

# Suomen kartan historia 1532–2005

(Mapping of Finland 1532–2005 by Jan Strang – Summary in English)

## The book

This book tells the story of printed maps of Finland from 1532, when the land first time appeared on any map, up to 2005, which can be considered to be the year when the era of the dominance of printed maps ended and a new era of dominance of digital maps started in Finland.

Focus is on maps and series of maps describing the whole of Finland or at least a considerable part of it. For maps published before 1917 also printed local maps are covered. Maps depicting larger areas than Finland, for example maps of Scandinavia, Sweden-Finland or Russia, are treated only in cases when these maps were at least in some respect also best maps of Finland of their time. As a rule, manuscript maps are out of the topic. Exceptions are 18th century maps of the whole of Finland and a few others that I have considered to be important. The book is only about geographical maps. City-plans, thematic maps and sea-charts are not covered. Russian-made maps are covered only partly as they are already widely described in my earlier work "*Venäläisten Suomi-kuva*" (*Mapping of Finland by Russia 1710–1942, Helsinki 2014*).

The book has a picture of every general map of any importance of Finland or its provinces up to 1917. Efforts have been made to get these illustrations large enough so that their text contents would be readable. Index sheets for 20th century multi-sheet maps have been created.

At the end of the book there is a detailed annotated bibliography of all maps of Finland from 1532 to 1917 and the most important maps from 1918 to 2005.

This book is a major and basic work on Finnish and Scandinavian map history. It is by far the most extensive work written on the geographic mapping of Finland. Together with my earlier work *The Mapping of Finland by Russia* these two books together completely cover the subject. The book is an indispensable tool for those who look for information about old maps of Finland and want to know what exists, where those maps can be found, who are their authors and how they should be interpreted.

The book is based on extensive research work during more than three decades in archives and libraries in Finland, Sweden, and Russia. The main source, the book is based on, are the old maps themselves. My goal has been to see a genuine copy or at least a high-quality illustration of each map described. I have measured the maps and calculated their scale if the scale is not mentioned on the map itself.

## Reading instructions for those who do not know the Finnish language

The book is written in Finnish, but the illustrations and much of the extensive bibliography at the end of the book may be understood without knowing the Finnish language, as in the bibliography:

1) All the information taken from the maps themselves (titles etc.) are in the original language, whatever the language is.

2) A short explanation in English of the abbreviations and symbols used in the bibliography is provided (see pages 1 and 1).

3) The main chapter titles of the bibliography are in both Finnish and English.

## Periodization and major maps

The history of the map of Finland is periodized on base of the most influential maps of their time. The five most important maps have received a profound description emphasizing their qualities as maps of Finland. These maps were the very maps on basis of which other mapmakers draw their maps of Finland. The five "gold medal maps" are:

- The map of Northern Europe (*Carta marina*) from 1539 by Olaus Magnus.
- The map of Northern Europe 1:2 000 000 (*Orbis arctoi nova*) from 1626 by Anders Bure.
- The provincial maps of Finland 1:640 000 and 1:720 000 by Carl Petter Hällström from 1798–1799 (in the vol II of S.G. Hermelins atlas of Sweden).
- The General Map of Finland (*Karta öfver Finland / Suomen yleiskartta / Generalkarta över Finland*) 1:400 000 from 1864–1873 by the National Board of Survey (Maanmittauksen ylihallitus).
- The Basic-map series (*Peruskartasto*) 1:20 000 from 1947–1977 by National Board of Survey (Maanmittaushallitus).

Alongside with these five maps there were some maps that were based on one of the above mentioned five maps, but which in some essential respect were even better and were the best maps of their time and became models for others. These "silver medal" maps are:

- The Joan Blaeu map of Finland (*Magnus Ducatus Finlandiæ*) from about 1651.
- The general map of Sweden-Finland (*Svea och Göta riken med Finland och Norland*) 1:2 450 000 from 1747 by Georg Biurman.
- The 12 north-western sheets depicting Finland in the "one hundred sheets map of European Russia" 1:840 000 from 1809–1811 by J.P. van Suchtelen and K. Oppermann.

- The General map of Finland (*Karta öfver Storfurstendömet Finland*) 1:1 700 000 from 1840 by A.W. Eklund.
- The General map of Finland (*Suomen maan kartta*) 1:1 000 000 from 1875 by I.J. Inbeg.
- The general map of Finland (*Suomi-Finland*) 1:1 000 000 from 1933 by National Board of Survey (Maanmittaushallitus).
- The GT-road map series (*Suomen tiekartta GT*) 1:200 000 from 1971–1977 by National Board of Survey (Maanmittaushallitus).

## Chronology

### Mapping of the eastern half of the Kingdom of Sweden - 1150–1809

Up to 1809 Finland was the eastern half of the Kingdom of Sweden (Sweden-Finland)<sup>1</sup>. The first map that had something more about Finland than just its name, was the small Ziegler map of Scandinavia from 1532.

The big Olaus Magnus map *Carta marina* of 1539 was a great leap forward. It included much correct information such as the approximate location of the country, many place names, illustrations and describing text. Those good things were mixed with much that was not so good. The shape of the country was far from correct, imagination was the main source for the description of the internal waters and many place names were in wrong locations. The author had never been in Finland.

The Anders Bure map of Northern Europe *Orbis arctoi nova* from 1626 was the first map of Finland that was based on actual scientific observations and gave a quite good picture of the land. The author had been in Finland for quite a long period. Especially good are the parts of Finland where he had travelled i.e. Eastern Finland and the cost line of the Gulf of Finland and partly also the coastal regions of the Gulf of Bothnia. Biggest weaknesses were the exaggeration of the latitude distances, direction of the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia and the lack of information about the central parts of Finnish inland.

The first separate map of Finland was the J. Blaeu map *Magnus Ducatus Finlandiæ* from about 1651 published in Amsterdam. It and all other printed separate maps of Finland until 1774 where more

<sup>1</sup> As the pre 1809 Kingdom of Sweden is the predecessor of the two modern states Sweden and Finland, a common practice especially in Finnish historical literature has been to call this kingdom by the name Sweden-Finland (Ruotsi-Suomi, Sverige-Finland), although the name was not used at the time it describes.

or less partial copies of the Bure map of 1626. Up to 1774, when a small map of Finland was included in a Swedish school atlas, all separate maps of Finland were published in Central or Western Europe, not in Sweden-Finland.

The one sheet map of Sweden-Finland by Georg Biurman from 1747 was the first map to give an essentially better map view of Finland than the Bure map. It was based on the material by Swedish and Finnish surveyors and scientists, that had been gathered in Stockholm during the more than one hundred years, that had passed since Anders Bure had laid the foundations of the surveying organization of the kingdom. For some reason this good map was not widely adopted as a model by foreign cartographers. Until the end of the 18th century many of them continued to issue maps based on the old Bure map. The only separate maps of Finland based on the Biurman map were the Anders Åkermans miniature school atlas map of 1774 and the Homann heirs map of 1789.

Up to 1809 Finland was formally equal, but in practice neglected part of the Kingdom of Sweden. As to map publishing this meant that before 1798 only a few maps depicting Finland were published compared to what were published about the Sweden proper. This holds especially for local maps. Only two provincial maps and a few other maps were published and most of them at the end of the 18th century.

Things changed in 1798-1799 with the publication of the volume II of the S.G. Hermelin atlas of Sweden. The volume consisted of a series of maps of Finland by Carl Petter Hällström. These maps created a completely new, up-to-date and very accurate map view of Finland. C.P. Hällström, the first Finnish cartographer who made a map of his native land, has later been honored by calling him the foremost cartographer of all times of both Finland and Sweden. The Hällström maps formed the basis for geodesy and most of the contents of almost all maps of Finland until 1860's.

### **Mapping of the Grand Duchy of Finland - 1809-1917**

When Finland in 1809 was separated from Sweden and became an autonomous Grand Duchy within Russia, the first maps depicting the country in its new borders were Russian. The very first was the north-western corner of the gigantic "one hundred sheets" map of the European Russia. The first domestic important map of Finland was the A.W Eklund map of 1840. Its main virtue was that it filled the old "hällströmian" view of Finland with new reliable up-to-date details and corrected the many mistakes in the Russian maps of the beginning of the century. The Eklund map became the standard map of the country.

In 1864-1873 the Finnish Board of Survey published the first edition of its 30 sheets General Map of Finland 1:400 000 (*Yleiskartta*). Several editions of the sheets were published until 1960's, during

which period the map was the most accurate map of the country.

The I.J. Inberg map of 1875 was a high-quality generalization of the General Map in the scale 1:1 000 000. It made the new information of the General Map available to a larger public and was the first important map of Finland in Finnish language. Swedish had been the sole language of upper classes and of the administration of Finland until 1860's and also the language in which maps were published. The first printed map in Finnish was a small map of Europe from 1820 and the first map of Finland in Finnish a small map by J. Karsten from 1844. From the end of the 19th century a common practice emerged to publish the maps with text both in Finnish and Swedish.

Military mapping in the Grand Duchy was taken care by the Russian army and navy. The autonomous Finland's own administration had nothing to say about it. In practice this also meant, that publications of any large-scale maps except town plans and sea-charts of internal waterways, were not allowed to the Finnish civilian administration or citizens of the country. There were only a few exceptions. Five province maps and some district maps in scales 1:400 000-1:200 000 were published and some maps of city-surroundings.

The topographic mapping by Russian army is not dealt with in this book, but the main printed series of topographic maps produced deserve to be mentioned here. They are: 1:100 000 series of the southernmost Finland and the coastal regions of the Gulf of Bothnia from 1855, 1:42 000 series of the southernmost Finland from 1870-1917, 1:84 000 series of a part of Eastern Finland from 1916 and 1:21 000 series of the surroundings of the cities of Helsinki and Viipuri from about 1916. All these maps were military secrets under the Russian rule, but after 1917 were sold to the general public by Finnish authorities.

### **Mapping of the Republic of Finland 1917-2005**

In 1917 Finland became independent and got new borders. The Board of Survey produced its first "millionth map" (1:1 000 000) of the independent Finland not until 1930, which map was replaced three years later by a better map in the same scale. The latter became the model for a multitude of general maps of the country until 1960's.

As to large scale maps: The Board of Survey had made from 1840 manuscript district maps in 1:100 000 (*Kihlakunnankartta*) of the whole Finland (except Lapland). From 1906 onwards new editions of these maps were made and this time the Board was allowed to produce maps for sale. Ten of these maps were issued by 1912, when a decision was made to rename the map-type to *Economic map of Finland* (*Suomen taloudellinen kartta*) and to publish the maps not more as maps of whole districts but as standard

size sheets. The publication of economic maps continued until 1955. The Economic maps are of high quality, reliable and readable. The series cover about two thirds of Finland's territory.

In 1840-1860 the Board of Survey had also prepared manuscript 1:20 000 parish maps (*Pitäjäntkartta*) of all the parishes in Finland except Lapland. A decision to prepare new versions of these maps was taken in 1897. The first one's produced, were similar to the earlier maps, being manuscript maps covering a whole parish in one very large sheet. In 1918 a new method for the preparation of the parish maps were introduced. Henceforth maps were made as standard size sheets and printed in small editions (12-30 copies of each) for official use only - not for sale. At the end of 1930's the Board of Survey started to print these maps in larger quantities and to sell them to the general public. The production of parish maps ended in 1951. The parish map series covers about one half of the southern half of Finland.

Having gained its independence in 1917, the Republic of Finland started its own military mapping. The first products were preliminary series of quite small regions based on Russian made topographic maps. New Finnish topographic map types were created by the end of the 1920's. They were: Topographic map 1:20 000 and Topographic map 1:100 000. Both were of high quality. When their production ceased in around 1950 both series covered only a rather small part of Finland - mostly its eastern parts near the Russian border. During the Second World War many similar maps of the Soviet Carelia were also made.

A new era begun in 1947, when the Board of Survey started the production of the so-called Basic maps (*Peruskartta*) in scale 1:20 000. The new series replaced the old parish map and topographic map-series in the same scale. The Basic map series was completed in 1977, when the whole country was mapped in 1:20 000. The Basic map series formed the basis for all maps in smaller scales, among others series covering the whole country in scales 1:50 000, 1:100 000, 1:200 000, 1:400 000 and 1:500 000.

### **Special maps**

In addition to the chapters dealing with general maps, there are in this book chapters for different types of special maps: Railway maps (1857-1988), postal maps (1877-1970), road maps for both horse-drawn and automobile traffic (1743-1881, 1913-2004), different kinds of school maps (1774-1940), thematic and other atlases (1799-1917) and so forth.