Yearbook 2020—2021, 255 pp.

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

## **Prizes and grants**

The purpose of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters is to promote science. This is accomplished, *inter alia*, by awarding prizes and research grants. The prizes were presented at the Society's annual meeting in the Old Student House on 29 April.

The Professor E.J. Nyström Prize is awarded annually for scientific accomplishments alternating between the four sections. This year the prize (EUR 30,000) was given to Member Janne Saarikivi.

The Professor Theodor Homén Prize in physics (EUR 20,000) was awarded to Professor Mika Sillanpää (Aalto University) and the prize for Finnish history (EUR 20,000) to Professor Petri Karonen (University of Jyväskylä).

The Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize is awarded annually alternating between mathematics, chemistry and physics. The 2022 prize (EUR 20,000) went to Professor of Theoretical Particle Physics Aleksi Vuorinen (University of Helsinki).

The Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant “to an eminent researcher mainly in theoretical physics and related fields” was awarded to Jani Penttala, MA (University of Jyväskylä). The grant is worth EUR 10,000.

The Society awards annually three prizes to teachers whose students have successfully continued to pursue university studies in their respective fields. Candidates can be proposed by private individuals, schools and other organisations. The Society was pleased to note that this year upper secondary level students had put forward their own teachers. Each prize consists of a personal award of EUR 5000 for the teacher and an award of EUR 2000 for the school. The subjects vary from year to year. This year's winners are Anna-Stina Lindholm (teacher in mother tongue, philosophy and ethics at the Lärkan Upper Secondary School in Helsinki); Paula Perkkalainen (chemistry at the Kauriala Upper Secondary School in Hämeenlinna); and Laura Vuorela (history and social studies at the Medialukio Upper Secondary School in Helsinki).

In 2022, the Society awarded 55 grants and research stipends totalling EUR 636,093, almost one and a half times more than in 2021, twice as much as in 2020 and close to three times more than in 2019. This is partly due to the Board's decision in 2019 to significantly increase awards in the coming years; and partly to the additional support provided for Ukrainian researchers, who have been compelled to flee from their native country or have been unable to return because of Russia's war of aggression. The increase was made possible by the strong performance of the stock market.

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

	2022		2021	
	No.	EUR	No.	EUR
Mathematics and Physics Section:	6	30,008	2	12,220
Biosciences Section:	15	251,912	13	244,690
Humanities Section:	16	183,320	15	149,141
Social Sciences Section:	4	17,910	3	21,419
Sohlberg Fund:	2	10,143	3	13,200
Ukraine grants:	12	142,800		
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>636,093 euro</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>440,670</b>

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 held in these countries. Funding is also provided for cotutelle doctoral students. Cotutelle means that a PhD student is registered at both a French and a Finnish university to complete doctoral degrees at both. Year 2022 saw the award of 25 individual stipends of EUR 1200 each as well as three grants of EUR 6000 for conference attendance.

Of the total amount of EUR 48,000, the Society contributed EUR 14,400, the Academy of Sciences and Letters EUR 6900 and the French financiers EUR 24,000. In addition, two cotutelle doctoral students received funding from the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters engages in close cooperation with the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation. Under the Foundation statutes, the Society Board is to submit its award proposal to the Foundation Board annually. During the reporting period, the Board worked out a strategy for the award of grants and scholarships by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation. The new strategy underlines that the distribution of grants among the scientific disciplines supported by the Foundation must be based on the quality of the applications instead of any pressures exerted, say, by a large number of applications.

As a general rule, grants awarded to doctoral and post-doctoral researchers cover the entire period of time needed to complete the work. Hence, doctoral students may be supported for up to four years and post-doctoral researchers for two or three years. This represents an improvement on previous practice when grants were awarded for one year at a time.

In 2022, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation awarded over EUR 2.3 million in grants, stipends, donations and prizes. Of this, EUR 1.9 million was granted 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 post-graduate students. Additionally, the Foundation awarded, on the recommendation of the Society, EUR 400,000 to the University of Helsinki for the establishment of a Swedish chair in artificial intelligence.

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 2022, the following six researchers received grants totalling EUR 170,000: Daniel Ahlberg (mathematics, University of Stockholm); Michael Busch (chemistry, Aalto University); Jan Deska (chemistry, University of Helsinki); Lotta Happonen (chemistry, University of Lund); Daniel Strand (chemistry, University of Lund); and Jussi Väliiviita (cosmology, University of Helsinki). Additionally, the Foundation contributed EUR 100,000 to the University of Helsinki towards the establishment of a Swedish chair in artificial intelligence.

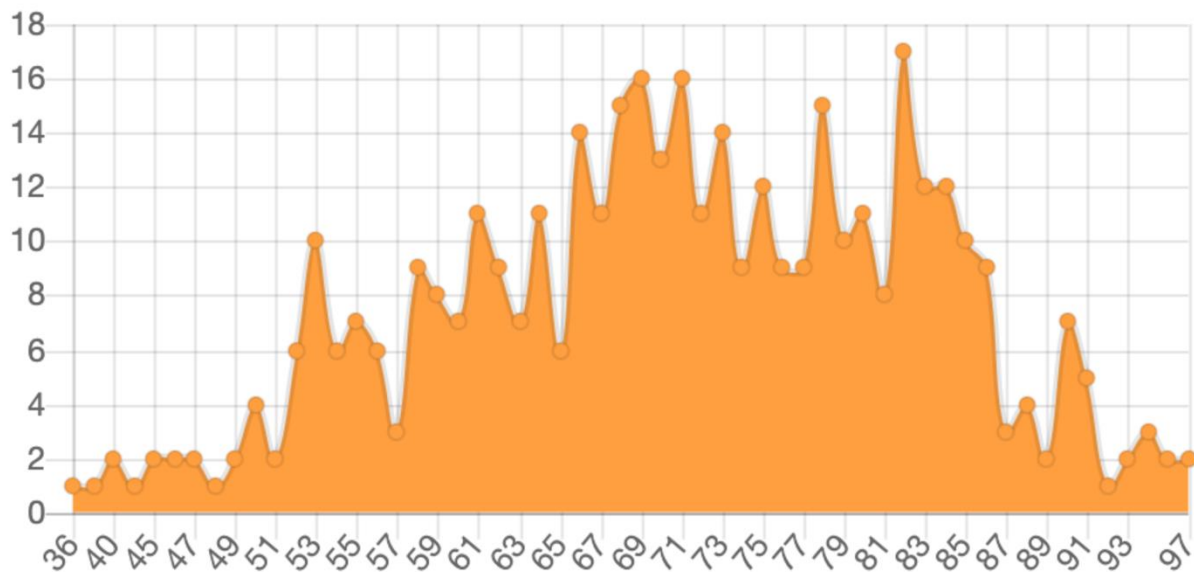
## Members

At the end of the reporting period, the Society had a total of 409 members. Of them, 285 were ordinary members and 116 foreign members. Additionally, the Society had six Finnish and two foreign honorary members.

In the 2018–2019 annual report, I brought up the skewed age and gender distribution among the Society's membership. Four years ago, the Society had only nine member younger than 50 and only 55 female members. I am pleased to note that the members have taken this into account in proposing new members. As a result, the number of members under 50 has more than doubled and the number of women increased by one third. The age and gender distribution of the membership by section is shown in the following table:

Section	Ordinary members					Foreign members	Honorary members	Total
	Over 67	50–66	Under 50	Total	Women			
Math./Phys.	37	26	5	68	12	30	3	101
Biosc.	50	26	4	80	18	27	0	107
Hum.	40	23	6	69	24	37	3	109
Soc.Sc.	38	25	5	68	19	22	2	92
Total	165	100	20	285	73	116	8	409

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



Five ordinary members and one foreign members passed away during the reporting period.

Professor Timo Riiho was born on 17 February 1950 and died on 12 June 2021. He was the professor of iberian-romance languages at the University of Helsinki from 1983 until retirement. He was admitted to the Society in 2010.

Anja Kervanto Nevanlinna was born on 23 September 1949 and died on 12 September 2021. She served as adjunct professor in urban history and architecture at the University of Helsinki. She joined the Society in 2012.

Professor Lilli Alanen died on 22 October 2021 at the age of 80. She was born on 16 October 1941. Anja Alanen was appointed professor at Uppsala University in 1997 as the first female professor of philosophy. He was admitted to the Society in 2000.

Torsten Edgren worked at the Finnish Heritage Agency from 1972 to 1999, first as head of the research department and later as head of the archaeological department. He was born on 18 May 1934 and died on 29 November 2021. He joined the Society in 1982.

Marketta Sundman began her academic career at the Åbo Akademi University and was appointed professor of Nordic philology at the University of Turku in 1998. She was born on 12 March 1949 and died on 21 April 2022. She was admitted to the Society in 2003.

Olof Beckman was professor of solid state physics at Uppsala University from 1968 to 1987. He was born on 18 November 1922 and died on 23 October 2021. He was invited to join the Society in 1985.

The Society finds it inappropriate to deliver eulogies remotely. There are still members who died in 2020, but for whom eulogies have not yet been given due to the pandemic.

## **Board and positions of trust**

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

Chair: Hannu Koskinen

Vice Chair: Jan Sundberg

Permanent Secretary: Mats Gyllenberg

Treasurer: Niklas Bruun

Mathematics and Physics Section: Heikki Tenhu (Paula Eerola)

Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff (Dan Lindholm)

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Hanna Snellman)

Social Sciences Section: John Sumelius (Mikael Collan)

Ninth member: Charlotta Wolff

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

Mathematics and Physics Section: Antti Kupiainen (Susanne Wiedmer).

Biosciences Section: Kristina Lindström (Dan Lindholm).

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Matti Miestamo).

Social Sciences Section: Gunilla Widén (Elianne Riska).

The nomination committee was composed of Mats Gyllenberg (Chair), Susanna Fellman, Vineta Fellman, Urpo Nikanne and Timo Vesala.

Election committees:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Antti Kupiainen (Chair), Paul Hoyer, Marja-Liisa Riekkola, Tapio Salmi and Pauline Stenberg.

Biosciences Section: Kristina Lindström (Chair), Vesa Olkkonen, Johanna Mappes and Lea Sistonen.

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Chair), Sara Heinämaa, Mika Lavento, Janne Saarikivi and Charlotta Wolff.

Social Sciences Section: Gunilla Widén (Chair), Niklas Bruun and Jan Sundberg.

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

The auditor was Bengt Nyholm, APA, and operations inspector Rune Stenbacka. The alternates were Ernst & Young and Christer Carlsson, respectively.

## **Members of the prize and grant committees**

Prize and grant committees during the reporting period:

*Professor E.J. Nyström Prize.* Juha Janhunen (Chair), Mikael Collan, Kari Enqvist, Mikael Fortelius, Auli Hakulinen and Eero Tarasti.

*Professor Theodor Homén Prize in Finnish History:* Pauline von Bonsdorff (Chair), Henrik Knif, Jan-Ivar Lindén and Pia Olsson.

*Professor Theodor Homén Prize in Physics:* Hannu Koskinen (Chair), Kai Nordlund and Päivi Törmä.

*Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Grant:* Hannu Koskinen and Kari Enqvist.

*Grant committees for Society grants*

Mathematics and Physics Section: Gustaf Gripenberg, Juhani Keinonen (convener) and Marja-Liisa Riekkola.

Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff, Eija Kalso and Martin Romantschuk (convener).

Humanities Section: Arja Karivieri (convener), Camilla Lindholm, Kai Mikkonen and Sami Pihlström.

Social Sciences Section: Carsten Anckar, Elianne Riska (convener) and Lena Sisula-Tulokas.

*Sohlberg Delegation:* Carl Ehlers, Mikael Fortelius, Hannu Koskinen, Franciska Sundholm and John Westerholm

*Grant committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation:* Peter Johansson, Dan Lindholm, Mikael Lindström, Tapio Salmi and Päivi Törmä.

*Expert committee for the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation* Mats Gyllenberg (Chair), Peter Johansson, Susanne Wiedmer and Professor Johan Håstad (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences).

The Society is regularly asked to propose candidates for prizes awarded by other organisations. To this end, each section appoints every three years a prize nominations committee composed of three to five members of the Section, inclusive of the convener, for a term of three years. The committee's task is to submit to the Board a substantiated proposal for the prize winner. The committee may also recommend that no candidate be proposed by the Society. The Board forwards its recommendation for the prize winner to the awarding organisation based on this proposal.

Prize nomination committees for 2022–2024:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Hannu Koskinen, Johanna Tamminen and Susanne Wiedmer.

Biosciences Section: Mikael Fogelholm, Johanna Mappes and Seppo Meri.

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff, Juhani Härmä and Jan-Ivar Lindén.

Social Sciences Section: Niklas Bruun, Jan Sundberg and Gunilla Widén.

## **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 Hannu Koskinen



deputised by Jan Sundberg. 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 293 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 Hannu Riikonen (alternate Jukka Meurman) and Mats Gyllenberg (alternate Hanna Snellman; as of 1 January 2022 Heikki Tenhu). Additionally, Sara Heinämaa and Jouko Rikkinen, Niklas Bruun (up to 31 Dec 2021) and Elina Ikonen represent other organisations as alternates. Mats Gyllenberg serves as Chair of the Support Section.

Society members have also held positions of trust in the Academy of Finland. Paula Eero was appointed President of the Academy on 1 March 2022. From 2019 to 2021, Per Mickwitz served as Vice Chair of the Board of the Academy of Finland. Anni Huhtala, Keijo Hämäläinen and Hanna Snellman were members of the Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee. Since 1 January 2022, Matti Miestamo has served as a member of the Research Council for Culture and Society and Anne Kovalainen on the Strategic Research Council.

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

On the national committees, the Society is represented by Pekka Tanskanen (geodesy and geophysics); Juri Poutanen and Edward Hæggström (scientific radio research); Mikael Fortelius (quaternary research); Mikael Fortelius and Erik Bonsdorff (biology); Tuomas Hytönen, Antti Kupiainen, Pertti Mattila and Eero Saksman (mathematics); Rolf Stenberg and Kai Nordlund (mechanics); Alf Norkko (marine research); Hannu Koskinen deputised by Alf Norkko (polar research); Juri Poutanen (astronomy); Jukka Finne (biosciences); Markku Kulmala and Jari Niemelä (Future Earth Finland); Dan Lindholm (brain research); Markku Leskelä and Susanne 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 on the steering group of the Science Forum 2023 and Jan Sundberg on the organizing committee.

A more detailed list of the Society's representatives in scientific organisations and communities is published in *Sphinx 2021–2022*.

## **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 IT maintenance**

Kenneth Lundström of NuData is responsible for the Society's IT maintenance and support. The Society is very grateful for the expert assistance provided by 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. Her workload has been particularly heavy during the pandemic. For my own part and on behalf of the Society as a whole, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to her.