

Vuosilusto 2004–2005

Essays on the history of Finnish forestry



LUSTO

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Foreword

Throughout the centuries, Finns have utilized the forest for all kinds of purposes. It has provided an important source of material goods but also a solid foundation for our entire lives, including the very deepest psychological meanings it represents to us.

Over the course of time, however, the way we use forests has changed. In a sparsely populated country, Finns used to live in the middle of or close to the forest. The environment gave them almost everything they needed. The connection between modern urban people and the forest is more distant, and we make use of the material commodities the forests offer mainly in the form of processed products. The immaterial benefits yielded by forests have become more and more important to many people. The use of forests for recreation has increased and become more versatile.

Finland's forests have always been used efficiently, especially in the industrial era - in recent years, this use has been perhaps more efficient than in any other country relying on forestry. For all practical purposes, sustainability has been the guideline for Finnish forest use even before the modern concept of "sustainable development" was coined. As a result of the work by forest professionals before and now, Finland now boasts an

abundance of forests growing more trees and volume than ever before.

Lusto - Finnish Forest Museum and the Finnish Forest History Society both celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2004. For the sake of this occasion, it was decided that Vuosilusto - *the Annual Ring* be published in English in order for us to share information on the development of Finnish forestry with our partners and field enthusiasts around the globe.

This publication includes reports on the first ten years in the history of Lusto and the Finnish Forest History Society. However, the essential content is made up of five expert articles which provide a long-term view of the developments and advancement efforts made within the Finnish forest sector. To date, reports on the history of Finnish forestry have principally been written in Finnish and Swedish only. This publication is the most comprehensive survey on the subject published in English so far.

Punkaharju, April 2006

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