# Notes on the contents

The Historical Journal 3/2012 discusses a wide range of topics on early history under the heading *Finland before Finland*.

In her article Sirpa Aalto discusses the Viking Age ("Oliko Suomessa viikinkiaikaa? Viikinkiaikaa koskeva diskurssi suomalaisissa historian ja arkeologian alan aikakauskirjoissa [Was there a Viking Age in Finland? Discourse on the Viking Age in Finnish historical and archaeological journals]). The designation Viking Age is primarily connected to the history of Scandinavian countries but within the context of the history of Finland there seems to some variation in its usage. When researching Finnish historical and archaeological journals, it becomes evident that other designations, such as "Pagan Age" are used alongside Viking Age. The article discusses how the periodic designation Viking Age is represented in Finnish academic discourse and what kinds of aspects the periodic designation has in historiography.

Traditionally, it is thought that in the Middle Ages Inner Finland was uninhabited wilderness which was settled by the Savonians at the beginning of early modern period. This theory is based on simple interpretation of tax sources. However, they do not reveal anything about settlement activities in the Middle Ages but only about the development of modern fiscal administration. Many other factors provide contrary evidence to the traditional view, says Jukka Korpela in his article "Sisä-Suomen asuttaminen ja väestön kasvu myöhäiskeskiajalla ja uuden ajan alussa" (Settlement of Inner Finland and population growth in the Late Middle Ages and beginning of the early modern period).

Päijänne as a place name is one of the most intriguing subjects in Finland, since in addition to Lake Päijänne, there are numerous small lakes named Päijänne in Finland. These insignificant bog lakes are located north of the large Lake Päijänne in the highlands of the divides surrounding the ancient Tavastia and next to Karelia in the east. The key to the solution of the name "Päijänne" may well be in the significance of the word group, says Voitto Valio Viinanen in his article "Päijänne-nimet Muinais-Hämeen erämaiden rajoina" (Päijänne names as boundaries of wilderness in ancient Tavastia).

Denis Kuzmin's article "Savolaisten osuus Venäjän Karjalan asuttamisessa paikannimistön valossa" (The role of the Savonians in the settlement of Russian Karelia in the light of place names) combines onomastics with research in settlement history and thus aims to create new and more accurate knowledge about the origin of the Karelian population. In the light of place name data, it can be reasonably argued that some of the names of waterways in Russian Karelia are fairly new and originate from the early 17th century. They can be linked to the spread of Savonian settlements.

Jussi-Pekka Taavitsainen, Markku J. Oinonen and Göran Possnert analyse bones found in the Turku Cathedral ("Luultua vanhempia luita Turun tuomiokirkossa" [Older than previously assumed bones in the Turku Cathedral]). Their age raises new questions. Especially noteworthy are bones dated prior to the time of the Crusades. Old bones dated all the way back to the time of the birth of Christ have been found, for example, inside the silk skull construction traditionally attributed to Saint Henrik or Saint Erik. This is not to be wondered at since the trade and exchange of relics has been well-documented throughout ages.

Tuomas Tepora's article "Neurotieteiden haaste tunteiden historialle" (The challenge of neuroscience to the history of emotions) describes how neuroscience has reintroduced the unconscious as a part of human experience. Social constructivism that has held sway over the history of emotions is getting a serious contender in the form of brain research emphasising the interaction between biology and the environment. Tepora presents perspectives on the history of emotions and discusses their possibilities, limits and trends: how do emotions change, what is universal and what does neuroscience have to offer to the history of emotions?