

Annual Report of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters 30 April 2023–29 April 2024

Issued by Permanent Secretary

Mats Gyllenberg

A year of intensive activity

During its 186 years of existence, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters has never experienced a year as packed with programmes and activities as the 2023–2024 reporting period. The Society has organised or been a major co-organiser of no less than fifteen symposia and scientific events. The planning of future programmes shows that the pace is unlikely to slow down in the near-term future. Publishing has also increased in volume.

The project *The History of Science in Independent Finland*, launched by the Society in the 2021–2022 financial year, is continuing as planned. An important addition to the budget is the grant of EUR 280,000 for the years 2024–2025 awarded by the Alfred Kordelin Foundation.

The plan is to publish a series of books in Finnish and Swedish on scientific research in Finland since 1917. One volume summarising the contents of the series will be published in English. One innovative element in the series is a collection of stories and experiences gained by Finnish researchers or scientists working in Finland during the reporting period. The collection is designed to document the ways in which progress has been made in the various scientific disciplines in Finland. ‘Tell by writing’ is an excellent way of increasing our knowledge of the developments that the writers have witnessed and participated in. Scientists' personal experiences are a valuable source of information for studying the advancement of science.

The project will be carried out jointly 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. The project is headed by Henrik Meinander (Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters), Jari Ojala (Finnish Academy of Science and Letters) and Heini Hakosalo (University of Oulu) and coordinated by Stefan Nygård.

During the reporting period, the Society intensified its existing co-operation with foreign academies and established new contacts. Representatives of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, including its President Tarmo Soomere, were invited to the Uusikaupunki Peace Symposium held in August 2023. In April 2024, the Society organised a joint symposium with the Estonian Academy of Sciences in Tallinn. In the following financial year, the Society will host the 19th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation to which academies of science from Poland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden will also be invited.

Society's mission

In the autumn of 2023, the Society Board reformulated the Society's mission adopting the following text on 19 February 2024:

Swedish: Finska Vetenskaps-Societeten, grundad år 1838, är en akademiskt stringent, samhällsrelevant och oberoende vetenskapsakademi. Vi försvarar forskningens frihet, lyfter fram

aktuella frågor och belyser dem ur mångvetenskapliga och globala perspektiv. Finska Vetenskaps-Societeten stöder forskning av hög kvalitet.

Finnish: Vuonna 1838 perustettu Suomen Tiedeseura on akateemisesti tinkimätön ja yhteiskunnallisesti merkityksellinen riippumaton tiedeakatemia. Tiedeseura puolustaa tieteen vapautta, tukee korkeatasoista tieteellistä tutkimusta ja nostaa esiin ajankohtaisia kysymyksiä tarkastellen niitä monitieteisistä ja globaaleista näkökulmista.

English: The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, founded in 1838, is an academically rigorous, societally relevant and independent academy. We defend freedom of research, highlight current issues and illuminate them from a multidisciplinary and global perspective. The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters supports high-quality research.

Gift

The Society received a valuable gift donated by its member Bo Lönnqvist. It is an original mezzotint depicting Carolus Linnæus wearing a Lappish costume.



The engraving was made in London in 1805 and is modelled on an oil portrait by Martin Hoffman from 1737. There are three contemporary versions of the portrait, all by Hoffman. One is at the Linné Museum in Uppsala, one in Leiden at the Naturalis Museum and one in the Boerhaave

Museum. During his journey through Lapland, Linnæus acquired the costume together with a magic drum and took it with him to the Netherlands when he travelled there to defend his doctoral thesis in medicine at Leiden University in 1735. The motif was still quite unique at the time, but it is linked to the emerging contemporary trends in ethnography and ethnicity.

Carl von Linné was in many ways a transnational figure, and hence the engraving can be seen as a symbol of the mission and activities of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters. The engraving hangs on the wall of the Elias conference room of the Society.

Bo Lönnqvist has given an informative talk about the engraving, which can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel.

The Society is truly grateful for the gift.

Symposia and other events

Here are summaries of the events organised by the Society. Most of them have been recorded and can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel.

29 May 2023 Joint symposium with the French Institute in Finland

The symposium, which took place in the premises of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7, was organised within the framework of the Maupertuis Programme. Four of the programme's cotutelle doctoral students gave presentations on their research. The doctoral students' studies have been funded by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

Programme:

Welcoming address by Mats Gyllenberg, Permanent Secretary of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters

Lukas Enders: Design and Synthesis of Novel Chiral Au-NHC Complexes for Enantioselective Catalysis

Thuy-Linh Phi: Fundamental research to designing new cellulose-based material

Yusuf Yusuf Oluwatoki: Full-Wave Radar Imaging of Small Solar System Bodies Interior

Sarah Massad: The Control of Cancer Cell Adhesion and Migration by Mechanosensitive Calcium Channels

Thank-you speech by Institut Français de Finlande

After the symposium, French Ambassador Agnès Cukierman hosted a dinner at the French Embassy.

18–19 August 2023 Uusikaupunki Peace Symposium

The fourth Uusikaupunki Peace Symposium was held 18–19 August 2023. This was the third time the Society was a co-organiser. The theme of the symposium was Estonia. Hannu Koskinen, Minna Palmroth and Janne Saarikivi from the Society contributed to the programme with presentations and panel discussions.

Hannu Koskinen answered fourth graders' questions about space in the session 'Ask anything'; Janne Saarikivi gave a talk entitled 'Will anyone speak Finnish and Estonian 100 years from now?' and participated in the panel discussion 'Quo vadis - Myths held by Finns and Estonians about each other'; and Minna Palmroth discussed the subject of 'Who owns the space?' with Mart Noorma of the University of Dorpat.

28 September 2023, Climate and Adaptation, House of Sciences, Helsinki

The programme included 15 presentations divided into 5 thematic blocks, as well as a concluding panel discussion, where the key issues of the day were addressed in dialogue with the audience. Hannu Koskinen, President of the Society, opened the symposium, and Dan Lindholm, Chair of the Biosciences Section, gave an introduction to the theme.

The first session addressed global climate change and adaptation, with two general presentations:

- (1) Timo Vesala of the University of Helsinki gave an overview of the processes driving the global climate, and the impact of different greenhouse gases (CO₂ and CH₄) as well as sinks/leaks on the global and regional climate.
- (2) Magnus Nyström of the Stockholm Resilience Centre described how humans are exceeding the planet's carrying capacity (planetary boundaries), and how the Holocene Era is being replaced by the Anthropocene, during which humans are having such a large footprint in nature (Nyström spoke of shock therapy) that we are, globally speaking, undoubtedly one of the major factors driving the climate change.

The second session addressed the theme of ecosystem effects in time and space, with four presentations shedding light on the subject based on satellite measurements, paleoecological approaches, and examples from the ocean and coastal areas:

- (1) Johanna Tamminen of the Finnish Meteorological Institute presented global, regional and national applications of satellite measurements to gather data for general and specific modelling of greenhouse gas variations in space and time.
- (2) Mikael Fortelius of the University of Helsinki addressed the evolution and distribution of species in terms of time and space over different climatic epochs. He showed how species adapt and can become invasive, taking over ecosystems locally, regionally and globally.
- (3) Anna Törnroos-Remes of the Åbo Akademi University discussed the oceans' capacity for adaptation and/or transformation, showing how both the ecosystem of one of the major climate engines on Earth (the Arctic Ocean) and the regional marginal sea, the Baltic Sea, have been drastically affected by climate change (mainly through rising temperatures with secondary effects on other environmental factors and on species distribution), and how systems are facing regime shifts, i.e., ecological tipping points, where natural resilience is disrupted, cascading effects drive development, and ecosystems reach new ecological states.
- (4) Alf Norkko of the Tvärminne Zoological Station gave a presentation of the Baltic Sea coastal ecosystem from a climate perspective, starting with a global comparison of different coastal environments and how the carbon balance (sinks and leaks) in different biotope types is dependent on climate (with temperature as the overall driver).

The third session addressed matters of livelihood and sustainable development, with four presentations discussing global, regional (continental) and local (national) food production in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals from different perspectives in relation to the large-scale climate change affecting global crop and livestock production:

(1) Kristina Lindström of the University of Helsinki illustrated the potential of agriculture in relation to global sustainability limits (cf. Magnus Nyström's presentation), and to ecological tipping-points.

(2) John Sumelius of the University of Helsinki gave an overview of how the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be taken into account, and the challenges of adapting to changing climate conditions when humans use most of the arable land.

(3) Mila Sell of the Natural Resources Institute of Finland gave in her presentation examples of concrete action taken under the Healthy Food Africa project: How to create the framework and conditions for small-scale, localised farming, while at the same time developing large-scale production (many countries in Africa have gone from exporting agricultural products to being dependent on imports).

(4) Juuso Jooa of the University of Helsinki gave an overview of how the carbon cycle and the potential of different soil types to sequester carbon and nutrients in soils can be taken into account in Finnish agriculture from both a climate and ecosystem perspective.

The fourth session focused on the theme of Climate and Health, and the three presentations touched on a wide range of topics related to medicine, health and the environment (where the environment and people's living conditions reflect the environment and climate, and where medical advances illustrate adaptation to a changing world):

(1) Aki Sinkkonen of the Natural Resources Institute Finland and University of Helsinki gave in his presentation examples of how changing living conditions (hygiene, rural/urban etc.) affect immune responses in children.

(2) Tarja Sironen of the University of Helsinki gave examples of the spread of pathogens in terms of time and space, and how climate and the environment contribute to the spread of tick-borne diseases when ticks spread over larger areas, and how changing migration patterns of birds can contribute to the rapid spread of the avian influenza.

(3) Tari Haahtela of the HUS Inflammation Centre addressed in his presentation matters related to biodiversity and health, with a focus on microbial diversity. He showed how some allergies and hypersensitivity symptoms have increased with increasing urbanisation and general wealth, while people in poorer regions with lower hygiene standards (coupled with lower environmental stress in the form of direct pollution) have lower rates of allergies.

The fifth thematic session discussed broad questions related to the climate, sustainability goals, adaptation and transformation of the entire society focusing on people with due regard to the ecosystem and the environment as the supporting framework:

(1) Eeva Furman of the Prime Minister's Office presented various options for adaptation and transformation into a sustainable society driven by global and regional climate change.

(2) Mikael Hildén of the Finnish Environment Institute concluded by addressing the difficult and complex issues of adaptation and transformation of society in a situation where the problems (climate change and threats to biodiversity) are transboundary, but the solutions must be both national and international.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion covering the key issues of the day, highlighting in particular the question of planetary sustainability boundaries, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the complete dominance of humans within the interconnected global macro-ecosystem. The audience was actively engaged in the discussions on the large-scale drivers of adaptation and transformation, livelihood issues, threats to biodiversity, the long term approach (using the evolutionary past as a pointer for future developments), and matters of public policy, politics and responsibility (ranging from individual, communal and national to global responsibility).

The discussion was chaired by Erik Bonsdorff.

7 October 2023 Research and development funding, how will the money be distributed? Thematic evening in collaboration with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, House of Sciences, Helsinki

Together with The Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, the Society organised a thematic evening on research funding on 7 October 2023 at the House of Sciences in Helsinki. The programme opened with speeches by Paula Eerola, Director General of the Academy of Finland; Riikka Heikinheimo, Director of the Confederation of Finnish Industries; Keijo Hämäläinen, Rector of the University of Tampere; and Ilkka Niiniluoto, academician. A lively debate ensued after the opening addresses. The event was open to the public, with Kari Raivio serving as the moderator.

The evening ended with a joint dinner for the Academy and Society members the Helsinki Bourse Club.

9 October 2023 Symposium in memory of Professor Matti Klinge

Matti Klinge, the honorary member of the Society, passed away on 5 March 2023. To honour his memory, a memorial seminar was held on 9 October 2023, co-organised by the Society together with the Society of the Friends of History; the University of Helsinki; the City of Helsinki; the South Finland Student Union; the University of Helsinki Student Union; the Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation; the Niilo Helander Foundation; and the Mannerheim Museum.

Laura Kolbe and Henrik Meinander served on the organising committee, and Laura Kolbe gave a speech at the reception at the City Hall after the seminar.

12 October 2023 Lithium – can we do without it, Porthania, University of Helsinki

Lithium is an element that has been used as a medicine for a long time. Today, it is becoming extremely important, mainly in the form of lithium-ion batteries, which are used in mobile phones and electric cars, among others. The symposium discussed the occurrence of lithium and its use as

both a medicine and a battery material. Examples of alternative methods of energy production were also given.

The programme consisted of the following six presentations.

Occurrence of lithium on Earth – Petri Peltonen, Professor of Practice, Department of Geosciences and Geography

Mining Act – Kai Kokko, Professor of Environmental Law, University of Helsinki

Lithium as medicine – Tomi Rantamäki, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Helsinki

How lithium batteries work – Tanja Kallio, Professor of Electrochemistry, Aalto University

Sodium battery – David Brown, CEO, Broadbit Batteries

Flow battery – Lasse Murtomäki, Professor of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry, Aalto University

The event was open to the public.

18 October 2023 Half a century of Finnish refugee policy – from the Chilean coup to the present day, Science Corner, Helsinki

September 11th 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the fascist coup d'état in Chile in which the democratically elected President Salvador Allende was assassinated. The Finnish Government, led by Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa, decided that Finland would accept political refugees from Chile. All in all, close to 200 refugees arrived in Finland. Despite their small numbers, the Chilean refugees received a lot of media coverage – after all, they were the first large group of refugees in Finland from a non-European country.

While the symposium focussed on the 1973 coup d'état and the refugee problems that followed, refugee policy was also discussed from today's perspective.

The symposium was organised jointly by the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters and the University of Helsinki; Historians Without Borders; the Finnish United Nations Association; the Finnish Refugee Council; the Migration Institute of Finland; and the Embassy of Chile in Finland.

The symposium opened with the following three presentations:

Matti Välimäki, PhD: 'The 1973 admission decision as part of the long-term evolution of Finnish refugee policy'

Jussi Pakkasvirta: 'How did the Chilean coup change the Nordic countries?'

Adrian Soto, M.A.: 'As a Chilean in Finland - adaptation and change'

Moderator: Auli Leskinen, PhD

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion on the subject of 'Finnish refugee policy in the past and today'. Panel participants:

CEO Annu Lehtinen, Finnish Refugee Council
CEO Tobias van Treeck, IOM Finland
Berivan Suleiman, Refugee of the Year 2023
Alfonso Padilla, PhD

Serving as moderators were Auli Leskinen, PhD, and Erkki Tuomioja, PhD.

26 October 2023, Nobel Debate, Sanoma House, Helsinki

The traditional Nobel Debate was held on 26 October 2023 in Sanoma House. As in the past, the organisers were the Helsingin Sanomat newspaper; the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters; the Finnish Academy of Sciences; the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences in Finland; the Academy of Engineering Sciences; the Council of Finnish Academies (CoFA); and the Association of Finnish Science Editors.

The experts participating in the debate were Research Director Mikko Frilander, (University of Helsinki); Professor Mika Pettersson (University of Jyväskylä); Professor Harri Lipsanen (Aalto University); and Professor Kristiina Huttunen (Aalto University).

15 January 2024 ‘Human Diversity - Multidisciplinary study of human diversity’, Tauno Nurmela Room, University of Turku

Before the regular monthly meeting on 15 January 2024 in Turku, a seminar was organised to present the multidisciplinary project ‘Evolution through contact and communication networks (Human Diversity)’. The project examines the evolution of human diversity in the context of population growth, migration, trade networks, today's digital communications, etc.

The following presentations were given in the course of the seminar:

Virpi Lummaa: What is Human Diversity?

Ronan O'Sullivan: Finnish data, global relevance

Mirkka Lahdenperä: Evolutive health research in Human Diversity

Päivi Onkamo: Archaeogenomic research in Human Diversity

Elina Salmela: Early medieval skull from Turku Cathedral - Bishop Henry?

Sanni Peltola: Shaman of Kitka, historical Sámi burial site in Kuusamo

Ulla Moilanen: Natural archaeology: Protein research

Georg Haggren: Study of Finland's East-West division in Human Diversity

Ulla Moilanen: New research resource for Human Diversity: Archaeological Artefact Database of Finland (AADA)

Outi Vesakoski: Evolutive language research in Human Diversity

25 January 2024, Night of Science

The Night of Science was celebrated in Helsinki on Thursday 25 January 2024 with close to fifty science-related events organised in the city during the evening and night. The Finnish Society of

Sciences and Letters participated in the Night of Science with its own programme at the Society's premises at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7 A in Kaartinkaupunki.

The event was open to the public.

Programme:

Jan Sundberg: 'Lolo' Krusius-Ahrenberg: Legacy of a pioneering woman

A journey into the past - The fate of Kurkijoki municipality during the Soviet era
Netta Böök, PhD (Aalto University) presented her fascinating work *Talot pysyvät, ihmiset vaihtuvat* (Houses stay, people come and go) which takes the reader deep into the story of the former municipality of Kurkijoki on the tranquil shores of Lake Ladoga. The author was interviewed by Professor Stig-Olof Londen of Aalto University.

Women of ancient Rome: Names and identities

Tuomo Nuorluoto, PhD, of the Finnish Institute in Rome and Professor Mika Kajava of the University of Helsinki, opened the discussion on the personal names of Roman women. Nuorluoto's book on the subject is entitled *Latin Female Cognomina. A Study on the Personal Names of Roman Women* was published in late 2023.

Forgotten writer and statesman - Olof Hermelin in the Swedish-Finnish era

Professor H.K. Riikonen of University of Helsinki shed light on the central role of a forgotten great man, Olof Hermelin, during the Swedish-Finnish superpower era. Olof Hermelin, a court writer to Karl XII and professor at the University of Tartu, immortalised the names of all the Finnish cities in his poems composed in Latin. The author was interviewed by Professor Stig-Olof Londen of Aalto University.

29 January 2024 Seminar on the history of science, Lolo Meeting Room, Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7

Johan Östling, Director of the Centre for the History of Knowledge (LUCK) at Lund University, gave a talk entitled 'The Europeanisation of the Universities: Transforming Knowledge Institutions, c. 1985–2010', followed by comments from Marja Jalava of the University of Tampere. The discussion was moderated by Stefan Nygård of the University of Helsinki.

15 February 2024 Language and understanding, Maija Room, Helsinki Central Library Oodi

The Oodi Central Library is an ideal place to organise symposia on language and literature as library visitors often find their way to events held in the building. The Society's symposium on language and understanding was well attended - both by Society members and the general public.

The bilingual symposium provided the following presentations:

Mats Gyllenberg: Opening address

Matti Miestamo: Diversity and similarity of languages - on the conditions for understanding in a global perspective

Juha Janhunen: Understanding language in time and space

Helena Lehečková: Multilingualism and the challenge of understanding – Who learns whose language

Arto Mustajoki: How could we understand each other when we all speak different languages?

Janne Saarikivi: How to understand the Finnish language – Universal and culture-specific lexical meanings and their roots

Johanna Isosävi: How Finnish and French people understand polite gestures shown by each other

Jan-Ola Östman: Understanding is not only about language - about integration in rural areas

Serving as moderators were Hannu Riikonen and Juhani Härmä.

15 March 2024 Symposium in memory of Holger Thesleff, Metsätalo, Hall 6, Unioninkatu 40, Helsinki

Holger Thesleff, an Honorary Member of the Society, died at the age of 98 on 3 October 2023. On 15 March 2024, the Society, together with the Classical Philological Society, organised a memorial symposium highlighting Thesleff's legacy to research in the history of philosophy and ancient culture, as well as his importance as a member of the scientific community. The speakers at the seminar were Thesleff's students as well as researchers familiar with his teaching and research.

Programme:

Mika Kajava: Opening address

Lassi Jakola: Plato's contexts

Pauliina Remes: Two worlds or two levels? Plato and Thesleff on the relation of observable reality to ideas

Mika Perälä: Types of reflexive knowledge in Plato's Charmides dialogue

Eero Salmenkivi: Recalling in Plato's Menon dialogue

Hannu Riikonen: Holger Thesleff and the aftereffect of the ancient civilisation

Ilkka Niiniluoto: Closing remarks

3–4 April 2024 Joint symposium with the Estonian Academy of Sciences in Tallinn

The President and Permanent Secretary of the Society visited Tallinn on 22 March 2022 and agreed with the President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tarmo Soomere, to commence cooperation. As a first step in this cooperation, Soomere participated in the Uusikaupunki Peace Symposium in August 2023. On this occasion, Soomere invited the Society to a joint symposium to be held in Tallinn.

The programme consisted of the following presentations:

Tarmo Soomere (President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences): An Overview of the Estonian Academy of Sciences

Hannu Koskinen, President of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters: An Overview of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters

Anne Kahru (member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences): From ecotoxicology to nanoecotoxicology

Erik Bonsdorff (member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters): From Fjords to the Continental Shelf: Marine Epibenthic Diversity of Northeast Greenland

Elmo Tempel (member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences): Cosmic Web and Galaxy Evolution in the Era of Large Surveys

Ronald Österbacka (member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters): Development of Next Generation Solar Cells

Gerson Klumpp (editor-in-chief, *Linguistica Uralica*): *Linguistica Uralica* and the Landscape of Journals in Finno-Ugric Studies

Markku Suksi (member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters): The Choice of Technology for Automated Decision-Making in Governmental Authorities – Is the Power to Make Decisions based on Law or on Statistics

Katrin Tiidenberg (alumnus, Estonian Young Academy of Sciences): Trust and Visuality in Everyday Digital Practices - Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?

Charlotta Wolff (member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters): French Comic Opera and Musical Circulation in the Northern Baltic, ca 1790–1840

Jeremias Berg (Young Academy Finland): Young Academy Finland

Martin Thalfeldt (member of the Estonian Young Academy of Sciences): Data-Driven Energy-Efficiency Improvement of Buildings

The symposium was closed with a joint dinner in the premises of the Estonian Academy of Sciences.

26 April 2024 Mechanisms of Primary Energy Transduction in Biology – symposium in memory of Mårten Wikström, House of Sciences, Kirkkokatu 6, Helsinki

Society member Mårten Wikström passed away on 7 January 2024. A memorial symposium was held in his honour on 26 April 2024. The symposium was organised by Ville Kaila and sponsored by the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters as well as the Tage Erlander Foundation in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Programme:

Ville Kaila (Stockholm University): ‘Deciphering mechanisms of primary energy transduction’

Sir John Walker (Cambridge University): ‘Mårten Wikström's contributions to oxidative phosphorylation: a historical perspective’

Gerhard Hummer (Max Planck Institute of Biophysics Frankfurt): ‘Going full circle: making and using ATP’

Bob Gennis (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign): ‘Structure, Function and Mechanism of Transhydrogenase’

Volker Zickermann (Goethe University Frankfurt): ‘Insights into Ion Transfer Mechanisms of Complex I and Mrp Antiporters’

Pia Ädelroth (Stockholm University): ‘The oxygen-reducing complexes in Mycobacterium smegmatis’

Carola Hunte (University of Freiburg): ‘Exploring the joint operation of Q cycle and proton pumping in respiration’

Thorsten Friedrich (University of Freiburg):

Jessica Swanson (University of Utah) ‘Celebrating the Gates that Enable Proton Pumping and the Vision of a True Scholar’

Bill Rutherford (Imperial College London): ‘Energy transduction in oxygenic photosynthesis’

Joachim Heberle (FU Berlin): ‘Ion Translocation in Microbial Rhodopsins Resolved in Space and Time’

Meetings of the Board and monthly meetings

As the House of the Estates is currently undergoing a renovation, the Society was unable to use the building for its meetings during the reporting period. Instead, with a few exceptions, the monthly meetings were held in the large auditorium (room 104) of the House of Sciences at Kirkkokatu 6, Helsinki.

The May 2023 meeting was traditionally held at the Finnish Medical Society's Villa Aikala in Meilahti, Helsinki. Similarly, the January 2024 meeting was held in Turku in keeping with the Society's traditions. This time the members convened in the premises of the University of Turku. The statutory annual meeting was held 22 April 2024 was in the Lolo meeting room in the Society's premises at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7.

The meetings were attended by 47 to 63 people, with an average of 55 participants per meeting, slightly less than in the previous year.

After each monthly meeting the members enjoyed a dinner at the Helsinki Bourse Club. However, after the May 2023 meeting, the dinner was organised at Villa Aikala, and after the January 2024 meeting in Turku, the dinner was enjoyed at Restaurant Grädda.

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.

15 May 2023

The Board decided to propose to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that it donate EUR 600,000 to Aalto University for Päivi Törmä's 'Super C' project. The budget for the Biosciences Section's symposium 'Climate and Adaptation' scheduled for 28 September 2023 was approved. Mikael Collan and Juha Vaara were proposed as members of the Publications Forum Steering Group (JuFo). The final decision is to be made by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. A decision was made to organise a joint scientific event in autumn 2023 together with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters on the theme of 'Financing research, development and innovation activities'. The Board decided that the Society would offer to organise the 19th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation in Helsinki in the spring of 2025.

At the annual meeting of 24 May 2023, the Board was asked to consider whether it would be more appropriate for the Permanent Secretary's report to cover a calendar year rather than the period between two annual meetings as is currently the case. The advantage offered by a calendar-year report is that it would coincide with the financial statements and the Treasurer's report for the financial year, which under the Society statutes is the calendar year.

According to the statutes, the annual meeting is to take place in April and elect the Board and the Administrative Board for a term that ends at the following annual meeting. The annual meeting also decides on the discharge from liability for the Board and Administrative Board. As the Permanent Secretary's report serves as an important basis for decision-making in the discharge from liability procedure, it should, therefore, cover the same period as the term of office of the Board and the Administrative Board. Changing the schedule for the annual report would therefore require an amendment to the statutes, which is hardly worth the effort, considering that the current practice has served its purpose well.

The Board decided that the annual report should continue to cover the period between two annual meetings.

At the general meeting, the sections announced their appointments to the nomination committees including their representatives on the prize committees for the Professor E.J. Nyström 2024 Prize and the Professor Theodor Homén 2024 Prize in Finland's History and the Teacher Prize.

Board meeting on 21 August 2023

The symposium 'Half a century of Finnish refugee policy – from the Chilean coup to the present day' is to be held on 18 October 2023 and organised jointly by the University of Helsinki; Historians Without Borders; the Finnish United Nations Association; the Finnish Refugee Council; the Migration Institute of Finland; the Embassy of Chile in Finland; and the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters. The Board decided to contribute a maximum of EUR 1,500 to the event to cover the cost of rent, travel and accommodation for the speakers at the seminar.

The Society decided to co-organise the Matti Klinge Memorial Seminar on 9 October 2023. The Board decided to contribute EUR 2,000 towards the costs.

The Board appointed members to the prize committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation 2024 Mathematics Prize.

The Board approved the amended statutes for the Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund. Under the old statutes, grants were to be awarded by the Fund in response to applications. However, applications have never been invited for grants; instead, they have awarded in the form of prizes. According to the new statutes, the purpose of the Fund is to award prizes to outstanding researchers mainly in theoretical physics and related fields, which is in keeping with the current practice. The Björnberg family has also approved the new statutes.

The Society's office has two meeting rooms: the old or small meeting room and the new or large meeting room. The Board decided that the old meeting room will be named 'Elias' after Elias Lönnrot, who in 1839 was one of the first to be elected a member of the Society, while the new meeting room will be named 'Lolo' after Helene Charlotte Johanna Lolo Krusius-Ahrenberg, who in 1960 was one of the first two women ever appointed to the Society.

18 September 2023

The Board adopted the operational plan and budget of the Council of Finnish Academies (CoFA) for 2024.

The Board nominated one candidate for the 2024 Gad Rausing Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

Society member Björn Kurtén (1924–1988) would have turned 100 on 19 November 2024. The Board decided that the Society would organise Björn Kurtén's 100th anniversary symposium and pay the rent of the meeting room, including coffee and dinner for the invited speakers.

The Board appointed the member of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's grant committee for the period 2024–2026.

The Permanent Secretary was selected to represent the Society at the autumn meeting of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies on 21 September 2023.

During the general meeting, the procedure for the election of new members was presented and members were invited to make proposals for new members by the end of September 2023.

16 October 2023

The Board of Directors granted the Finnish Association of Physicists EUR 3,000 to invite the 2023 Nobel Laureates in Physics to Helsinki.

The response to the 2022 and 2023 celebrations in the Old Student House has been entirely positive. The decision to separate the annual meeting itself, where statutory business is dealt with, from the annual festive gathering with the keynote speech has been praised. The Board decided that the annual meeting was to be held in the Lolo meeting room on Monday 22 April 2024 and the festive gathering at the Old Student House on Monday 29 April.

It was announced at the general meeting that the section nomination committees' substantiated proposals, together with all the proposals received by the section, would be sent to section members

on 17 October 2023. The Permanent Secretary outlined the procedure for the further consideration of the proposals within the sections and subsequently within the Society.

20 November 2023

The Board appointed Miska Luoto as the Society's representative on the Finnish National Committee of Quaternary Research for the period 2024–2027.

On the proposal of the Humanities Section prize nomination committee the Board nominated a candidate for the Antonio Feltrinelli Prize in 2024.

The Board decided not to propose any book for the Science Book of the Year Award. The Board also decided to propose to the Committee for Public Information that all books published by the Society in 2023 be included in the list of non-fiction books for which public libraries should receive support from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Board did not nominate any book for the State Award for Public Information.

The Board decided that the Society would organise a symposium in memory of Holger Thesleff together with the Classical Philological Society. The Society would pay the rent for the meeting room, including catering during the coffee break as well as wine and snacks at the office after the symposium.

The Society's interim accounts for 2023 were presented by the Treasurer.

The general meeting went on to discuss the election of new members. The following proposals were received by the deadline: Mathematics and Physics Section 2 (1), Biosciences Section 3 (2), Humanities Section 3 (1), and Social Sciences Section 2 (1). The figures in parenthesis refer to vacancies. Additionally, one proposal for foreign membership had been received by the Mathematics and Physics Sections.

Following the expiry of the deadline, the nomination committees met to present their proposals. After that the section members had the opportunity to weigh in. In all sections, the persons proposed by the nomination committees received the majority of votes and at least half of the votes cast. The nomination committee did not endorse the election of the proposed foreign member, who failed to receive a two-thirds majority of the section votes. Hence, the final proposal included the following persons:

Emilia Kilpua
Ari Ristimäki
Aki Sinkkonen
Marja-Liisa Helasvuo
Kim Strandberg

The nomination committee chairs and/or those submitting proposals presented their arguments for endorsing the candidates. The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

18 December 2023

The Board appointed the following persons to the Sohlberg Delegation for the period 2024–2026: Mikael Fortelius (Chair), Carl Ehlers, Hannu Koskinen, Indrė Žliobaite, Miska Luoto (deputised by Dage Sundholm, Erik Bonsdorff).

The Board appointed Kari Enqvist, Kari Rummukainen (Chair) and Ronald Österbacka to the prize committee for the Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Prize 2024.

On the recommendation of the Administrative Board, the Board set the management contribution for 2023 at 0.6% of the market value of the assets.

On the recommendation of the Administrative Board, the Board decided that the Society would award a maximum of EUR 650,000 in prizes and grants in the spring 2024 annual awards. Additionally, travel grants will be granted throughout the year without any special deadline for applications.

The Society holds considerable investments in flats and shares as well as substantial cash assets. In order to manage the assets in an appropriate and responsible manner, it is often necessary to make quick reallocation decisions. The Board authorised the Permanent Secretary and the Treasurer together to make the appropriate investment decisions in respect of the Society's assets in 2024. The Board was to be informed of the decisions taken.

The Treasurer presented his draft budget for 2024 to the Board. The final budget is to be adopted at the annual meeting of 22 April 2024.

At the general meeting, the election of new members was decided by secret ballot. Two-thirds of the votes cast were required for admission.

The Society elected the following ordinary members: Mathematics and Physics Section: Professor Emilia Kilpua (University of Helsinki); Biosciences Section: Professor Ari Ristimäki (University of Helsinki); and Senior Researcher Aki Sinkkonen (LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland); Humanities Section: Professor Marja-Liisa Helasvuo (University of Turku); and Social Sciences Section: Professor Kim Strandberg (Åbo Akademi University).

No foreign nationals were elected.

15 January 2024

A total 74 applications for mobility grants and 9 applications for the organisation of workshops were received under the Maupertuis Programme by the deadline of 30 September 2023. A committee composed of Professor Christophe Delacourt (Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, France), Dr. Mathieu Girerd (Institut français de Finlande) and the Permanent Secretary of the Society had proposed to award 25 mobility grants and 3 workshop grants for a total amount of EUR 55,800 in 2024. The Board decided that the Society would participate in the Maupertuis Programme during the 2023–2025 period with an annual contribution of up to EUR 20,000. The Board endorsed the committee's proposal and decided that the Society would pay grants of EUR 2,000 to seven recipients and EUR 1,200 to five recipients.

The Board appointed Kai Lindström as the Society's representative on the Finnish Zoological and Botanical Publications Board and thus also on the Board of the Finnish Zoological and Botanical Publications Board Sponsor Association for the period 2024–2027.

The Board appointed Edward Hæggström as the Society's representative on the Finnish National Committee for Radio Science for the period 2024–2026 and Juri Poutanen as his alternate.

In the Society's membership register published annually in SPHINX, retired female professors are referred to as *emerita professor*. The Latin *emerita* is the feminine form of the masculine *emeritus*. As 'professor' is masculine in Latin, 'emerita professor' is a grammatical anomaly. The current trend is to use gender-neutral titles and designations instead of dual forms for women and men. For example, no distinction is any longer made between male actors and female actresses. Both the Swedish Institute for Language and Folklore and the Finnish Mediaspråk (Media Language) unequivocally recommend the use of professor emeritus for retired professors regardless of gender.

In order to save space and not to upset dissenters, the Board decided to use the abbreviation '*professor emer.*' in SPHINX and in the Society's other written material.

The Board's proposal for the Society's mission statement had been sent out with the invitation to the general meeting scheduled for 15 January 2024. Several proposals for amendments were received. As a result, the Board decided to draft a new version of the mission statement for presentation to the general meeting of 19 February 2024.

The statement was discussed and a decision made to defer the matter to 19 February 2024.

The general meeting was presented the sections' appointments to the 2024 grant committees as well as the members of the 2024 election committee. The Board presented the prize committee for the Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Prize 2024 as well as the composition of the Sohlberg Delegation for 2024–2026.

29 January 2024

The Board reviewed the grant committees' proposal for the award of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation 2024 grants and the prize committee's proposal for the recipients of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize in Mathematics 2024 and decided to propose to the Board of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that it award the grants and prizes as proposed by the committees.

19 February 2024

The Society's financial statements for 2023 were examined on 12 February 2024 by the Administrative Board, which saw no reason why the Board should not adopt the financial statements. The financial statements were approved and signed by the Board at the meeting.

The Board granted Ville Kaila EUR 1,500 in addition to the payment of the EUR 453.95 rent to organise a symposium on 26 April 2024 in memory of the Society's recently deceased member Märten Wikström.

Jan Sundberg reported on the Sápmi Sameland symposium on diverse cultural autonomy. The symposium will take place in the building of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Drammensveien 78, Oslo), which offers seating for 85 people. The symposium is primarily intended for academicians. It will start at lunchtime on Tuesday 22 October 2024 and end at lunchtime on Wednesday 23 October 2024. The organisers are the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture.

Gustaf Gabriel Hällström was born on 25 November 1775. He was one of the founding members of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters and its first President. The Board decided to organise a symposium in autumn 2025 together with the Finnish Literature Society and the af Hällström Family Association to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Gustaf Gabriel Hällström. The symposium will discuss Finnish science at the turn of the 19th century and also give a presentation on Hällström. Hopefully, the symposium will also be of interest to researchers working in fields other than the history of science, mathematics and physics. The symposium will take place in the Finnish Literature Society's banqueting hall (Hallituskatu 1, Helsinki) with seating for around 100 people.

The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Ole Petter Ottersen of Karolinska Institutet and University of Oslo on 29 April 2024. Foreign speakers are customarily awarded the Society's bronze medal. According to the Medal Regulations, the decision to award bronze medals is made jointly by the President and the Permanent Secretary, after which the Board is informed of the matter. The Board was duly notified. The medal will be handed over at the annual ceremony.

The Board appointed Pauline von Bonsdorff as the Society's representative at the spring meeting of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies scheduled for 26 March 2024.

The Board decided to refer the revised proposal of the working group (Mats Gyllenberg, chair, Erik Bonsdorff, Charlotta Wolff) on the Society's mission statement to the annual meeting. The general meeting adopted the statement.

18 March 2024

The Treasurer presented his report and the Society's budget for 2024. 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 grant and prize committees.

Statutory annual meeting of 22 April 2024

The Permanent Secretary presented his annual report for the period 30 April 2023–29 April 2024.

The Treasurer's report, the financial statements, the auditor's report and the performance audit report for 2023 were presented. The financial statements were adopted and the Board and the Administrative Board were discharged from liability.

The Treasurer presented the draft budget for 2024. The meeting adopted the budget.

Jan Sundberg was appointed President of the Society up to the 2025 annual meeting and Pauline von Bonsdorff Vice President. Under the Society statutes, the President and Vice President also serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Society Board.

The meeting confirmed the appointees to the Board proposed by the sections for 2024–2025 including their alternates as follows (alternates in brackets):

Mathematics and Physics Section: Heikki Tenhu (Minna Palmroth)

Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff (Pertti Panula)

Humanities Section: Charlotta Wolff (Jussi Pakkasvirta)

Social Sciences Section: John Sumelius (Mikael Collan)

Eija Kalso was appointed the 'ninth' member of the Board up to the annual meeting of 2025.

Christian 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.

Christoffer Granholm, 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.

The Chair, Vice Chair, the ninth member of the Board, the non-automatic members of the Administrative Board, the auditor and the operational inspector and their alternates were elected in accordance with the proposals of the election committee.

Annual celebration of 29 April 2024

The annual celebration is traditionally held on the birthday of Emperor Alexander II on 29 April 2024. For the third time in a row, it took place at the Old Student House in Helsinki. A total of 210 people (members, prize-winners, grantees, stakeholders and accompanying persons) participated in the event, which was also attended by the ambassadors of France and Sweden.

After the President's welcoming address, he and the Permanent Secretary presented the Society's scientific prizes.

The keynote speech was delivered by Ole Petter Ottersen, former Rector of the University of Oslo and Karolinska Institutet. After the speech, he was awarded the Society's bronze medal.

The outgoing President, Hannu Koskinen, handed over the gavel to the incoming President, Jan Sundberg, after which the Permanent Secretary thanked Hannu Koskinen for his service.

After the ceremony, the dance ensemble Compañía Kaari & Roni Martin played scenes out of *Blood Wedding* and *goes ROOTS*. Dance was performed by Justus Pienmunne and music by an orchestra consisting of Heikki Iso-Ahola, Roni Martin, Ali Saad and Sanna Salmenkallio.

The evening was concluded with a supper with the following menu:

Société Scientifique de Finlande
Dîner le 29 avril 2024
Ancienne maison des étudiants d'Helsinki

Lavaret mariné au gin, pickles de concombre et émulsion de genièvre

Filet de bœuf finlandais, purée de pommes de terre à l'ail et sauce brune à la livèche

Parfait au cassis, gâteau aux amandes et caramel au beurre salé

Café ou infusion

Vins

G.H. Martel & Co Prestige Champagne Brut
2022 de Ladoucette Comte Lafond Sancerre
Aalborg Jubileums Akvavit
2020 E Guigal Crozes-Hermitage
Donnafugata Kabir

Presentations given at Society meetings during the reporting period

Monday 16 May 2022, Villa Aikala, Finnish Medical Society
Martti Koskenniemi: 'NATO's activities and competences – legal aspects'

Monday 18 September 2023, House of Sciences
Eero Castrén: 'Neuroplasticity of the brain'
Erika Löfström: 'Supervision of doctoral dissertations – what purposes does it serves?'

Monday 16 October 2023, House of Sciences
Eeva Furman: 'The messy world as a subject of study - on the paths of sustainability research'
Karl-Erik Michelsen: 'Industry - an unknown phenomenon in modern society'

Monday 20 November 2023, House of Sciences
Minna Palmroth: 'Space is the new black'

Monday 18 December 2023, House of Sciences

Mikael Fogelholm: 'Food purchases data collected through the use of customer loyalty cards as a tool for scientific research: LoCard Study'

Eva Heiskanen: 'Spread of sustainable consumption patterns: the role of latent networks'

Monday 15 January University of Turku, Tauno Nurmela Room

Instead of the usual presentations by members, a seminar was organised on the theme of "Human Diversity - Multidisciplinary study of human diversity" (see Symposia and other events).

Monday 19 February 2024, House of Sciences

Jouko Rikkinen: 'The diversity of fungi in ancient amber forests'

Theo Kurtén: 'Atmospheric aerosol chemistry: how slow combustion makes vapours stickier (aided by quantum mechanics and relativity)'

Monday 18 March 2024, House of Sciences

Indrė Žliobaitė: 'On the longevity of complex living systems'

Craig Primmer: 'Life is about choices: the impact of genes and the environment on the salmon'

Annual celebration, Saturday 29 April 2023, Old Student House

Ole Petter Ottersen: 'Respecting basic research and the pioneering spirit: reflections before the 80th anniversary of Science, The Endless Frontier'

Eulogies given at Society meetings during the reporting period

Monday 16 May 2023, Villa Aikala, Finnish Medical Society

Timo Vesala: Eulogy for Professor Eero Holopainen

Laura Kolbe: Eulogy for Academician Päiviö Tommila

Monday 18 September 2023, House of Sciences

Per Saris: Eulogy for Professor Nils-Erik Saris

Henrik Meinander: Eulogy for Professor Matti Klinge

Monday 20 November 2023, House of Sciences

Mika Kajava: Eulogy for Professor Holger Thesleff

Monday 15 January University of Turku, Tauno Nurmela Room

Anna-Maria Åström: Eulogy for Professor Nils Storå

Mats Gyllenberg: Eulogy for Professor Pirjo Sewón

Mikko Hupa: Eulogy for Professor Bengt Stenlund

Monday 19 February 2024, House of Sciences

Ville Kaila: Eulogy for Professor Mårten Wikström

Monday 18 March 2024, House of Sciences

Stig-Olof Londen: Eulogy for Professor Sören Illman

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. During the reporting period, the Society published one volume which was not part of any series of publications.

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 Mika Kajava for the series *Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum*.

The printing costs, including editing and distribution, incurred in 2023 amounted to EUR 91,866.85 while EUR 10,460.22 was earned in sales revenue. State aid for the Society's publication activities was EUR 32,500 for 2023, and EUR 28,500 for 2024.

In the 2023–2024 period, the Society issued eight volumes, totalling 3,619 pages as follows:

Selected papers by of Carl G. Gahmberg (with commentaries): Cell membranes and cell adhesion (Editors: Mats Gyllenberg and Nadine Nousiainen). 2023. 517 pp.

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

225 Lars Westerlund: Vem var spritsmugglarna? Då småfolket blev företagare (Spirits smugglers – who were they? When little people turned into entrepreneurs). 2024. 243 pp.

224 Netta Böök: Talot pysyvät, ihmiset vaihtuvat (Houses stay, people come and go). Building a socialist society in the former Finnish municipality of Kurkijoki in the Soviet Union. 2023. 446 pp.

223 Petra Hakala: Att minnas eller glömma (To recall or forget): The establishment of the Swedish Literature Society's archive and its role in the creation of identity 1885-1920. 2023. 292 pp.

222 Timo Sironen, Erkki Sironen, Teivas Oksala, H. K. Riikonen: Olof Hermelin. Hecatompolis Svionum. One hundred Swedish towns: Towns in Finland, Karelia and Ingermanland and other poems about the environs of the Baltic Sea. 2023. 268 pp.

Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum (ed. Mika Kajava):

146 Tuomo Nuorluoto: Latin Female Cognomina. A Study on the Personal Names of Roman Women. 2023. 529 pp.

145 Gianluca De Martino: The Cult of Poseidoniate Hera and the Lucanians in Poseidonia/Paistom An Ancient Story of Religion and Multiculturalism. 2023. 329 pp.

Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium

83 Takehiro Okabe: Taming Greater Finland: Pan-Finnism, the Soviet Finnish Kalevala Controversy, and the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic, 1940–1956. 2024. 295 pp.

82 Bo Lönnqvist: Stimmen von Banater Schwaben: Narratologische Studien zur deutschen Minderheit im rumänischen Banat in den 1990er Jahren. 2023. 356 pp.

Sphinx (ed. Juha Janhunen):
Årsbok — Vuosikirja — Yearbook 2022–2023, 344 pp.

All new books are also published in digital format and are freely available on the Society's website at <https://edition.fi/societasscientiarum/>.

Many of the Society's books have attracted a lot of attention and been well received. A prime example is the original print run of 200 copies of Netta Bööck's book *Talot pysyvät, ihmiset vaihtuvat* (Houses stay, people come and go). *Sosialistisen yhteiskunnan rakentaminen entisessä suomalaisessa Kurkijoen kirkonkylässä Neuvostoliitossa* (Building a socialist society in the former Finnish municipality of Kurkijoki in the Soviet Union) sold out so quickly that an additional print run of 100 copies was made.

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 2023 prizes were presented at the Society's annual meeting in the Old Student House on 29 April 2024.

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 awarded to Professor Jessica Rosenholm (Åbo Akademi University) whose research relates to the Society's Mathematics and Physics Section.

The Professor Theodor Homén Prize is awarded annually alternatingly between physics and the history of Finland. The 2023 Prize in Finnish History (EUR 20,000) was awarded to Professor Emeritus Yrjö Varpio (University of Tampere).

The Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize is awarded annually alternatingly between mathematics, chemistry and physics. The 2023 prize (EUR 20,000) went to Professor Emeritus (Mathematics) Jouko Väänänen (University of Helsinki).

The Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund grant 'to an eminent researcher mainly in theoretical physics and related fields' was awarded to Kukka-Emilia Huhtinen (Zurich University of Technology). 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, such as colleagues and pupils, and other organisations. 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 Cecilia Högbäck, lecturer in social studies and history at Åland Lyceum in Mariehamn; Maarit Riihijärvi, teacher of advanced mathematics and physics at Pyhäjärvi Upper Secondary School in Pyhäjärvi; and Peppi O'Connor, teacher of psychology, philosophy, ethics and religion at Linnankoski Upper Secondary School in Porvoo.

In the 2024 regular application process, the Society awarded 54 research and other grants to a total value of EUR 571,260. Additionally, the Society contributed EUR 2,000 to a total of 10 Maupertuis grants. Additionally, 20 members received travel grants in 2023–2024 totalling EUR 33,483.

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

	2023-2024		2022–2023	
Mathematics and Physics Section:	11	€68,000	6	€55,000
Biosciences Section	16	€298,225	15	€260,000
Humanities Section	15	€141,316	26	€198,282
Social Sciences Section	9	€40,947	9	€55,000
Sohlberg Fund	3	€22,772	3	€20,000
Ukraine grants			3	€28,560
Maupertuis Programme	12	€20,000	10	€20,000
Travel grants	18	€33,483	20	€36,519
Total	84	€624,743	92	€673,361

The Maupertuis Programme, which is a collaborative project between French contributors (French Institute in Finland, and French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation), the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters and the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation, awards scholarships and grants for scientific exchange 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 2024 saw the award of 25 individual stipends of EUR 1,200 to EUR 2,000 each as well as three grants of EUR 6,000 for conference attendance. Of the total amount of EUR 55,800, the Society contributed EUR 20,000 (five travel grants of EUR 1,200 and seven of EUR 2,000) and the French financiers EUR 35,800.

In addition, three 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. In March 2024, over EUR 1,878,339 was awarded in grants by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation for research in astronomy, mathematics, physics and chemistry, including medical chemistry. This amount includes half of the funding made available to three cotutelle graduate students. Professor Jouko Väänänen was awarded the EUR 20,000 Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize in Mathematics at the Society's festive gathering on 29 April 2024. One of the above-mentioned teacher prizes was funded by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

In recent years, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation has also awarded a number of major grants and made donations to particularly important causes. In the 2022–2023 reporting period, the CoastClim project led by Markku Kulmala and Alf Norkko received EUR 600,000 and the University of Helsinki EUR 400,000 to establish a Swedish-language chair in artificial intelligence. Additionally, Päivi Törmä was awarded EUR 600,000 for her Super C project.

The Society also works closely together with the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation, which awards research grants in mathematics, physics and chemistry to young 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 submits 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 2024, the following ten researchers received grants of EUR 30,000 each: Oscar Agertz (Astronomy, Lund University); Nicklas Anttu (Physics, Åbo Akademi University); Matilda Backholm (Physics, Aalto University); Alexander Edström (Physics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology); Filip Ekholm (Chemistry, University of Helsinki); Mathias Hoppe (Physics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology); Oliver Petersen (Mathematics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology); Martin Rahm (Chemistry, KTH Royal Institute of Technology); Harri Waltari (Physics, Uppsala University); and Henrik Wirzenius (Mathematics, Tampere University).

Members

At the end of the reporting period, the Society had a total of 400 members. Of them, 283 were ordinary members and 112 foreign members. Additionally, the Society had three Finnish and two foreign honorary members. 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.	38	23	7	68	14	31	2	101
Biosc.	49	30	0	79	17	25	0	104
Hum.	37	28	2	67	24	36	1	104
Soc.Sc.	39	28	2	69	19	20	2	91
Total	164	109	11	283	73	112	5	400

The average age of all members is 72. The age distribution is shown in the diagram below.

Olof K. Ruin, a foreign member, passed away on 31 May 2023. He was born in Helsinki on 8 September 1927. He served as Professor of Political Science at the University of Stockholm from 1976 to 1993. He was invited to join the Society in 1981.

Jacob Sundberg was born on 29 May 1927 and died on 27 July 2023. He served as Professor of Jurisprudence at Stockholm University from 1970 to 1993 and was invited to join the Society as a foreign member in 1983.

Harald zur Hausen, a foreign member, died on 28 May 2023. Born on 11 March 1936, he was elected to the Society in 2010. He used to be Professor of Virology at the University of Freiburg. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2008 for his discovery of the link between human papillomavirus and cervical cancer.

Foreign member Lennart Levi passed away on 18 February 2024 at the age of 93. Born on 20 May 1930, he was admitted to the Society in 1992. He was Professor of Psychosocial Environmental Medicine at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm from 1978 up to his retirement in 1995.

Professor emeritus Doctor of Science (economics) Barbara Czarniawska passed away on 7 April 2024. She was born in Białystok in Poland 2 December 1948 and moved to Sweden in 1984. She was professor of business administration at Gothenburg School of Business from 1996 up to her retirement. She was elected foreign member of the Society in 2009.

Board and positions of trust

The composition of the Society's Board during the 2023–2024 reporting period was as follows (alternates in brackets):

President: Hannu Koskinen

Vice President: Jan Sundberg

Permanent Secretary: Mats Gyllenberg

Treasurer: Niklas Bruun

Mathematics and Physics Section: Heikki Tenhu (Minna Palmroth)

Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff (Pertti Panula)

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Jussi Pakkasvirta)

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 2023–2024 reporting period:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Susanne Wiedmer (Peter Johansson)

Biosciences Section: Dan Lindholm (Erik Bonsdorff)

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Matti Miestamo).

Social Sciences Section: Peter Söderlund (Åsa von Schoultz)

The election committee was composed of Mats Gyllenberg (Chair), Susanna Fellman, Vineta Fellman, Urpo Nikanne and Dage Sundholm.

Nomination committees:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Susanne Wiedmer (Chair), Peter Johansson, Matti Lassas, Marja-Liisa Riekkola and Pekka Tanskanen.

Biosciences Section: Dan Lindholm (Chair), Hannes Lohi, Johanna Mappes, Vesa Olkkonen and Lea Sistonen.

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Chair), Ruth Illman, Sami Pihlström, Janne Saarikivi and Charlotta Wolff.

Social Sciences Section: Peter Söderlund (Chair), Niklas Bruun, Åsa von Schoultz and Jan Sundberg.

Composition of the Administrative Board 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 who served as external members.

The auditor was Robert Söderlund, 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: Dage Sundholm (Chair), Paula Eerola, Matti Lassas, Mikael Fortelius, Jussi Pakkasvirta and Mikael Collan.

Professor Theodor Homén Prize in Finnish History: Henrik Meinander (Chair), Maria Lähteenmäki and Hannu Riikonen.

Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Grant: Kari Enqvist, Kari Rummukainen and Ronald Österbacka.

Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize in Mathematics: Mats Gyllenberg (Chair), Antti Kupiainen and Eero Saksman

Prize Committee for the Teacher Prize: Ulrika Candolin, Sari Kivistö, Erika Löfström and Susanne Wiedmer (Chair).

Grant committees for Society grants

Mathematics and Physics Section: Gustaf Gripenberg, Paul Hoyer and Heikki Tenhu (Chair)

Biosciences Section: Eija Kalso, Cecilia Sahlgren and Martin Romantschuk (Chair)

Humanities Section: Maria Lähteenmäki, Urpo Nikanne, Pia Olsson (Chair) and Pauliina Remes

Social Sciences Section: Janne Hukkinen, Marko Joas and Elianne Riska (Chair).

Sohlberg Delegation: Carl Ehlers, Mikael Fortelius (Chair), Hannu Koskinen, Miska Luoto and Indrė Žliobaite (alternates: Erik Bonsdorff and Dage Sundholm).

Grant committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation: Peter Johansson, Dan Lindholm, Mikael Lindström, Päivi Törmä and Susanne Wiedmer.

Expert committee for the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation: Mats Gyllenberg (Chair), Peter Johansson, Susanne Wiedmer and Professor Tobias Ekholm (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 nomination committee composed of three to five members of the Section, inclusive of the convenor, for a term of three years. The committee's task is to submit to the Board a substantiated proposal for each 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.

Federation of Finnish Learned Societies

The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies is an important independent expert organisation focusing on research and research policy. The Federation includes 295 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 Mats Gyllenberg (deputised by Pauline von Bonsdorff) and Heikki Tenhu (deputised by Charlotta Wolff). In addition, Sara Heinämaa and Johanna Mappes represent other organisations. Johanna Mappes is a member and Mats Gyllenberg chair of the sponsoring committee.

Financial management

The Society's assets and funds are overseen by the Administrative Board 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

The three major projects launched earlier and mentioned in the Annual Report for 2022-2023 were brought to conclusion.

A complete catalogue of all books and journals in the Society's library has been prepared. It contains a list of all the articles included in the publication series. The catalogue is available to the public at the Society's website.

A complete catalogue of all the members of the Society since 1838 has been completed. It lists the birth and death dates, year of election and section affiliation of members, as well as the names of those who have given eulogies and the name or site of the publication. Some items of information are uncertain. Sweden-Finland switched to the Gregorian calendar in 1753, while Russia stuck to the Julian calendar until 1918. This has made it difficult to determine the exact dates of birth and

death during the period of autonomy because normally reliable sources offer conflicting information. Similarly, the information on people who have served during the period of independence poses a number of problems. In certain cases, the National Biography of Finland, Uppslagsverket Finland, Encyclopedia Britannica, Nationalencyklopedien and the archives of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters contain conflicting information. Birth and death dates engraved on tombstones and given in obituaries have been assumed to be correct. The catalogue was posted on the Society's website on 25 April 2024.

The Society set up its first professionally designed website in 2018. However, web pages have a relative short service life. It was realised during the previous reporting period that the site needs to be upgraded and redesigned to renew its visual outlook. The re-design of the website proved to be an extensive project but the final outcome was excellent. The new site was deployed in November 2023.

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.

To function effectively, the Society depends on a committed and dedicated secretariat staff. Office secretary Anki Geust and communications officer Nadine Nousiainen have had a heavier workload than before due to the sharp increase in activity. Both have a positive and enthusiastic approach to their duties and deserve a big thank you.

Change of presidency

By the end of the reporting period, Hannu Koskinen had served as President of the Society for three years and may not, under the statutes, be re-elected. Hannu Koskinen's presidency coincided with the difficult Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent period of rapid expansion of the Society's activities. Hannu Koskinen played an important role, especially in advancing cooperation with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters and the country's other science academies under the auspices of the Council of Finnish Academies (CoFA). For my own part and on behalf of the Society as a whole, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to him. At the same time, I wish the incoming President Jan Sundberg every success in his new position.