

## Notes on the contents

■ The content of the Historical Journal 2/2008 is:

In the article “Maila Talvion kuvaus sotakeväästä 1918” (Maila Talvio’s description of war in spring 1918) Elina Martikainen discusses the description of war in spring 1918 in Finnish literature. Maila Talvio dealt with the events of 1918 in almost immediately after the events in her novel about the war entitled *Kurjet* (The cranes), which was published in 1919. Martikainen examines Talvio’s description of the war, analyses the discourses employed by the writer and compares the work to F.E. Sillanpää’s novel *Hurskas kurjuus* (Meek Heritage; 1919) and Joel Lehtonen’s collection of short stories *Kuolleet omenapuut* (The Dead Apple Trees; 1918).

In his article “Maaseudun aviottomien äitien toimintastrategiat käräjillä 1800-luvun lopulla” (Strategies employed by unmarried mothers in rural areas at district court sessions at the end of the 19th century), Pasi Saarimäki examines the strategies employed by unmarried mothers who had brought child maintenance cases to district courts in central Finland at the end of the 19th century. Firstly, the child’s father could be forced into a mutual maintenance agreement, as a result of which the mother’s financial situation improved. Secondly, by explaining why they had consented to sexual intercourse, the women

participated in defending their sexual reputation that had been put at risk.

Matti Peltonen examines, in his article “Michel Foucault’n historiallisesta ajattelusta” (The historical thought of Michel Foucault), Foucault’s approach from the perspective of history. In his opinion, describing Foucault’s approach to research as the archaeology (of knowledge) or the genealogy (of power) does not begin to describe this key aspect. Characterising his work as the history of science also does not open up the originality of his approach. The article attempts to demonstrate how dismissing the historical nature of the French philosopher’s methodology has marginalised the concept of *dispositif*, which is key to his approach.

It can also be claimed that the problem of specialisation associated internally within the modernisation process is also evident in the context of cultural research as the alienation of work. In the article “Ulkohtainen tieto ja sisäistetty totuus. Tutkivan subjektin suhte tutkimukseensa tulkittavissa tietoisä” (Detached knowledge and internalised truth. The relationship of the researching subject to the object being studied in interpretative sciences) Mikko Pekkola ex-

amines what kinds of consequences the ‘professionalisation’ of conducting research is having in scientific work from the perspective of ideals that are considered substantive. At the same time, the question arises as to whether there is still space in the current socio-economic and scientific policy environment for work as a self-fulfilling and genuinely creative activity.

Markku Hokkanen and Timo Särkkä present research on colonialism in their article “Puheenvuoroja kolonialistisen vallan ja väkivallan tutkimuksesta” (Opinions on research on colonial power and violence). Although the colonial period, which mainly came to an end during the 1960s, was a relatively short period, for example, in the history of Africa, it was nevertheless an important transitional period, and researching its history and heritage has only just begun. The historical research of colonial power and violence challenges research into colonialism that is charged with values. Through research at the local level, it is possible to reassess the history of colonialism and the exercise of power by colonialists. The research approach makes it possible to assess the part played by Finns and other Nordic countries in

the history of the colonial era.

The demolition in 1992 of the writer Tatu Vaaskivi’s villa in the Hietasaari area of Oulu aroused a lively public debate about the importance and use of old buildings and urban areas. The fate of a single building encouraged the city residents to express their memories, hopes and fears on the future of the entire neighbourhood. Different ideas about the area’s history and its importance emerged in the comments. The debate revealed a deep and long-running conflict between the points of view of officials and planners on the one hand and city residents on the other. Ulla Pohjamo reflects on what can be considered sufficiently valuable cultural heritage and how this should be used in her review “Oulainen kulttuuriskandaali. Vaaskiven huvila Hietasaari-keskustelun syyttäjänä”. (A cultural scandal in Oulu. The Vaaskivi villa as the torchlight to the Hietasaari debate).

Kai Häggman deals with book publishing as a modern business form over a period of 150 years in his column “Kulttuuria vai kauppatavaraa?” (Culture or commodity?).

(Translation: *Valtasana Oy*)