
Finnish Language Newspapers - A Minority In Swedish Publishing

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Finnish newspapers in Sweden

Finnish newspapers in Sweden can be categorized in three groups:

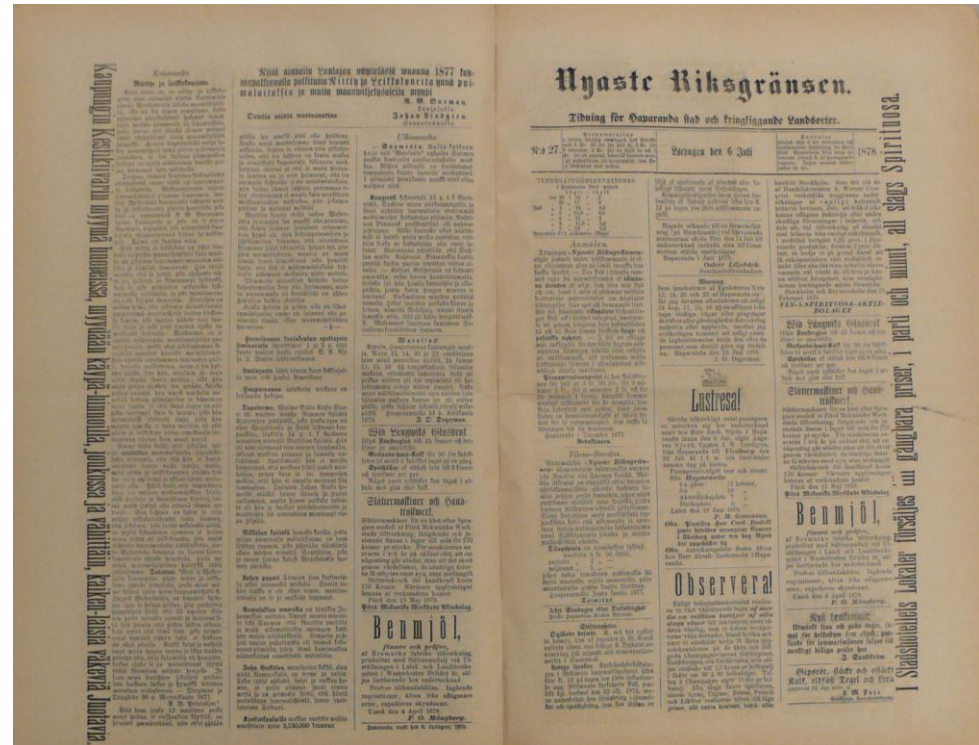
1. The newspapers published in the northern part of Sweden before World War I
2. Illegal newspapers impossible to print or publish in Finland 1900-1927
3. Finnish immigrant newspapers after World War II

The birth of the Finnish press in Sweden

- New border between Swedish and Finnish along the River Tornio after the Finnish war in 1808-1809
- A Finnish speaking minority in Sweden as a result
- Efforts from the 1880s to make the population Swedish-speaking
- The teaching language gradually became Swedish
- Prohibited for the pupils to speak Finnish between lessons

Rajalta and Nyaste Riksgränsen

- Rajalta: First Swedish newspaper in Finnish (1875-1876)
- Only six issues published
- Nyaste Riksgränsen: First bilingual newspaper (1875-1882)
- Monolingual 1875-1876
- By 1879 50 % in Finnish
- Bilingual layout



Haaparannanlehti and Haparandabladet

- Haaparannanlehti (1882-1923)
- Haparandabladet (1882-)
- Successors to Nyaste Riksgränsen
- Merged in 1923 to Haparandabladet
- Haaparannanlehti in the masthead until 2010
- Today 25 % in Finnish and Meänkieli
- Liberal (-1916), right-wing (1917-1986), unpolitical (1987), “provincial” (1988-)



Competitors: Pohjolan Sanomia and others

- Pohjolan Sanomia (1886-1888)
- Pohjola (1896-1898)
- Haaparannan Sanomat and Haparanda Nyheter (1916-1917)
- Samekansan Oma Lehti (1922-1923)
- bilingual Finnish edition of Samefolkets Egen Tidning (1919-1960)



Newspapers in Exile 1899-1905

- Kaikuja Euroopasta (Echoes from Europe)
 - first newspaper smuggled into Finland
 - printed in Sweden (Aftonbladet)
 - edited by Eino Wallin; only nine issues (1899)
- Other titles: Veckans Nyheter, Viikon Varrelta, Nordisk Revy
- Fria Ord and Vapaita Lehtisiä (1900-1905)
 - successors to Nya Pressen (Helsinki)
 - edited by Konni Zilliacus and Arvid Neovius
 - smuggled into Finland once a week



Newspapers in Exile 1918-1927

- Viesti (1918-1920)
 - only leftist newspaper in Finnish
 - published by the Finnish Society of Stockholm
- Revontulet (1919-1927)
 - Finnish edition of the Swedish newspaper Norrskensflamman (1907)
- Edited by emigrant revolutionaries during and after the Finnish Civil War (1918)
- Printed in Sweden and smuggled into Finland



The Finnish immigrant press in the 20th century

- After WWII Finland transformed from agriculture to industry
- 198 796 Finns emigrated to Sweden 1961-1970
- > 100 Finnish-language "newspapers" in Sweden over time (Korkiasaari)
- In 1992 there 57 Finnish "newspapers" (journals, etc)
- Newspapers with a Finnish language page or column
 - 37 in 1971, but only 27 in 1981
 - Borås tidning: Finnish page 1/w from 1967 to 2011 when it was discontinued
 - Now (2012) only 2 newspapers: Ruotsin Suomalainen and Haparandabladet
 - And recently: Suomen Uutisviikko
- In the present project: Tukholman Sanomat (1951-58), Tukholman Uutiset (1952-58), Ruotsin Suomalainen (1972-), Finn Sanomat (1974-1985), Viikkoviesti (1995- 2005), Ruotsin Sanomat (2003-2005)

The project – cooperation, preservation and research

Aims of the project:

- to foster cooperation and exchange of experiences and results from the digitization projects in the two national libraries
- to preserve and rescue the material through microfilming and digitization of the microfilms
- to support historical research about the historically important Finnish speaking minority in the public debate (academic researchers, genealogists, the general public)

Thank you!

Questions and suggestions to

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