

## **Research Bibliography of Finnish Sport History – A Summary**

This is the first comprehensive bibliography on the study of history of physical exercise and sport in Finland. The oldest research works in the area were two dissertations written at the University of Turku in 1697 and 1789. The first general work on the subject was "Gymnastikens historia" by Viktor Heikel, published in 1905. After Heikel and his contemporaries Finns concentrated more on making sport history than writing about it. In the 1970's there was a new rise in interest in academic circles, prompted in part by international influences, in part by the emergence of sport sociology as a new research discipline. Another factor was a sea change in the study of history itself towards the history of everyday life and popular movements. A ten-year research project on sport history, funded by the Ministry of Education, was launched at the end of the 1970's and contributed to a substantial increase in the number of publications in the area. After this Finland has lagged behind the other Nordic Countries in terms of funding and institutional support given to the study of sport history. This has given rise to a need to compile the contributions made by professional historians and the most distinguished amateurs in the field and publish them in a research bibliography.

In 2002 the Finnish Society for Sport History, celebrating its tenth anniversary, took on the aforementioned task. The Ministry of Education has provided the funding for surveying the field of publications. All other work was done on voluntary basis. The bibliography is published by the Sports Museum Foundation of Finland.

In addition to works that clearly belong to the area of sport history, the bibliography includes works in related disciplines – such as sociology, ethnology and cultural studies – that bear thematic or methodical relevance to sport history. All academic research is included, ranging from graduate and post-graduate theses to monographs, articles and reference works. The user of the bibliography will also find listed other books and articles of significant content or interesting approach as well as a collection of book reviews. The bibliography also contains works of Finnish authors on other countries as well as those of foreign authors on subjects relating to Finnish sport history.

The bibliography includes books and articles written before the end of 2005. The number of entries is over 4,000. The bibliography will be published on the internet at a later stage and updated regularly thereafter.

The table of contents is also provided in English. Entries in languages other than Finnish can be found by consulting the index.