

# The archives of the Migration Institute of Finland as a source of information



## What archive?

 From the very beginning the activities of the Migration Institute of Finland (MIF) have included the maintenance of a cultural heritage archive

 $\rightarrow$  This archive is referred to as the **Migration Collections** 



What archive?

- Strong emphasis on documenting emigration and expatriate Finnishness
- → Also immigration-related data has accumulated since the 1990s though collecting hasn't been systematic thus far.



# General statistics on Migration Collections

- Ca. 1000 Archive / Collection creators
- Approx. 2113 accumulative events (= donations, depositions, acquisitions, reproductions) by April 2021
  - yearly average: 45



## General statistics on Migration Collections

#### • Origin of the material: geographic distribution

United States 50 %

Australia 15 %

Canada 10 %

South America 10 %

Asia, Africa, Europe 15 %



# General statistics on Migration Collections

• In total, the Migration Collections contain materials from nearly 60 countries.



## Archive / Collection creators

- Migrants as private persons
- Associations, clubs and organizations established by migrants
- Descendents of migrants abroad (2nd and 3rd gen.)

- Friends and relatives of migrants
- Other individuals from abroad; friends of Finland interested in the topic of migration



## Archive / Collection creators

- People interested in migration: genealogists, writers, journalists etc.
- Migration researchers: research data

- Finnish associations and organizations with connections to expatriate Finns (f. ex. Finland Society)
- Finnish authorities, other archives and museums with contacts to expatriate Finns or immigrants



## Main data groups



## Official documents

- Travel documents
  - Passports, tickets, etc.
- Naturalization documents
- Certificates related to different life stages

- Official letters
- Work documents
  - Pay slips, union membership cards, etc.
- Deed documents
- etc.



### Private letters

• 15 000 +

• The most used data group in the archive (among researchers)

• A noted collection: Around 6000 deposited original migrant letters from the collection campaign organized by the Southern Ostrobotnia Student's Club of the University of Helsinki.



## Private letters

Excerpt from Joseph Johnson's letter to his wife, Carolina. London, England, 1862. This is the oldest private letter in Migration Collections.

Londosta St 21 paren System minun Rakas waimon Naila mutamilla harvolla ja hyvin meinatula fanoita Jan mina tjatta anda ella muna voin hyvin ja Sydamestan towotan Simulle fita Jama menun Rakas Waimoni, mina olen oblit kipija ja den mitt Hospitalisa ja den nyten yumalan kilos melken mina doon mond ense keskinkona talda allos Sina Laivasa Jonga Ranfa mina tulin Tanne ninn fina Ala vekoa kipija ja den ollit

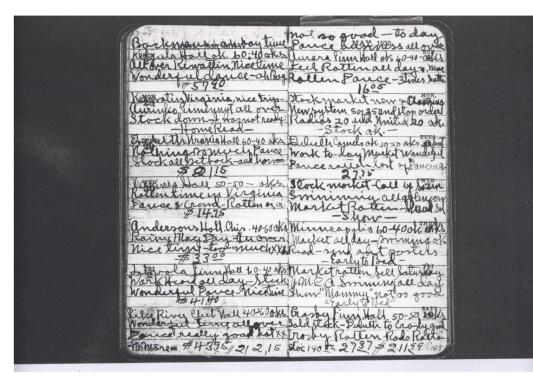




- Total amount in the archives: ca. 40
- Travel diaries: 50 %
- Time span: 1899-2006



#### Diaries



Pages from a tour diary of a Finnish-American musician John Rosendahl, 1930.



# Memoirs and autobiographical writings

- Total amount in the Migration Collections: ca. 30
- Large variations in scope: from a few pages of notes to hundreds of pages of manuscripts



### Memoirs and autobiographical writings

303

582

ton vierello, Printo de Kannis Keibamisto, Valkeat runnat jos ylkaallos vibrea lehtikatto, Saana polula taja oli vanha nainen. Kan de oli Joku unystillinen kioi . Seito vain ora di maan paalla ja riinos di virti. Siito riverto rectoivat yhto jos toistos, Kramikeluasta liktori eno toysi meidat, toi munman aitinto jos Eino veljento jos sesoset Katjutatia joi océtia. Vilitari eno de armeijana - ristamalla. Than di mita harvojos medenalaisios jotua eivat joutiment typ araniemalla, Vintoni enolto alkas tala Kirjeita. han nicjoittal' ahneraan javenajaun, kerjeet ewat alleet pituia, mismo di joua karjeeno aluna ramat randt. Toivotan teille Korekken parhaintos tarkeintos terverythe jo ilucitte etta itre ou torve. Kramileluana kavi Malenkov, Tan Kowi chmisten arunno ina ja Kyrelle miten elatte. Thuiset vor littivat etta on raskastar. Han ranoi kansikan viela valan, notor, tales helpompi.

the lapret mactine Roceleman. Koule di josen toirella puolella teirella puolen natura. Se oli pieni

minen talo. Minulla de Korahea maremains tila en victringt appia. Opet return Karvoittaan, unta handlo de viraat relenat, di virar ik minen, nouello ali harara lakka re ole nuora melkin olkapaille raakka. Tours opettaja husaan etter alen marentunt enkor antennar rellin. Ruckas ecollat Rucker ale huouser. Se marcumitte Mauten minun torrento de crittain Myva, mino en vain valitanyt oppi uieverto. Kerran laskennon turilla Opettajo ranci myt Kaytaan larnemaan porarta noko tunte. apettoja luke lisater attace poir-valuentar Kerton jokan. Min Koko tunti. Setten opettaje alkoe kyrello. Sauci eurin ette jouainen jour vartan varia jaa reiromaan jos istumana paarette ritten kun joku vartaa sixein. Kalitos reiroi monter lina viittilain Kattani, Opettaja rause ola viitiloi Recedenty kylla and Keyrya viela rimultakin. Mino isticin routona taka pulpetis Not. Vincen reison Koko lickka. Tal jella di voin Kocksi tytten, duo-Kan parhainmat oppeleat Koca-

#### Excerpt from memoirs of an Ingrian priest, pp.302-303



#### Interviews

- On recordings and / or in transcripts
  - Recording formats: mp3, CD, cassette, minidisc, dat-tape, reel-to-reel

• Total length of recordings over 700 hours

• Recordings by MIF: 30-40 %



#### Interviews



Olavi Koivukangas (director, MIF, 1974-2009) interviewing Kalevi Havukainen, a farmer, in Australia, 1981.



## Photographs





## Photographs

• More than 26,000 prints in the physical collection

• About 12,000 images in born-digital form

- Photographs are our most requested data group
  - Media, professional and amateur researchers, exhibitions, theater performances, etc.

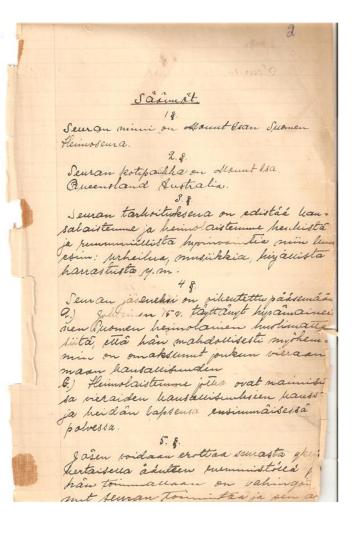


## Organizational documents

- Active organizing typical for expatriate Finns around the world
  - "Finland-societies", political organizations, sports clubs, cultural associations, temperance societys etc.
- Histories of these associations and organizations stored in Migration Collections in various scope: from isolated minutes to complete archives:
- Examples of the latter: Cultural Asociatión Kaleva (Spain), Finland Society of Tully (Australia), Central Committee of the Finnish Societies of Greater New York (USA)



## Organizational documents



Excerpt from the rules of "Suomen Heimoseura" of Mount Isa. Australia, 1935.



More data groups...

- Other sound recordings
  - Music recordings (including several hundred phonograph records)
  - Radio programs

- Research data
- Clippings
- Ephemera

- Audio-visual data
  - Raw materials
  - Television programs
  - Documentary films

• Emigrant newspapers



## More data groups...



Pictured is Carl Pellonpää, a Finnish American TV presenter. He hosted a weekly program called Finland Calling for 53 consecutive years (1962-2015).

Our archive has received from Mr. Pellonpää more than 500 hours of program material.





- Historical collections: Ca. 3,200 objects (tools, textiles, travel trunks, household instruments etc.)
- Art collection: about 250 paintings, sculptures and textile works



## Digital materials

- Why digitize our archives?
  - We want to ensure the **preservation and usability** of archive material; it is therefore a matter of following the basic principles of archival management!

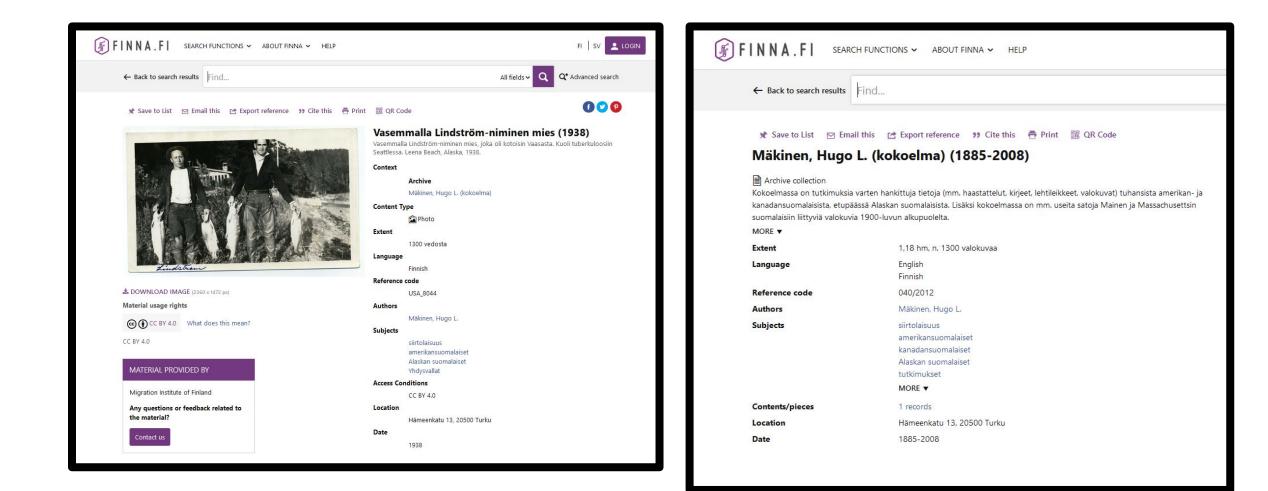


## Digital materials

- The digitization work progresses!
  - Comprehensive digitization of key data groups: 60% of letters, more than 80% of photographs
  - The goal for the near future is to improve the online accessibility of digitized materials



## Digital materials





## Using the archives

- The Migration Collections is an archive open for everyone, and its materials are mostly available for everyone.
- Currently, the best information about the materials in our archive is available through the nationwide Finna search service (<u>finna.fi</u>) and by contacting the archivist directly.



## Using the archives

- Physical materials can be researched at the premises of the MIF
- Copies of digital material can be provided for remote use (cloud service, e-mail)
- A user agreement is drawn up for the use of the archive material, which defines e.g. the purpose of the use and the conditions for publishing



## Using the archives

- Digitization done as a result of a material request is free of charge
- For photocopying a small fee is charged
- Taking pictures of the materials with your own camera is allowed





- Archivist Jarno Heinilä:
  - e-mail: jarno.heinila@migrationinstitute.fi
  - phone: +358 40 631 3042
- More information about the archive on our website : <u>https://siirtolaisuusinstituutti.fi/materials/archives/</u>

Collection policy of the Migration Collections: <u>https://siirtolaisuusinstituutti.fi/wpcontent/uploads/2021/01/siirtolaisuusko</u> <u>koelmat\_hankintapolitiikkaeng-lyh.pdf</u>