Apžvalgos

BOOK HISTORY IN FINLAND FROM THE 18TH CENTURY UNTIL TODAY

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In this paper, I shall introduce the research of book history in Finland during the last 300 years. How has book science developed from the eighteenth century onwards, what have been the main themes, and for what specific reasons have they become of central importance in the different periods of book history? And, last but not least, what methods have scholars used in book historical research?

Key words: bibliography, historiography, library history, history of book history.

18TH CENTURY – THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS BOOK HISTORY

Interest in book history in Finland first arose chiefly among librarians whose activities initially focused on the cataloguing of the Academy of Turku collections. During the 17th century, the Academy library received a substantial number of donations, many from military officers who had looted noteworthy libraries during the war and returned to Finland with the spoils, all of which had to be catalogued. Henrik Gabriel Porthan, appointed professor of eloquence at the Academy of Turku in 1777, worked as a librarian in the Academy's library. He supervised acquisitions and managed to obtain many old Finnish books for the library's collection; during his term at the library, the number of books quadrupled. Porthan's tasks as a professor included writing dissertations for students to defend; one such dissertation, *Animadversiones de libris raris*, concerned rare books [20; 23].

Porthan was the first person in Finland to write extensively about the Academy library. In 1772–1795, he published a 25-part history of the library in the dissertation series *Historia bibliothecae Regiae Academiae Aboensis*. The next history of the library was also published as a dissertation, but only in 1930. It was defended by Arne Jörgensen [10, 23].

19TH CENTURY – CATALOGUING FENNICA LITERATURE IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Fredrik Wilhelm Pipping (1783–1868)

After a catastrophic fire had destroyed all the collections in the Academy of Turku library in 1827, the Emperor of Russia moved the Finnish capital and the Academy to Helsinki. The replacement of the library's collections, therefore, had to start from zero. Fredrik Wilhelm Pipping, a librarian working in the University Library at that time, began to organize the acquisition of books. Pipping was particularly interested in old Finnish books and thus laid the groundwork for what was later to become the so-called Fennica Collection. His assistant, the bookbinder Matti Pohto, scoured the countryside to find and buy old editions for the library. Pipping purchased and catalogued books, but could not have known about the progress taking place in England where Henry Bradshaw had begun to catalogue incunables with bibliographical descriptions at the Oxford University Library; Pipping's bibliography was actually published before Bradshaw's.

Pipping studied the books, fascinated with how they had been printed and manufactured. The empirical evidence thus gained enabled him to create a bibliography of the first Finnish printings. Pipping's bibliography is surprisingly modern, following many cataloguing rules for old books, which were formulated only afterwards. He lists the entire title, using the same upper-case and lower-case letters that appear in the printed title. Besides making distinctions among different editions and variants, he also describes the format and scope of the printings. Pipping's bibliography, published in 1856–1857, is still a valid and regularly used source for researchers of old Fennica literature in Finland.

Although Pipping was ahead of his time regarding the cataloguing of old books, he was conservative in many other fields. By binding all the books with similar covers, he destroyed any information about the old bindings and the history of ownership that might have been written on the books' covers. He also insisted on trimming all books with similar formats to the same size regardless of the size of the pages. Cutting the pages of the books made this possible, but also, unfortunately, succeeded in destroying some portions of the texts. Preserving the identity of the books, for example, in the form of covers, was not yet important in book history at that time.

According to Pipping, the only correct order in the library was to place the books on shelves by size, not subject, even though this practice was already considered old-fashioned in his time. When the consistory of the Academy decided to switch to the subject-oriented order, Pipping left his job as a librarian, but continued working in the library as a volunteer; his interest in books undiminished.

As a professor, Pipping wrote a 21-part series of dissertations to be defended by his students, treating the librarians of the

Academy library, titled *Dissertationis, de bibliothecariis Academiae Aboënsis I–XXI* (1813–1827). He also wrote a 7-part work about Finnish book printing, titled *Några historiska underrättelser om boktryckerier i Finland I–VII* (1842–1867) [10; 12; 14]. These can be seen as a continuation of the work started by Porthan's history of the Academy library, and the first works that elaborate these themes.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY – INTEREST IN SPECIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND BOOK OWNERSHIP

In the early 20th century, the interest in Finnish book history widened, and many crucial areas received their first publications. Research on book publishing, book trade and printing was conducted and published, including a 3-volume work that dealt with the history of Finnish printing presses from 1642 to 1918. Written by Carl-Rudolf Gardberg (1898–1972), a senior librarian at the Åbo Akademi library, this work was published in Finnish and Swedish in the 1940s and 1950s. Compared with Pipping's work, it was more complete. The first two parts provide a thorough and diversified account of printing in the Finland of early modern times. Besides printing-related material conditions, print volumes, and literary genres, the work depicts the various interrelationships among all those working in this field, as well as persons who influenced the printing sector. The final volume, treating primarily printing presses, went out of print in 1973 [3]. At that time, the National Library was an important location for research in many cases carried out by employees working on their own time, focusing extensively on the Library's collections.

Toini Melander (1894–1969)

During the 1940s and 1950s, many librarians at the National Library became fascinated with various aspects of Finland's book history; one of them was Toini Melander. Born in Karelia, she was extremely interested in old Viborg printings; the printing press at Viborg had operated from the late 1600s until 1710, at which time Russia occupied Viborg, and the printing press disappeared. Because the eastern part of Finland had often been a war zone, any surviving printings made by the Viborg, printing press were in poor condition or extremely rare. Toini Melander made it her mission to find and obtain as many of these printings as possible for the National Library.

Melander was also interested in typography and occasional publications such as printings made for funerals, weddings, academic promotions, or other celebrations by private persons. In 1951, she published a bibliography of this kind of literature covering Finland from 1562 to 1713. Assembling the bibliography required considerable effort because her intent was to find all the printings of Finnish congratulatory messages, many of which had actually been printed in Sweden or Germany. Melander managed to obtain copies of these printings for the National Library's collection. The bibliography has since been expanded; it

now contains titles, publication information, content descriptions, and notes concerning the libraries where the printings are kept. Melander also made excellent registers and uncovered biographical information concerning the persons mentioned in the bibliography. Her bibliography faithfully adheres to the old books' cataloguing rules, although she mentions only poems and prose texts written by Finnish authors but not all the texts in print.

Melander is perhaps the first Finnish researcher to focus on typography. Her publishing experiences led her to study the typography which is extremely rich in this kind of literature. A book she wrote on the typography of occasional publications in Finland 1642–1713 went out of print in 1960. Although the further research was conducted and cataloguing practices continued to evolve, this work and her bibliography are still in use [16; 17].

Jorma Vallinkoski

At the time Melander was working in the National Library, Jorma Vallinkoski was a senior librarian there; dissertations were his special interest. After the Academy of Turku was founded in 1640, the Academy's printing press began to publish dissertations in 1642. At that time, students had to find as many patrons as possible to raise money for the publication of their self-financed dissertations. The result was an abundance of dedications written into the works. When the Academy decided to limit the number of printed dedications, students would circumvent this ruling by publishing many variants of their dissertations. In one version there would be certain dedications and in another version other dedications. Each patron received a copy of the dissertation dedicated to him. The result was a profusion of dissertation versions on the market.

Vallinkoski attempted to find all the dissertations, as well as all their variants, written at the Academy of Turku until it was destroyed by fire in 1827. His work demanded a considerable expenditure of time and effort; he also had to contact other libraries, in particular the Royal Library in Stockholm and Carolina Rediviva in Uppsala. His bibliography of the Dissertations of the Academy of Turku 1642–1827 was published during 1962–1969.

Vallinkoski was also interested in the broader history of the University. He wrote a three-part history of the University library, but only two parts were published before his death. He was thoroughly familiar with the older source material concerning the Academy of Turku and its library. He also made an annotated manuscript of the so-called Tessin's library catalogue from 1755 and added, for example, additional information obtained from the books at the Academy concerning the acquisition and binding of books [2; 7; 15; 24; 25].

Henrik Grönroos (1908–2007)

Henrik Grönroos, the National Library of Finland's third remarkable 20th-century librarian, worked in the manuscript section and dedicated himself to the research of book ownership by studying auction

catalogues and estate inventory deeds. Besides exhaustively researching these sources in town archives, he wrote many articles concerning book ownership, social history, and mystics in Ostrobothnia.

In 1996, Henrik Grönroos published, with the help of Ann-Charlotte Nyman, a compilation of the sources he had studied for many decades. *Boken i Finland* contains all the available information concerning book owners and their collections in Finnish towns until 1809. In the early 2000s, a group of book history researchers began to develop a database, named HENRIK after Henrik Grönroos, for these sources. Nowadays the Henrik database contains information about auction catalogues and estate inventory deeds in Helsinki and Oulu; Turku will be added in the near future.

Henrik Grönroos was an extremely congenial and helpful colleague, always happy to share any information he had obtained about books and their owners. Swedish was his mother tongue, but he was also fluent in Finnish. When analyzing sources, his bilingualism enabled him to notice details that people strong in only Swedish or Finnish might miss. His collection has been donated to the Swedish Literature Society and can be accessed through the National Library of Finland [4; 8; 9; 13].

1970s AND 1980s – FOCUSING RESEARCH ON RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND LANGUAGE

The interest in book historical research among librarians, which began in the 1960s, continued to attract a growing number of researchers working at the University in the decades to come. The number of bibliographies decreased as research began to focus on the texts of the old books themselves.

Most of the old Fennica literature consists of religious books. Only in the last decades of the 19th century was more secular literature published. Book history research in Finland has thus for a long time tended to concentrate on the old books; because this literature was religion-oriented, so was its related research. Linguists also added another dimension to the research [14].

Researchers of church history and the Finnish language have long been fascinated by Michael Agricola who facilitated the printing of the first Finnish texts and produced many Finnish translations during the 1540s and 1550s, including the New Testament, parts of the Old Testament, and prayers. Today's most distinguished researchers of Agricola are Simo Heininen, Emeritus Professor of General Church History, and Professors of the Finnish Language Silva Kiuru and Kaisa Häkkinen [2].

Martti Parvio, who worked as Professor of Practical Theology, studied the old liturgical texts extensively. During the 1970s and 1980s, he made facsimiles of the oldest Finnish books, *Manuale Aboense* (1522) and *Missale Aboense* (1488, the first book printed for Finland) as well as the first Finnish collection of sermons, the bishop Ericus Erici's *Postilla* in two parts (1621–1625). He also wrote many articles concerning the old Finnish literature [2].

In recent years, Henrik Grönroos' collection on book ownership has been used extensively in research studies; many students of church history have based their theses and dissertations on these themes. Besides using Grönroos' collection, they have also conducted their own research in archives to obtain additional information on book ownership [6].

Laws and statutes, as well as books of proverbs and grammars, have been the subject of research conducted by linguists; many of them have published facsimiles of the old texts and written books and articles on related subjects.

During the 1980s, the Academy of Finland funded a project whose theme was *oppihistoria*, the history of early Finnish science and learning. Besides the research and cataloguing work carried out at the National Library, the study of the Finnish book history has had a strong connection with the history of science and learning. Less has been published on themes with analytical bibliographies or studies focusing on books as objects.

Another objective was to determine the quantities of old literature preserved in Finland's private and public collections. For that reason, a new project *Ennen vuotta 1850 painetun kirjallisuuden kartoitus* ("Cataloguing of literature printed before 1850") was launched. Students were taught to identify old books and were sent to all parts of Finland to catalogue literature in different collections. The project lasted several years, and a few thousand books were catalogued. In actuality, almost no previously unknown literature was discovered, but the material is in any case a valuable research source because all marginalia and similar annotations were documented [14]. Currently, there are plans to establish a database for the material collected during this project.

1990s – AN AWARENESS OF BOOK HISTORY REACHING THE UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, a project initiated at the National Library and University of Helsinki Department of Church History began cataloguing Fennica literature from its beginnings in 1488 to 1800. The project lasted over ten years and generated many new insights into the study of the Finnish book history. The 1990s represent a pivotal turning point in the Finnish book history because it was during that decade that the public first became aware of book history as a field of research. As mentioned previously, there had been extensive book history research carried out in universities, but book history as a research area had not attained a commonly accepted status either in universities or the public consciousness. Its path to both new dimensions began in the 1990s.

Perhaps the cataloguing of early Fennica was not crucial in this development, or it may have not been the only factor, but it helped smooth the way. Creating a database and printed bibliography of old Fennica were not the only goals of the project; the research of old books was also a priority. During the project, a handbook

of the oldest Fennica, edited by Tuija Laine, as well as a two-volume work treating the typography used in earliest Finnish printing presses were published. Anna Perälä, who has subsequently continued writing extensively about old typography and illustrations, was the author [19; 22].

The project's researchers began to give lecture courses on book history at the University of Helsinki and published a methodology on the subject (*Kirjahistoria. Johdatus tutkimukseen*) in 1996. The methodology consisted of articles focusing on research traditions in book history, illustration, binding, printing, book history sources, and typography [11]. Additional courses, aimed at all university students, were developed at the Department of Church History.

During the 1990s, the society *Friends of the Book Museum* was founded. The first aim of the society was to publicize the need for a Finnish book museum. The society organized public lectures that focused on different themes in book history. Subsequently its name was changed to the *Society of Book History* because no society for book history had previously existed, and there was a need for this kind of organization. In 2012, the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies granted the society the status of a Learned Society.

EARLY 21ST CENTURY – COMMUNICATION HISTORY AND INTERNATIONALITY

The first decade of the 21st century has witnessed lively publication activities related to book history. Published research projects have dealt with, for example, the book trade, books and the Enlightenment, devotional literature, book binding, writing, and reading. Many collections of old books gathered by societies, schools, and similar organizations have been placed in different libraries, and several related cataloguing projects have been completed or are currently in progress.

Aspects of communication in book history have gained more attention, particularly at the international level. Worth mentioning are, for example, the dissertations of Ph. D. Jyrki Hakapää (on book trade in Finland in the 19th century) and Th. D. Minna Ahokas (on books of the Enlightenment in Finland in the 18th century). Particularly in recent years, there has been a multifaceted and growing interest in the history of reading. Finland will also participate in the international RED (Reading Experience Database) project established by the London Open University and British Library in 1996. The *Spheres of Useful Knowledge* project, financed by the Academy of Finland, is negotiating a possible collaboration with the RED, and the compilation of Finnish reading experiences has already begun in smaller projects [1; 5; 21].

In recent years, there have been a considerable number of publications concerning library history. Assistant Professor Ilkka Mäkinen has been active in this area. In 1997, he defended his dissertation treating libraries and reading societies in the 19th century [18]. It was the first significant research to focus on the historical aspects

of the Finnish reading culture. Nowadays, studies of reading and writing have become more common than previously. At the Finnish Literature Society, people interested in vernacular writers have assembled a group interested in this theme, whose members represent different areas of humanistic research. A fruitful cooperation has resulted, particularly in the areas of folklore and book history research. "Book Culture from below" has been a popular theme in recent years, also in Finnish book history.

New contacts have given the Finnish book history studies an international dimension. *The Nordic–Baltic–Russian Network on the History of Books, Libraries and Reading* (HIBOLIRE), initiated by Ilkka Mäkinen, has convened postdoctoral and doctoral students from the Baltic and Scandinavian countries. Many Finnish researchers are members of *The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing* (SHARP), and Helsinki hosted the SHARP conference in 2010. Many book history-related projects are in progress, and international conferences are being planned.

In early 2012, the first professorship in book history began at the University of Helsinki. Hopefully, it will provide even more opportunities to assemble people interested in book history, launch new projects in cooperation with various research groups, and improve the prerequisites for book history research by, for example, facilitating the availability of sources in databases and digital formats.

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KNYGOS ISTORIJA SUOMIJOJE NUO XVIII a. IKI MŪSŲ DIENŲ

TUIJA LAINE

Santrauka

Šios apžvalgos tikslas – pateikti įvadą į Suomijos knygos istorijos tyrimus per pastaruosius 300 metų: kaip knygos mokslas vystėsi nuo aštuonioliktojo amžiaus iki dabar, kokios buvo pagrindinės temos ir dėl kokių specifinių priežasčių jos tapdavo itin reikšmingos skirtingais knygos istorijos laikotarpiais, pagaliau, kokiais metodais mokslininkai naudojosi istoriškai tirdami knygą.

Pirmiausia knygos istorija Suomijoje susidomėjo bibliotekininkai, kurių veikla iš pradžių buvo

sutelkta į Turku akademijos fondų katalogavimą. Henrikas Gabrielius Porthanas, paskirtas Turku akademijos iškalbos profesoriumi 1777 metais, dirbo Akademijos bibliotekos bibliotekininku. H. G. Porthanas buvo pirmasis Suomijoje, išsamiai rašęs apie Akademijos biblioteką.

Kai gaisras 1827 metais suniokojo visus Turku akademijos bibliotekos fondus, Rusijos imperatorius perkėlė Suomijos sostinę ir Akademiją į Helsinkį, todėl bibliotekos fondų atkūrimą reikėjo pradėti nuo nulio. Fredrikas Wilhelmas Pippingas, kuris tuo metu dirbo Universiteto bibliotekos bibliotekininku, pradėjo organizuoti knygų komplektavimą. Jis studijavo knygas ir domėjosi jų spausdinimu bei gamyba. Taip sukaupti empiriniai duomenys leido jam sukurti pirmąją Suomijos spaudinių bibliografiją. F. W. Pippingo bibliografija stebina savo modernumu, joje galima įžiūrėti senųjų knygų katalogavimo taisyklių, kurios buvo suformuluotos daug vėliau.

XX amžiaus pradžioje susidomėjimas Suomijos knygų istorija prasiplėtė. Atsirado leidinių daugelyje svarbių jos sričių. Buvo atliekami ir leidžiami knygų leidybos, knygų prekybos ir spausdinimo tyrimai. Penktąjį ir šeštąjį XX amžiaus dešimtmečius daugelis Suomijos nacionalinės bibliotekos bibliotekininkų domėjosi įvairiais Suomijos knygos istorijos aspektais. Toini Melander rašė apie spaustuves ir proginius spaudinius, Jorma Vallinkoski – apie Universiteto bibliotekos istoriją ir Turku akademijos disertacijas, Henrikas Gronroosas specializavosi kaip knygų savininkų šaltinių žinovas.

Per devintąjį ir dešimtąjį XX a. dešimtmečius Suomijos nacionalinė biblioteka ir Helsinkio universiteto Bažnyčios istorijos katedra inicijavo projektą ir pradėjo kataloguoti Fennica literatūrą nuo 1488 iki 1800 metų. Projekto metu buvo paskelbtas ankstyvosios Fennica vadovas, kurį redagavo Tuija Laine, ir dvitomis apie pirmąsias Suomijos spaustuves. Jo autorė Anna Perälä vėliau rašė apie senąsias spaustuves, spaudinius bei iliustracijas. Projekte dalyvavę tyrėjai pradėjo skaityti knygos istorijos paskaitas Helsinkio universitete ir 1996 metais išleido knygotyros metodologijos knygą *Kirjahistoria. Johdatus tutkimukseen*.

Pirmajam XXI a. dešimtmečiui būdinga aktyvi knygos istorijos srities leidybinė veikla. Paskelbti mokslinių projektų duomenys apie knygų prekybą, knygas ir Švietimo epochą, knygrišystę, raštą ir skaitymą. Daugelis senųjų knygų kolekcijų, surinktos įvairių draugijų, mokyklų bei panašių organizacijų, atsidūrė skirtingose bibliotekose, todėl šiuo metu vykdomi arba jau baigti vykdyti keli su tuo susiję senųjų knygų katalogavimo projektai.

Įteikta 2012 m. gruodžio mėn.