

English Summary

Science and Society. The Finnish Historical Society and Historiography from the 19th century to 2010s. Ed. Petri Karonen.

Science and Society draws a picture of the development, change and turning-points of Finnish historiography from the 1860s to the 2010s. On one hand, the topic is dealt with from the point of view of the Society and of other active people involved in the scholarly community. On the other hand, the aim is to study the general societal impact and significance of history and historiography. In addition to an overview of historical studies and publishing, the book introduces major historians and their approaches as well as their domestic and international co-operation not forgetting their societal interaction.

The authors take into account the changes in the impact of historiography on society and pay attention to the work of “major” historians and their particular approaches. The source material is, among other things, widely composed of previous and contemporary studies, bibliographical material and of multifarious records of the Society itself.

The authors give a many faceted account of history and of the views of history in Finland, and of their use in national and international contexts. Although the Society is mostly in the focus, the point of view is in every article practically widened to cover the entire field of historical studies. In Finland historians have customarily written both scholarly works and public history for wider readership. Besides, Finnish historians – this applies also abroad – cling to their professional role and publish in the ‘own’ fora, i.e. historical journals and other scholarly publication series.

The volume is divided into four thematics, each covered by two main authors. Professors Irma Sulkunen and Tiina Kinnunen write about historians and the changes within the historians’ community from the angle of the members of the Society and scholarly cultures. The themes of study are, among others, the relations of sex and social status of historians as well as their disciplines and posts in universities. This chapter shows the remarkable rise of the number of professional

historians and gives figures concerning equalization of the internal sexual distribution among them during the period under scrutiny.

Professors Marja Jalava and Pauli Kettunen write about publication policy. Finnish historians have always been diligent in publishing their works. In this chapter the general changes in approaches, thematics and publication policy is being reflected in the publication policies of the Society: during the early period in the life of the Society discoveries of original sources and printing of public lectures dominated the scene, but after 1917 (independence of Finland declared) monographies and further on anthologies overwhelmed the venue. Today the focus of publishing has predominantly been geared to international scholarly journals, irrespective of the fact that domestic publication fora are still in a very powerful position.

Third main theme, tackled by Docents Pirkko Leino-Kaukiainen and Mervi Kaarninen, is national and international co-operation of the Society. They show how the Society's interaction with universities has always been lively and relations to higher education have been close. Scholarly networks have been manifolded and international since the 19th century. This chapter shows the directions of change and focus. In the period under scrutiny both domestic and international scholarly co-operation has remarkably expanded.

Professors Petri Karonen and Seppo Hentilä analyse the relations of historians with wider society. The focus is on the general impact of historical studies on society, whether the historians were involved in politics or nation-building or in creating or dismantling history culture and history politics. Also the topic of use of history in various situations in Finnish society is being covered in this chapter. The volume also contains altogether thirteen so called info-boxes which give deeper insights into special topics. In the Introduction and Conclusion the Editor draws a general overview of the development and directions of change in historical writing in Finland.

Keywords: historical studies, historiography, study of science, Finnish Historical Society, historians, Finland, 1860–2020.

Translated by Docent in intellectual history Anssi Halmesvirta