



## New Rules for the Folklore Fellows

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The Folklore Fellows and the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters have had a long common history. Kaarle Krohn, one of the founding fathers of the Folklore Fellows, was also one of the founders of the learned society the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, and so it was natural that the FF came to exist under the auspices of the Academy. In practice this meant that the publication series FF Communications was published by the Academy, which received special means for that purpose from the Ministry of Education.

### Why the new rules?

Four years ago the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters suddenly decided to quit all its discipline-specific publication series, among them FF Communications. Luckily enough, a new home for FFC was found in the Kalevala Society Foundation, another NGO with a deep concern for folklore research, its annual publication being among the most significant venues for folklore research in Finnish since its establishment in 1920.

When the sole tie of the Folklore Fellows with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters was broken, the Executive Committee decided to make the FF formally independent of the Academy, which required changing the rules of the FF. At the same time that this change was made, the rules were modernized. The main points of the reform are as follows.

### The main changes

The core of the Executive Committee is still formed by the folklorist members of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, but now the Committee can invite distinguished folklorists to act as members of the Committee. It is no longer necessary to get the approval of the board of the Academy. Thus, we can have more members on the Committee who are active in research, education, and training. It is also relevant that the editor of FFC is a member of the Committee.

Today, it is generally accepted that various positions in scholarly organizations are not meant to be life-long but for certain periods. Therefore, the rules now state that the members of the FF Advisory Committee and Editorial Board are invited for a period of five years and possibly for a second period but not more. This will enhance the dynamics that are crucial to the activity of these sub-organizations.

### The work continues

In practice, the members of the Folklore Fellows will hardly notice any rapid changes in the activities of the FF. FF Communications is published much as it was before, but, of course, the editor and publisher are open to innovations. The next FF Summer School is already in preparation and we expect to tell something in more detail about it soon. But we all have to keep in mind that Folklore Fellows is, after all, a network without any devoted staff or financial resources, and all activities are carried out by folklorists working in various institutions in universities and elsewhere, doing their FF tasks as a part of their ordinary job – or in addition to that.