

Editorial Note

Johan Turi (1854–1936) is often considered the first Sami author, and the appearance of his *Muitalus Sámiid birra* ['A story about the Sami'] in 1910 the birth of Sami literature. Even if this statement is not quite to the point—one would at least have to qualify it by adding that he was the first Sami to write and publish an entire book in Sami (or North Sami, to be precise)—there is no denying Turi's importance for Sami literature, language, folkloristics and much more. There had been texts and books published in Sami already from the seventeenth century onwards (Sami yoik texts and Bible translations, for example), and two important Sami authors, writing in Nordic languages, had made their first appearances before Turi. In 1904 Matti Aikio (Mathis Isachsen) became the first Sami novelist with his *Kong Akab* ['King Akab'], and the same year Elsa Laula (-Renberg) published the political pamphlet *Inför Lif eller Död? Sanningsord i de Lappska förhållandena* ['Facing Life or Death? Words of Truth in the Lapp Situation']. Laula-Renberg was also one of the initiators of the first Sami women's organization, founded in 1910.

Being the 100th anniversary of both Turi's debut and Laula-Renberg's women's association, we are happy to be able to publish two articles on the founding fathers, as well as a review of a recent book on the founding mothers, of Sami literary tradition: Thomas A. DuBois analyses the highly complex health care situation in early twentieth century Čohkkeras, Swedish Lapland, as it appears from Turi's second book, *Sámi deavsttat/Lappish Texts*; Gunnar Gjengset makes a postcolonial reading of Aikio's last novel, discerning the author's strategies for Sami survival as an ethnic group; and Anne Heith reviews Vuokko Hirvonen's book *Voices from Sápmi. Sámi Women's Path to Authorship*, which explores the historical, cultural, political and gender contexts of the "foremothers," "grandmothers," "mothers," and "daughters" of Sami literature.

But Northern Studies, of course, comprise much more than the study of Sami literature, and so does the *Journal of Northern Studies*. Therefore, in this issue there are also articles on Soviet science fiction set in the Arctic (Susi K. Frank), the historical and social background to the division of arable land around the Gulf of Bothnia (Birgitta Roeck Hansen), the importance of Swedish ice-breaker policy in the same gulf (Martin Eriksson), as well as a call for international cooperation in securing Inuit self-reliance and sovereignty by Barry S. Zellen, and a presentation of the Strategic Environmental Archaeology Database (SEAD) by Philip I. Buckland.

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