



Material Culture

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The study of material culture is one of the core fields that characterize ethnology as a discipline. This year's volume of *Ethnologia Fennica* presents contemporary ethnological research on material culture. Ester Bardone and Anu Kannike discuss recent trends in ethnological and museological study in their article "Kitchen as a material and lived space: representations and interpretations in Estonian museums". Kitchens are typically considered "the heart of the home", and in current research they are increasingly interpreted not only as physical places, but as spaces of memories and constellations of things, sensations, and skills. Bardone and Kannike study how kitchens were interpreted and represented in four Estonian museums in 2015 and 2016. Their article shows that the kitchen as a topic enables museums to highlight multiple sensory aspects of material culture, but the very materiality of kitchen objects has proved to be continuously relevant after the digital turn.

The article "New Objects, Old Age. The Material Culture of Growing Old" by Åsa Alftberg studies materiality through objects that are associated with old age, such as blood pressure meters and medication. They are intended for surveillance, as well as for replacing parts of the ageing body and its altered abilities, but they have also become symbols of old age. By applying a phenomenological approach, Alftberg asks how the medical materiality of old age is accepted, internalized, questioned, or resisted by old people. She points out that in order to deepen our knowledge of ageing and old age, the significance of materiality is an important aspect to take into consideration

because it has a significant role in categorizing individuals as "old".

The roots and history of ethnology and folklore studies in the study of material culture are discussed in Kari Korolainen's article "The Handwork of Folkloristic-Ethnological Knowledge: the Viewpoint of Samuli Paulaharju's Drawings". Paulaharju (1875–1944) was a Finnish folklore researcher and collector. Korolainen highlights his visual field work methods by studying the handwork of his folkloristic and ethnological drawings. With the methods of multimodal analysis, Korolainen shows how Paulaharju's drawings do not only illustrate objects, symbols, and folklore, but are involved with the knowledge production of folklore. Following the discussions of "writing culture", Korolainen also encourages researchers to ask how culture is visually represented in the research process.

The last section of this volume introduces new ethnological dissertations and other ethnologically noteworthy publications, and includes a report on the 13th congress of SIEF that was held in Göttingen, Germany.

This volume of *Ethnologia Fennica* is the last volume published in print. Starting from the next volume (vol. 45), *Ethnologia Fennica* will be an electronic open access journal published in <https://journal.fi/ethnolfenn/index>. The journal's electronic archive also includes several *EF*'s previously published volumes. We hope that in the future the Ethnos association will be able to continue the digitalization of its old volumes and bring them available in its electronic archive. The journal's new management and publishing service

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Hietanen fund of the Seurasaari Foundation, the transition has progressed smoothly, and *Ethnologia Fennica* is now able to step into the age of open access journals.