

Preface by the volume editors

We are pleased to present the second issue in the Nova Series of the journal *Fenno-Ugrica Suecana*. The original journal appeared from 1978 to 1994, and presented a broad range of research ranging from the minority Finno-Ugric languages of the Scandinavian countries to Mari and Hungarian, as well as literary and cultural studies. With the Nova Series, we intend to continue that tradition and present a broad selection of research specifically involving, but by no means limited to, Finno-Ugric studies in the Scandinavian countries.

This second issue contains four peer-reviewed research articles as well one briefer report. The first paper, *Statistical Dating of Finno-Mordvinic Languages through Comparative Linguistics and Sound Laws*, applies an innovative combination of lexicostatistical methodology and traditional historical-comparative phonology to the dating of West Uralic proto-languages. With recent interest in the deployment of quantitative and evolutionary methodology in dating proto-languages, evidenced by for example the work of the BEDLAN group in Finland, Piispanen's work deserves close attention. The second paper, *The origin of the Finnic l-cases*, by Ante Aikio and Jussi Ylikoski, presents an elaborate new look at a problem that has confounded Uralic historical morphology - the origins of the Finnic outer local case system with its absence of comparanda in closely related language groups such as Mordvin and Saami, whereas local *l*-cases do occur in Permic and Mari. The authors reject the traditional explanation for the origin of these cases in a derivational local suffix **-lA* but instead seek their origin in postpositions such as *yllä* 'above' and *alla* 'below'. Aikio and Ylikoski's paper is an extended and reworked version of a paper that has earlier appeared in *Sámi*, and the editors of this volume are proud to enable it to reach a wider audience. The third paper is Håkan Rydving's *Sydsamisk eller umesamisk? "Södra Tärna" i det samiska språklandskapet*, which treats a variety of Sámi that has, after the appearance of Wolfgang Schlachter's 1958 *Wörterbuch des Waldlappen-dialekts von Malå*, often been considered extinct but which is currently the focus of a new investigation by Lars-Gunnar Larsson. Using material from the *Atlas Linguarum Europae*, Rydving brings lexical evidence to support Larsson's conclusion that the dialect of Southern Tärna is Ume Sámi, rather than South Sámi. The fourth paper, Riitta-Liisa Valijärvi's *Ruotsinsuomalaisten opiskelijoiden kirjallisen tuotoksen morfosyntaksin ja sanaston virheanalyysia*, analyzes written work produced by heritage speakers of Finnish in Sweden after a university course of Finnish. The paper presents valuable empirical material about a heterogenous and not overly researched variety of Finnish, which, as the author stresses, may have practical utility in education of Finnish as a second language. The research report, finally, is Lasse Vuorsola's analysis of the international as well as Finnish discourse on climate change.

We hope that this second issue of the Nova Series of *Fenno-Ugrica Suecana* will herald the continuation of a long series, and we warmly welcome contributions to further issues (see the Instructions to Authors at the end of the journal).

On behalf of the Editorial Committee,
The volume editors,
Merlijn de Smit and Peter S. Piispanen

