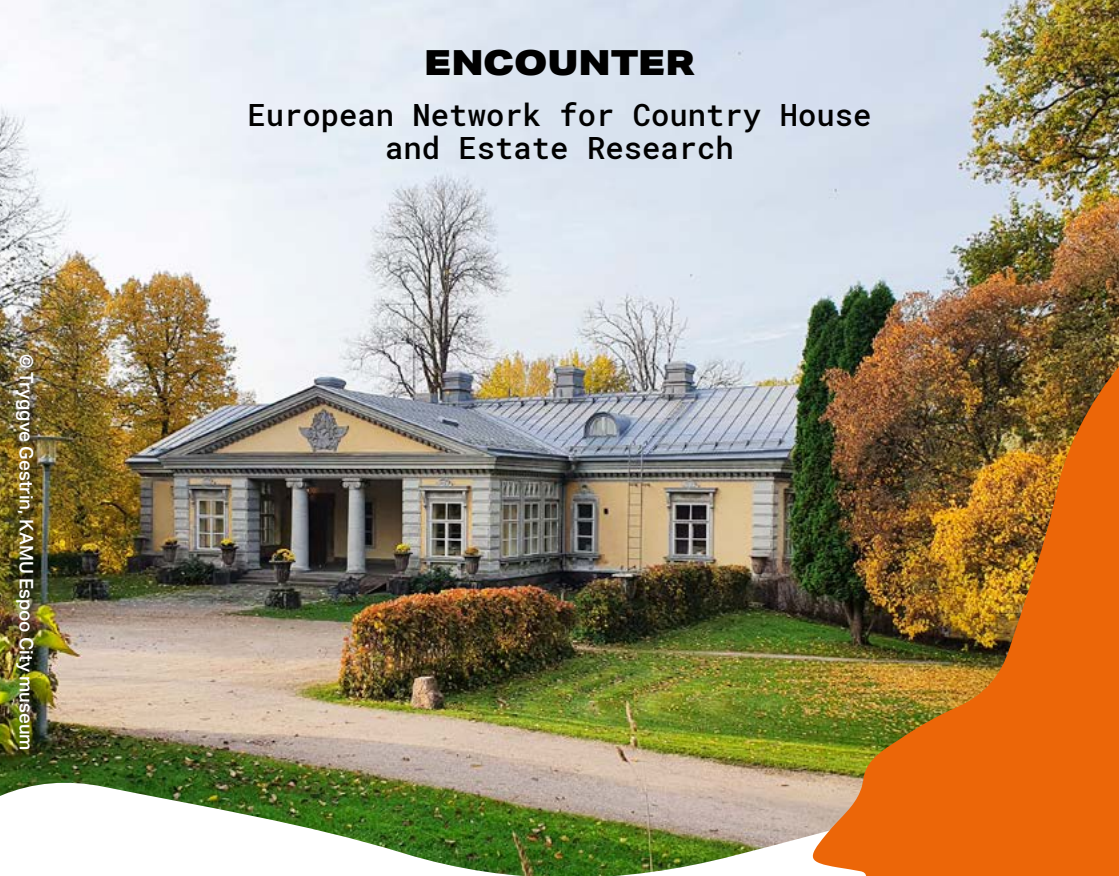


ENCOUNTER

European Network for Country House
and Estate Research

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The 8th ENCOUNTER
International Conference

Manors at war

KAMU Espoo City Museum, Espoo, Finland
13–15 June 2024

Conference program

Day 1, Thursday, 13th June 2024

- 9.00–9.30** Hanaholmen Conference Hotel: Registration; coffee
- 9.30–9.45** Opening, welcoming words: Tiina Kasvi, Cultural Manager, Partnerships and Promoting Culture, Espoo City
Victor Andersson, Programme Director (Hanaholmen)
Signe Boeskov, Head of Research Centre, The Danish Research Centre for Manorial Studies, Denmark
(ENCOUNTER)
- Introduction:**
Chair: Signe Boeskov
- 9.45–10.45** Keynote Professor Mattias Legnér (Uppsala University)
Uses and abuses of heritage in Scandinavia: The Second World War (45 min and discussion 15 min)
- 10.45–11.15** Alex Snellman: Between Wars and Noble Owners: The Myrberg Family at Esbogård (presentation 20 min and discussion 10 min)
- 11.30–12.00** Bus Hanaholmen – Esbogård Manor
- 12.00–13.00** Lunch, venue: Esbogård Manor
- 13.00–14.00** Esbogård Manor guided tour Tryggve Gestrin
- 14.00–14.30** Bus Esbogård Manor – KAMU Espoo City Museum
- 14.30–15.30** The Esbogård Manor Project: book and exhibition presentations. Tryggve Gestrin
- 15.30–16.00** Coffee, venue: Aitio
- 16.00–16.45** The Esbogård Exhibition
- 16.45–17.10** Bus to Hanaholmen
- 18.30** Conference Dinner, venue: Hanaholmen Conference Hotel
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Day 2, Friday, 14th June 2024

8.30–9.00 Hanaholmen: Coffee

9.00–11.30 Session 1

Chair: Jonathan Finch

9.00–9.30: Philipp Hesse: Central German manor houses were the site of conflict between wars, baroque trade politics, and residence culture—princely baroque splendour emerged in the provinces. (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

9.30–10.00: Roderigo Dias: The Estates and Royal Manors of the Portuguese Restoration War (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

10.00–10.30: Morten Baarvig Thomsen: A Tale of Two Manors – Danish Manors as Places of Care and Control in the Post-war Period (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

10.30–11.00: Maiju Hautamäki: Håkansböle Manor: Unveiling histories of war, ownership, and silent narratives (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

11.00–11.30: Susanna Eskola, Anna Finnilä: Life in Manor Houses (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

11.30–12.40: Lunch

12.40–15.00 Keynote and Session 2

Chair: Hanneke Ronnes

12.40–13.40: Keynote Professor Paul Zalewski (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder): The End of Manorial Prussia. Social Change and the World Wars. (45 min and discussion 15 min)

13.40–14.20: Oula Seitsonen: Manors in Finnish class war: Conflict archaeology and heritage of the White Guard's last stand in the Sigurds, Wohls, and Svidja Manors in February 1918 (presentation 25 min, discussion 15 min)

14.20–15.00: Elyze Storm-Smeets: War in Arcadia: Dutch country houses and estates in World War II (presentation 25 min, discussion 15 min)

15.00–15.30 Coffee

15.30–17.30: Session 3 (Esbogård Manor)

Chair: Göran Ulväng

15.30–16.00: Georg Haggrén: Esbogård during the Vasa Era. A node in the network of early modern royal demesnes in Sweden including Finland. (Presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

16.00–16.30: Kasper Kepsu: Esbogård as an economic and logistical centre during Sweden's Era as a Great Power 1617–1721 (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

16.30–17.00: Aapo Roselius: War and Land: Esbogård and the effects of the 20th century war-linked land reforms (presentation 20 min, discussion 10 min)

17.00–17.30 Closing remarks, Jonathan Finch

Day 3, Saturday, 15th June 2024

9.00 Bus Hanaholmen – Svidja Manor (50 min)

9.50–10.40 Svidja Manor guided tour (50 min)

10.40–11.30 Bus Svidja Manor – Backby Manor (50 min)

11.30–12.20 Backby Manor, guided tour (50 min)

12.20–13.30 Lunch, venue: Backby Manor (1h 10min)

13.30–13.45 Bus Backby Manor – Hovgård Manor (15 min)

13.45–14.15 Hovgård Manor (short presentation max 30 min)

14.15–14.30 Bus or walk Hovgård Manor – Rödsdags skola (distance ca 700 m)

14.30–15.15 Coffee, venue: Rödsdags skola

15.15–15.30 Bus Rödsdags skola – Träskända Manor

15.30–16.45 Träskända Park and House, guided tour (1h 15min)

16.45–17.10 Träskända Manor – Hanaholmen Conference Hotel (25 min)

Excursion destinations

Svidja Manor

History

This former allodial estate was already a manorial estate during the Middle Ages. The first known owners (1441) were the law officer Björn Ragvaldsson (Stiernkors) and his widow Elin. The manor house subsequently belonged to the Fleming, Sparre, Stenbock, Bielke, Banér, Stiernsköld, Rehbinder, Wrangel, Reuterholm, von Zansen, von Kraemer and Wrede families. August Wrede designed the interior to be reminiscent of the late Middle Ages in order to highlight the glorious era of the Flemings and the oldest history of the building. This interior design is unique in Finland. Between 1933 and 2015, the manor house was under state ownership and was used, among other things, as an experimental farm by the University of Helsinki.

Main building

The main building (picture 2) was constructed between 1540 and 1550 by Tomas Tomasson Stenhuggare. The construction was ordered by Erik Fleming, who was Privy Councillor, Admiral and Lord of Raseborg Castle and county. His son, Lord High Constable, Chief Admiral and Baron Claes Fleming was Governor of Finland and Estonia and played an important



2. © Tryggve Gestrin, KAMU Espoo City Museum

role during the war between King Sigismund and Duke Karl.

In 1754 Baron Carl Henrik Wrangel sold Svidja Manor to Baron Esbjörn Reuterholm. His son Gustaf Adolf Reuterholm was born at Svidja in 1756 and came to play an important role in governing the kingdom during the later half of the 1790s. After his death, Svidja Manor was sold by his heirs. The stone inscribed with the manor's year of completion and the Fleming and Sparre coats of arms was broken loose from the wall in 1815 and moved to Strängnäs in Sweden, as were also the earthly remains of the Reuterholm family who were originally buried in a chapel in Sjundeå Church. The commemorative plaque was cemented into a wall in the cathedral.

The main building, a medieval fortified keep, is supposed to have been reminiscent of Torpa Manor. The manor was rebuilt and modernised in the middle of the 1760s by Esbjörn Reuterholm, and once again in historical style by Baron August Wrede 1898–99, when the building was given its late medieval look with turrets, stepped gables and windows and doorways with pointed arches. The cottages on the lower level were converted into a knight's hall and armoury with Gothic wooden panelling featuring coats of arms of the owner families, and window arches as well as large open fireplaces.

Surroundings and park

Svidja Manor and Sjundea Church are two buildings of national importance that demonstrate the close relationship between the church and secular authorities during the Middle Ages, together with Sjundea Rectory which can still be found in its original location. The courtyard of the manor house is bounded by side buildings and courtyard buildings, and on the south side there is a five-hectare garden from the time of General von Kraemer, as well as family graves. In the courtyard there is a miniature model of a star-shaped fortification made of stone and earth, which historians assume

was constructed by Field Marshal Carl Henrik Wrangel for educational purposes. On the left side of the manor house is the ruin of a stone mill from the 17th century as well as the remains of an associated mill-pond.

During the Civil War of 1918, a battle was fought here between the Sjundea White Guards, who had taken refuge in the main building, and a company of Red Guards and Russian soldiers. About 200 men from the Sigurd Corps were entrenched in the main building, which was attacked by a troop of around 1000 soldiers. There is a memorial stone to the fallen soldiers of this battle in Sjundea Graveyard.

At the end of the War of Continuation, the National Museum sent some of its most valuable items for safe-keeping in the cellar vaults of Svidja.

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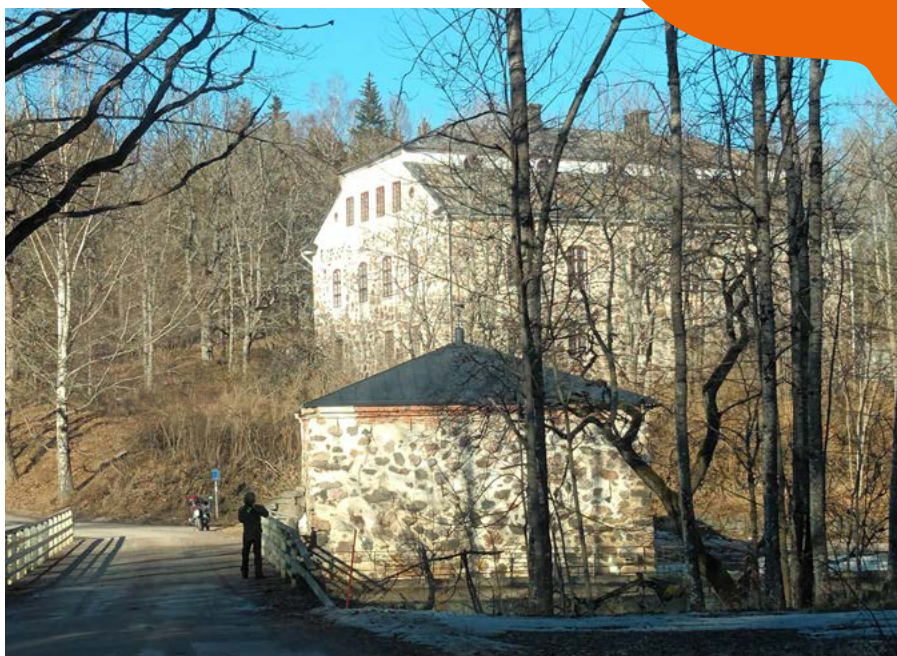
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3. © Trygve Gestrin, KAMU Espoo City Museum

Sjundby Estate

(can be seen from the bus)

Sjundby is one of approximately twenty manor houses from the Middle Ages and the 16th century in Finland, and the largest of the residential buildings that remain from the Vasa Era in Finland.

Sjundby Stone Manor was built in around 1560 on the orders of Jakob Henriksson Hästesko (of the Sjundby line) and the construction work was completed between 1560 and 1590. Sjundby was a royal estate during a few years (1555 to 1558). During the 17th century, the estate was owned by the Tott, Sparre and Creutz families before it was taken over by the Adlercreutz family through Tomas Teuterström

(knighted Adlercreutz) in 1698. Among the owners in the 17th century, we can name Sigrid Eriksdotter Vasa and her son Åke Tott, popularly called "the snow-plough from the North". Today the estate is still owned by descendants of the Adlercreutz family. In the 18th century, the manor house was subjected to vandalism during the Great Wrath.

The main building (Picture 3) was rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century, when the shape of the roof was transformed to a manorial clerestory roof and the windows were enlarged. The floor plan is based on the medieval

farmhouse layout. The manor's grand hall is at the courtyard corner of the second floor. The roof of the hall is covered with sail cloths from the sea battle at Svensksund.

The National Museum deposited a portion of its most important collections in the cellar vaults at Sjunby at the end of the War of Continuation. Sjunby was home to the staff of the Russian troops during the Porkala tenancy between 1944 and 1956. Today you can still find reminders of this time in the form of inscriptions on the walls of the outbuildings. The main building was unkindly treated during the Porkala period and its restoration was a massive undertaking. After the Porkala period, a part of the interior was restored to the same condition as at the beginning of the 19th century.

The manor has a granite stable and brewery from the 1760s as well as a stone granary from the beginning of the 19th century next to the bridge. The oldest parts of the manor park are from the 19th century. The park area up to the cliff behind the river is still being used as a nature reserve.

Sources:


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Backby Estate

This is an example of an estate that has returned to private ownership. A typical Espoo manor house from the 17th century. Some of the more important and long-lasting owners were the Brenner, Kurtén, Born and Widerholm families. The estate was owned by Ernst von Freymann during the first half of the 20th century. Currently the barn is home to the Espoo Car Museum.

The main building (picture 4) is a long, one-storey yellow wooden building covered by a curb roof with window cupolas. According to tradition, it was constructed in the 18th century, but there is proof for its existence by 1860. The manor house-like appearance is the result of a complete rebuild from 1919 to 1926, designed by the architect Jarl Eklund. Both the north and south ends of the house were extended at this time. During the winter 1937 to 1938, the North gable of the house was extended once again. The red-painted "Cavalier wing" was moved to the north of the courtyard in 1880.

The entire hill is designed as parkland utilising all the opportunities the terrain has to offer. Garden designer Bengt Schalin designed the park around the main building. Next to the park there was formerly a garden with a regular greenhouse and a greenhouse for grapes. The entire area is enclosed by hedges. The estate's farm buildings are situated to the south and east, outside the hedges. Most of these were built during the time of Baron von Freymann, partially according to designs by the architects Jarl Eklund



4. © Tryggve Gestrin, KAMU Espoo City Museum

and Väinö Vähäkallio. The attractive, finely wrought iron entry gates are worth noting.

After the war, the estate was confiscated by the Soviet Union, who considered it to be "Russian property", as von Freymann received Finnish citizenship after the independence of Finland, having previously been a Russian subject. During the War of Continuation, the German ambassador Wipert von Blücher lived in a villa on the estate grounds. After the war, the estate was bought by the Kaisa Kallio Foundation, who founded a convalescent home for exhausted mothers there. Today the estate is privately owned once more.

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5. © Eetu Sorvali, KAMU Espoo City Museum

Hovgård in Rödskog

A typical manor house in Espoo. Granted to Boggenskiöld in the 1660s, other owners include von Birckholtz, Agricola, Ogilwie, von Neuman, von Törne, Ollonberg, Widerholm. The estate belonged to the Myrberg family at the end of the 19th century (a link to Esbogård Manor). Always privately owned, "Rödskog Hof" came into being around 1660 by merging two farms granted to Jakob Bogge in Rödskog Village. Rödskog Hof was granted allodial freehold status in 1660, lost its tax exempt status in 1682 and was remodelled as a cavalry estate. The original property was unified with Nepper's augmentation of the cavalry farm in 1786, and with Nyby cavalry farm in the 1930s.

The main building (picture 5) is a wooden building surrounded by a two hectare park. The main building was constructed according to designs by the architect Aspelin in nineties

villa style. A short distance below the main building on the southeast slope there are two wing buildings that were originally built in the 18th century. The older west wing has a saddle roof with the old three-part ceiling preserved inside the house. The east wing has a mansard roof. The farm buildings are located outside the park area.

At Nyby cavalry farm there are two residential buildings from the 18th century. These are typical one storey peasant cottages. A timbered loft storehouse was built in 1812 and a two-storey granary with a divided front gable dates from 1784.

Sources:

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Rödskog School

The Rödskog elementary school was founded in 1892. This school was built on grounds that were formerly a part of Hovgård. The grounds were donated by the owner of the manor house for the purpose of building a school, and the construction was backed by money raised from grain alcohol production contracts by the State Office militia fund. The first schoolhouse burned

down in 1915 and was replaced by a new building designed by Emil Nordqvist in 1917. More space was needed due to the baby boom after the second world war and the school was extended in 1958. A separate teacher's residence was also built at this time. This building is one of the oldest preserved village schools in Espoo.

Träskända estate

The property that formed the basis of Träskända Manor was the former Storträsk farm, whose earliest known owner was mentioned in 1492. During the transition between the 18th and 19th century, Träskända developed into a large estate under the ownership of Carl Nathanael af Klercker, who was commander of the fortress of Sveaborg and Finland's Commander-in-chief. Procurator Carl Johan Walleen bought the estate in 1820 and built its first park. His stepdaughter, a Lady of Honour at the Russian Imperial Court and owner of the Demidoff industries, Aurora Karamzin, is one of the most famous owners of the Träskända Estate. The results of her reforms (1840 to 1890) still characterise the manor complex. At the beginning of the 20th century, the "Kagal", an association working against the Russification attempts in Finland, gathered at Träskända on the invitation of Senator

Adolf Törngren, who owned the estate at the time.

The main building was moved to its current location higher up the hill during Walleen's time. Later the main building was extended, and several park pavilions, follies and outbuildings were added during the 1850s and 1860s. The main building was destroyed by fire in 1888. The new building was built by Senator Adolf Törngren in 1900, using designs by the Gesellius-Lindgren-Saarenen architect's firm. The present main building (picture 6), which incorporates parts of the Jugend-style building, was completed in the 1920s using designs by the architects Armas Lindgren and Bertel Liljeqvist based on sketches by Isak Gustaf Clason. During the latest renovation, the exterior has largely been restored to its original appearance. The main building in



6. © KAMU Espoo City Museum

Scandinavian Baroque style (1920) is unique in Finland.

Träskända's historical grounds are situated by the south-western part of Esbo Långträsk by the Glimså river and the Great Coastal Road. The large park in Träskända was planted in the 1830s when the estate was owned by C.J. Walleen. This park was greatly extended during the time of Aurora Karamzin between the 1840s and 1890s when the formal French-style garden was transformed into a landscaped park planned by C. J. Helm. After Helm, Charles Orion, and later Carl Johan Gauffin took over the role of head gardener. The work of the Gauffin brothers was instrumental in developing the art of gardening in

Finland at the end of the 19th century. A market-garden on the eastern side of the avenue contained fruit orchards and vegetable plots as well as greenhouses.

The neo-Gothic granary and the open round temple in classical style in the park were designed by the architect Carl Ludwig Engel. The Swiss-style latrine was built in 1863 to a design by the architect G. Th. Chiewitz for the imperial visit of Alexander II. The park also contains the so called "Gingerbread House" from the end of the 18th century. It was probably given its current appearance in the middle of the 19th century. Other older buildings on the estate include two worker's cottages from the beginning of the

19th century that are situated near the main building.

The estate has wide parklands consisting of a landscaped park, forest gardens and natural forest, all protected by the Nature Conservation Act. The grounds also contain a medieval village plot and remains of earlier building stages of the estate and park.

North of the manor house are the so-called “dairy buildings” from the 1860s, which consist of the bailiff’s residence as well as wing buildings with a dairy and dairy school designed by Hampus Dahlström. At the mouth of the Glimså river, there is a decorative laundry building from the 1860s, designed by G. Th. Chiewitz.

The elementary school founded by Aurora Karamzin is situated in the northernmost part of the estate. It was designed by the architect Gustaf Nyström and built in 1891.

The Träskända Manor with its buildings and park is a representative example of a manor house near the capital in the 19th century. Träskända Park is one of the most important historic parks in our country. The Great Coastal Road, a road that formerly connected Turku (Åbo) and Viipuri (Viborg), and is exceptionally well-preserved in the park area, cuts straight across the estate.

Espoo City became the new owners of the main part of the manor house in 1923 and the main building was subsequently used as a municipal home and nursing home until 2005. In the 1950s, an hospital annex was

added for the nursing home. In 1961 the park became a nature reserve. A detailed plan is currently being drawn up for the manor house and park.

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Abstracts And Biographies

Uses and abuses of heritage in Scandinavia: The Second World War

Modern warfare has prompted nations to protect their cultural legacy. Before and during the Second World War aerial warfare was seen as the single greatest threat to a nation's heritage. Whole cities could be destroyed in bomb raids including historic city centres and cultural institutions. However, studying how heritage was understood and protected in the Scandinavian countries at the outset of the war, it becomes clear that the measures taken to protect historic buildings, object collections, archives and libraries from threats in themselves affected how these resources were valued, treated and used. Large volumes of objects and records were moved to remotely located castles and mansions in the hope that they would be safer there. For museum professionals, bureaucrats and military personnel it was a new challenge to plan for this protection, and knowledge on how to best proceed was initially sought from previous conflicts on the continent. When resources were scarce, which objects would be deemed worthy of surviving

the destruction of a war? Building on previously classified documents in archives and reports from the time, Legnér recounts the story of how planning for such evacuation was carried out in Scandinavia during the Second World War with an emphasis on Sweden and Finland. As occupied countries, Norway and Denmark had to develop their policies differently, often making protective efforts more difficult to achieve. In order to build a better preparedness in face of the risk of future wars, it is concluded that historical studies of heritage protection can be informative and provide valuable knowledge.

Mattias Legnér, historian and Professor in Conservation at Uppsala Universitet, has conducted extensive research on the uses of heritage in armed conflicts and is currently running two research projects on the topic of preparedness and protection of heritage in the event of armed conflict.

Between Wars and Noble Owners: The Myrberg Family at Esbogård

As a consequence of the Finnish War (1808–1809) the Finnish territory of the Swedish Kingdom was ceded to Russia, under which it gained self-rule as a separate Grand Duchy of Finland. After 1809 there was no land war in Finland before the Civil War of 1918. That is why the period of Russian rule 1809–1917 is sometimes called *Pax Russica*, although lately this term has gained notoriety in Russian propaganda.

In 1820, the only son at the Esbogård Manor, nobleman Adolf Henrik Ramsay married Hedvig Myrberg, a daughter of a non-noble customs official. In 1823, Hedvig's brother, Sea Captain Anders Myrberg bought the manor. He and his son Arthur Myrberg, who had studied at the Imperial Alexander University of Helsinki, devoted their lives to agriculture. Arthur sold Esbogård in 1903. After the Myrberg family, the manor was mostly owned by nobles: by the von Wahlberg family 1904–1909 and again by the Ramsay family since 1914.

In my presentation, which is based on a chapter in a newly published history of the Esbogård Manor, I describe this non-aristocratic and peaceful time in the history of the manor: the Myrberg family and the surrounding manorial community. What kind of people were they, where did they come from and how they organized the agriculture and the workforce?

Dr Alex Snellman, an independent researcher and historian specializing in the 19th century. He received his doctorate with the thesis *Suomen aateli* (2014) and has written, among other works, *Munkkiniemen kartano* (2015) and *Aatelin historia Suomessa* (2020).

Central German manor houses were the site of conflict between wars, baroque trade politics, and residence culture—princely baroque splendour emerged in the provinces.

The association wants to revitalise this unique and still authentic castle and research and document the history of the building's origins and construction methods.

In the period around 1700, which was characterised by armed conflicts in central Europe, an enormous construction boom took place in central Germany, be it the trade fair city of Leipzig, which was remodelled in the Baroque style, or the Dresden Residence, which took on a Baroque appearance from this time onwards.

Far away from these Baroque building centres, this construction boom was also reflected in what is now the Altenburger Land, a border region between Ernestine Saxony and Electoral Saxony. Manor houses of unrivalled quality and ornamentation were built, bearing the signature of

master builders and artists working in Electoral Saxony. Due to the lack of sources, which fell victim to the land reform in 1945, it is no longer possible to research the context in which they were built and the master builders.

The association has set upon itself the task of recording the architectural history of these manor houses, built between 1680 and 1770, to identify the master architects and builders.

The “Halbe Schloss” is a prime example of a house shaped by wars until it reached its present form. Located in the center of Germany, the castle has bordered between political powers since the 13th century.

If one assumes that there was a possible financial outflow from the trading metropolis of Leipzig due to the occupation of Electoral Saxony during the Northern War, as reported by the builder of the Halbe Schloss, merchant Johann von Kuntsch, it is not far-fetched to assume that Saxon master builders, craftsmen and artists also took on new tasks in the border region, caused by many merchants to build manors outside the state’s territory, primarily in neighbouring states to enable them to secure their wealth leading to an architectural boom, especially in the Altenburg state.

Philipp Hesse, Arkitekt Maa. Ing,
Architekt AK Thüringen

Philipp Hesse is a German architect, living in Denmark and works transnationally in Denmark and Germany. In 2018 he founded HEJ arkitekter and from 2021 to 2024 he

taught at the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt in the field of heritage documentation and historical building constructions. Since 2024 he is a consultant for ICOMOS in FuturHist. He is member of the board of ICOMOS Denmark, member of the ISC CIPA and ISCES. Philipp Hesse is the Chairman of Halbes Schloss Langenleuba-Niederhain, Vice-chairman of Interessengemeinschaft private Schlösser, Burgen und Gutsanlagen in Thüringen, Germany. He has been a member of ENCOUNTER since 2023.

The Estates and Royal Manors of the Portuguese Restauration War

“War as a way to open new territories for new Manors, new Landscape Estates and new Architecture and Artistic styles- The Metropolitan Area of Lisbon and the Tagus Estuary”.

The Royal Estate of Queluz, and The Royal Estate of Caxias.

On 1st of December of 1640, a small group of nobles, carries out a conspiracy in Lisbon, that overthrow the sixty-year government of Spanish Kings in Portugal. The country regains its independence with the acclamation of a Portuguese king D. Joao IV. Almost immediately, War breaks out between the Spanish Crown and the new Portuguese Kings, the conflict lasts 28 years 1640-1668.

The nobles who took advantage of the Spanish crown, fled and saw their

Manors, their Estates and Domains, confiscated by King D. João IV, to found in 1654-1655, the “House of Infantado” to benefit the second-born Princes. During two centuries until its extinction in 1834, The Lords of Infantado, grew in richness, power and privileges, and build Manors, Gardens and Landscape Estates in new Baroque and Rococó French Style, that emerged until today, in the Metropolitan area of Lisbon, and around the 340 Km² of the water mirror of the Tagus Estuary.

A new defense System, with dozens of forts and sea batteries was built, west from the City center, and along twenty kilometers of shore up to the edge of the Tagus estuary and the Atlantic Ocean. They offer security to the city, but also to new territories belonging to the aristocracy, and rich merchants. They took the opportunity to build new rich astonishing Projects, inspired in European architectural styles, with Manors, Gardens and Landscape Estates, in an Arcadian pastoral style, profiting from the astonishing horizons and Infinity axis over the Atlantic Ocean.

Two remarkable examples were studied and analyzed: Queluz and Caxias. They were confiscated properties and belonged to the House of Infantado. From 1742 and onwards, they gave birth, by the hand of Prince D. Pedro, Seigneur of the Infantado and Later King Consort Pedro III, to the magnificent Royal Estate and Palace of Queluz and to its extension The Royal Estate of Caxias, built 8 Km south of Queluz on the bank of the Estuary. The projects show a new Architecture, a

new Garden style and new Landscape designs, to serve a new society, new etiquette and new way of life, an openness to Europe only possible by the war one hundred years ago.

Rodrigo Alves Rodrigues Dias,

Landscape Architect from the Lisbon Technique University, urbanist, planner, researcher and author. Portuguese Historical Gardens “Quintas de Recreio” Landscape Estates active member of the Portuguese Association of Landscape Architects, member of the Portuguese Association of Historic Gardens. Vice President of the Association of Friends of the Botanic Garden of Ajuda and an active member of several other cultural associations.

Researcher at the Lusitana University of Lisbon - Research Center-CITAD -ESTEJO The Cultural Landscape of the Tagus Estuary “Quintas de Recreio”.

A Tale of Two Manors – Danish Manors as Places of Care and Control in the Post-war Period

In the years following the second world war, Europe was left in tatters. Across the continent, hunger was widespread, desperate refugees were omnipresent, and former combatants began their long battle with the traumatic memories of open or covert conflict. In Denmark, which had endured a relatively soft German occupation, such problems were less pronounced than in the other former occupied countries or in the allied occupied zones of Germany. These circumstances set the Scandinavian country on a relatively quick path towards 'normalcy'. Despite Denmark's 'lucky' post-war circumstances several major internal challenges remained. First and foremost, the Danish government had to care for nearly 250.000 German and allied refugees who had fled from east- and central Europe in the last months of conflict. Additionally, Danes who had opposed German occupation started to emerge from hiding and German internment. Caring for both refugees and former resistance fighters was a resources-intensive task, and it was in this context that Danish manors, as sites of both control and care, came to play an important role.

This presentation aims to explore how two specific Danish manors were utilized in the post-war years. The first - *Benzon Gods* in the east of Jutland - was used as a prison camp for allied refugees who had committed criminal acts or were otherwise unwanted.

The other - *Gurrehus* in the north of Zealand - was used as pan-European care home for resistance fighters. The presentation will explore how the manors functioned for such purposes and what can this tell us about the role of manors in post-conflict periods.

Morten Baarvig Thomsen (MA in History and English) is a historian employed at the Historic Collection from The Occupation in Esbjerg, Denmark (Historisk Samling fra Besættelsestiden). There, he teaches and researches the history of the second world war, the Holocaust, and the post-war period. He is currently working on a project about the post-war years with a special focus on the treatment of displaced persons.

Unveiling histories of war, ownership, and silent narratives

The City of Vantaa acquired Håkansböle Manor in 2005, and initiated restoration with plans to open a manor museum for the public. After 20 years we are now in the last phase of renovation. We plan Håkansböle's future exhibitions and activities and the research on the 14 meters of archival materials has started this spring.

Since we are only at the beginning of our research, we know little about the history of the manor during the wars and our knowledge is focused on the history of the owners who worked in the Swedish and later Russian armies.

Håkansböle was one of the estates that grew exponentially during the 17th century wars. Through existing research, it is possible to create an overview of the war experiences of the people in Håkansböle from the 1600s to the 1800s. Most of our archives and therefore the best knowledge is from the Finnish civil war and how it affected on the estate's economy during 1917-1919.

In this presentation I will unveil the discoveries from our new study. I will dive into stories of the people and analyse what are the narratives about war that we are hearing in Håkansböle and those that are silent. I will open a discussion on what did wars exactly mean to manors as businesses, how they affected people and families and on representing the multidimensional war stories in a house museum.

Maiju Hautamäki works as a Project Coordinator at Vantaa City Museum, where she designs services and exhibitions for Håkansböle Manor Museum. Her responsibilities also include the comprehensive development of the manor area. Maiju is dedicated to revitalizing cultural heritage and enriching museum experiences for the residents of Vantaa.

Life in Manor Houses

Helsinki City Museum opens new exhibition (working title Life in Manor Houses) at Villa Hakasalmi in October 2024. Exhibition presents the life, hierarchies, and different kind of phenomena of manor houses from 1860–1880. Owners of the manor houses were at the top of the social in the 19th century and their family ties and business contacts spread wide. Therefore, the exhibition will examine not only the manors of Helsinki area but also the manors of Central Uusimaa.

Helsinki City Museums' exhibition will present Finnish manor house life and ways of living especially for the friends of epoch drama, TV-series, and cinema but also for the history nerds. Exhibition presents the lives of the servants and the gentry through different interiors and life stories. Fiction is being used to present sharp differences of the estates of the society. In that way we try to make hierarchical estates more relatable for our modern visitors. The exhibition tells the story of servants' lives through phenomena such as work, life management and privacy. The lives of the owners of the estates are presented through gender roles, public life and social relations.

Life in the manor houses was basically seen as a life of two layers of people. The servants who lived and worked downstairs and the upper class who lived at upstairs. At the same time when servants tried to do their chores unseen and unheard, their life was full of dreams, fears, and hopes.

The perspective of our presentation is the role of museums as popularizers and mediators of the history of the manors. It also examines the goals, challenges and collaboration of the exhibition process.

Susanna Eskola, Phil.Lic. at University of Helsinki, Team leader in Helsinki City Museum, Exhibitions and Events, producer of *Life at Manor Houses* -exhibition, which opens at Villa Hakasalmi in October 2024.

Anna Finnilä, M.A. degree at University of Helsinki, Team leader in Helsinki City Museum, Education and Welfare, in charge of the Script-team in the *Life at Manor Houses* -exhibition, which opens at Villa Hakasalmi in October 2024.

The End of Manorial Prussia. Social Change and the World Wars

Conventionally, a 'war' is perceived as a conflict between two entities, limited within a specific time and space. However, understanding its trajectory and consequences requires an examination of ideologies, discourses, and networks pre-existing the conflict. Even a peace treaty alone seldom adequately regulates the conclusion of a military conflict. Periods of chaos and uncertainty often persist long after the cessation of hostilities. This underscores the relevance of viewing a war within a broader historical period, especially in the case of German, or more precisely, Prussian history.

Observing this context reveals a burgeoning power dynamic among the landowning elites, accompanied by a critique. Wars, within this framework, served as opportunities to expedite or redirect social transformations, invariably affecting manors as symbolic representations of feudal networks.

After the partition of Poland and the collapse of the Napoleonic regime, the Prussian state underwent a significant geographic expansion and initiated several fundamental reforms. One such reform was the liberalization of land property rights in 1807. The consequences of this policy became evident in the territories east of the Elbe River (Ostelbien), where the economy relied heavily on large estates. The easier access to landownership proved attractive to representatives of various social groups, driven by financial, political, or symbolic motivations. On one hand, newcomers, including individuals holding prominent positions in state administration or involved in industrial enterprises, acquired these estates, often reshaping existing castles or erecting new ones. Many of these newcomers were of Jewish descent. On the other hand, the old nobility, irrespective of actual economic performance, sought to maintain hermetic networks and uphold their elite status in society. Both groups, particularly the nobility, faced criticism from the late 19th century onward.

The direct damages in the World War I occurred above all in the northeastern corner of Prussia due of the fierce fights between the German

and Russian army. The balance was horrifying; 1.900 rural communities and nearly 70 estates with 18.000 of agricultural amenities were plundered and many of them completely devastated. Interestingly, it is a less known fact that many of them were reconstructed after the end of the war. Even some new ones were built. In contrast to these reconstruction efforts in the periphery, a completely different spirit emerged in Berlin in the wake of the so called 1918 Revolution. A proposal in public debates was heard demanding that the castles of nobility be turned into social housing objects. Indeed, some of them were adopted for the needs of the public institutions during the "Weimar Republic". After the beginning of the Nazi Regime the Jewish manor-owners became a target of a compulsory expropriations. The conservative backlash involved not only the collaboration of the Hohenzollern family with the fascist movement, which is a highly discussed topic in today's Germany. The Nazi elites emulated the lifestyle of gentry. Hermann Göring and Joseph Goebbels built their own country houses next to Berlin in the 1930ties.

Unlike the situation in East Prussia, the manors in the heart of the country experienced more stable conditions during wartimes. However, everyday life was marked by what is commonly known as the "home front." After 1939, the agricultural workforce underwent significant changes; German workers, who had been enlisted in the military, were replaced by forced laborers abducted from Eastern Europe, particularly Poland, in line with the

concept of the "Generalplan Ost." Some of the manors were converted into military hospitals, with their gardens serving as areas for the recovery of wounded soldiers.

The distinguishing characteristic of Prussian manors was that they were childhood and youth homes for many high-ranking military officers involved in various wartime operations during World War II. Remarkably, towards the war's end, this group, which went through common socialization process, returned to these specific manorial locations outside of Berlin to discuss the assassination of Hitler. Such mutual trust among them would have been unimaginable without the shared experiences of socialization in these manorial settings. Therefore, the function of estates as private refuges, accessible only to trusted friends, had been established long before the war.

The destruction of manor houses during the final stage of World War II was varied. Once again, East Prussia, serving as a gateway to core German territories, bore the brunt, losing approximately a quarter of these buildings. In all other provinces, the damage is estimated at ten percent. The spatial distinction and exceptional facilities of these manors attracted a particular function in 1945: many were repurposed to accommodate the Soviet military administration. Some retained similar functions, such as police stations, for several years after the war. The official dissolution of the Prussian state resulted in compulsory expropriations and land divisions. Manor houses across East

Germany (Soviet Occupation Zone) became temporary shelters for the expelled population of East Prussia or Silesia. The new social revolutionary symbolism, along with the ambition to provide refugee families with their own houses, led to a decree aiming at the demolition of estate buildings and the use of materials for constructing small "new peasant" houses. Although this plan largely failed, some manors disappeared. Typically, manor houses served local communities by housing public institutions or being utilized by the administration of large agricultural farms. However, proper maintenance and sustainable use were not prioritized. The end of the Cold War brought only limited opportunities for repurposing the empty houses. For some, the consequences of World War II remain visible to this day.

Paul Zalewski, Professor for Heritage Studies in the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/O, Germany. He is a versatile researcher who has written articles and edited numerous works in his field. In addition to his scientific work, he has participated in construction conservation projects in Germany, France, Romania and Poland.

Manors in Finnish class war: Conflict archaeology and heritage of the White Guard's last stand in the Sigurds, Wohls, and Svidja Manors in February 1918

Finnish Civil War in the spring 1918 was one of the class conflicts sparked by the Europe-wide revolutionary activity towards the end of the First World War. The class war aspect was perhaps most pronounced in the battles fought in the western part of the Uusimaa Province in southern Finland. There, the Finnish Senate's armed forces, White Guard, consisted to a large part of the Swedish-speaking nobility and locals, whereas the opposing revolutionary Red Guards were mostly Finnish-speaking factory workers and crofters from the cities. Early in the war, the major industrial cities in the south were taken over by the Red Guard, and the last remaining White power centers formed around the manors in the rural western Uusimaa. The centuries-old Jorvas, Wohls, Sigurds, and Svidja Manors of the Swedish-speaking nobility became the rallying points for the Whites. White troops established these manors as their bases, and simultaneously the manors acted as red flags for the Red Guard. Red troops were lured even from hundred kilometers away to them and short battles were fought around Sigurds, Wohls, and Svidja Manor houses. In this paper I present the history of these battles and the conflict archaeological work carried out around the manors. The Finnish Civil War was a very amateurish conflict on both sides,

although the White troops had some better trained officers. Field surveys showed, for instance, the differences between the professionalism of the Red and White Guards, with traces of the field fortifications built by the White troops preserved in the woods still over a century later. At the same time, it also highlighted the amateurishness of those. Locally, the dark heritage of the Civil War battles is of high importance, but in the larger picture the fleeting battles in western Uusimaa were but a sidetrack and are not well-known beyond the local area.

Oula Seitsonen (PhD, archaeology, University of Helsinki 2018; Title of Docent, archaeology, University of Oulu) is an archaeologist and geographer at the University of Oulu. At the moment he directs a contemporary archaeological project "An archaeological perspective on inequality in welfare society" funded by the Kone Foundation. Seitsonen has a long experience in the archaeology of modern conflicts and their aftermaths, from the Finnish Civil War battlefields to the material traces of the ongoing refugee crisis. His recent monograph "Archaeologies of Hitler's Arctic War" (Routledge 2021) is the first one to assess the archaeology and heritage of Second World War in northern Finland from a theoretically informed material culture perspective.

War in Arcadia: Dutch country houses and estates in World War II

In 2021 heritage organisation *Gelders Genootschap* and the Dutch Castle Foundation started a new research project on Dutch country houses in WWII: War in Arcadia. The country houses and picturesque landscapes created by noblemen, regents and other country house owners, were often viewed as Arcadia, as Paradise on earth. But from May 1940 to the liberation in 1945 this Arcadia was the background of the Second World War. For the Netherlands at least, little is known about the impact for country houses and their owners. In what way were 'arcadian' landscapes and country houses affected by the war? Were country houses confiscated, and to what purposes? Due to our research we now know that over 400 Dutch country houses were confiscated by German troops for both military and civil purposes. Castles and country houses proved to be of great interest, as it concerned large buildings in wide landscapes, with good infrastructure and valuable resources. Many country houses and estates were plundered and completely destroyed, others were left scarred with bunkers, trenches and military installations. In this paper I would like to address the importance of researching the history of 'war in arcadia' and discuss the challenges that come with remembering and preserving war-related heritage. What do these stories mean for us now? Do we actually tell the stories to country house visitors? How do we deal with

managing the tangible war heritage at country houses, such as trenches, bunkers and scars of war? The project *War in Arcadia* will result in two publications in the Summer of 2024: one on the history of Dutch country estates during WWII, the other on (tangible and intangible) WWII heritage at Dutch country estates now.

Dr. Elyze Storms-Smeets studied human geography in Utrecht (NL) and Durham (UK), specialising in historical geography and landscape history. At the University of Leeds (UK) she wrote her PhD-thesis on the historical geography of country houses and estates, 1750-1950. From 2012 till 2017 she was assistant professor in *Historic Country Houses and Estates* at the University of Groningen. Elyze works as a heritage consultant and senior researcher in the Netherlands at heritage organisation *Gelders Genootschap*. She is the project leader and senior researcher for the project *War in Arcadia*, about Dutch country houses and estates in World War II. Since 2021 Elyze also works as Associate Professor in cultural heritage and participative spatial planning at Wageningen University and Research. She is furthermore involved with the Dutch Castle Foundation and the Limburg Castle Foundation.

Esbogård during the Vasa Era. A node in the network of early modern royal demesnes in Sweden including Finland

In 1555 a war raged between Sweden and Russia. The Swedish army was gathered close to the Russian border in Vyborg where it faced great difficulties in maintenance and supply of the troops. Immediately after his visit to Vyborg in 1555 King Gustav I began to build up a network of royal demesnes. The earliest ones were located in Eastern Finland, but they were soon followed by a number of new estates of the Crown in the rest of Finland too. One of these newly founded demesnes was Esbogård. In the 1570s, during the next war between Sweden and Russia Esbogård was used not only as a service base but briefly as a command center too.

This paper focuses on the military role of the royal demesnes during the Vasa Era with Esbogård as a case study. How was the production of the estate together with the taxes collected there steered for the needs of the troops? How was the demesne used as a military base or for the needs of troops on the move? How did the demesne fill the needs of the navy?

Georg Haggrén (PhD) is a professor of archaeology at the University of Turku and lecturer in historical archaeology at the University of Helsinki. He is an archaeologist and historian specialising in the beginning of the new era in Finland and Scandinavia. He has published studies on several manor

houses and royal estates, and medieval villages in Espoo.

Esbogård as an Economic and Logistical Centre during Sweden's Era as a Great Power 1617–1721

During the most part of the 17th and early 18th century Esbogård was possessed by the families Horn and Wrede, which belonged to the high nobility. In 1641 field marshal Gustaf Horn purchased the manor as a hereditary fief or donation (Sw. *köpfrälse*). During the Great Reduction in the 1680s, Esbogård became a cavalry estate (Sw. *dubbelt berustat kronosäteri*). It had a great number of tenant farms and crofts. At the most 75 tenant farms were subordinated to Esbogård in the mid-seventeenth century. Almost all of the tenant farms were so-called noble farms (Sw. *frälsehemman*), which did not have a hereditary right to the farm. Crofts started to be established in the early 1690s.

In this presentation, I will mainly discuss how Esbogård was shaped by wartime and how it operated as a logistical center during wartime. I will also address how wartime affected the labour forces at the manor. The constant wars and crop failures during the period resulted in a labour shortage as well as economic problems for the tenant farmers. Hence, the question of work organisation for tenant farmers, crofters and servants was important throughout the Horn and Wrede era in Esbogård.

After the Great Reduction, Esbogård had to provide two cavalymen with horses and equipment to the cavalry. The manor was also an assembly centre for cavalry troops when the Great Northern War broke out in 1700. The cavalry regiment participated in many battles during the war, ultimately in the campaign against Norway in 1718–1719, which resulted in a disastrous retreat over the mountains along the Swedish-Norwegian border. When Finland was occupied by Russia 1713–1721, Esbogård functioned as a military camp for Russian troops. During the occupation, the manor was badly damaged, as well as during the war with Russia in 1741–1743. The imposing baroque castle built around 1680 was not properly rebuilt and was eventually teared down during the 18th century.

Kasper Kepsu (PhD) is a lecturer in Nordic history at Turku Akademi. He took his PhD at the University of Helsinki in 2014 and his research focuses on estates and towns in the periphery of the Swedish Empire, seen from an economic and social history perspective.

War and Land: Esbogård and the effects of the 20th century war-linked land reforms

This paper will examine the effects of the world wars on the land policies in Finland, with focus on Esbogård. Land reform in the 20th century Eastern and Middle-Europe was intimately connected to popular unrest, revolution, wars, and the nation-building projects after WWI. In Esbogård as well as elsewhere in southern Finland there were in the early 20th century various private entrepreneurs aiming at the division of large tracts of land into smaller farmhouses. Only after the turmoil of war and independency the land reform became part of a Finnish stately policy. Especially the experience of the civil war in 1918, where the agricultural laborers had joined the socialist revolution in great numbers, the

policy of turning landless people into smallholders became a key part of the Finnish nation-building.

During WWII Finland had to resettle hundreds of thousands of refugees from the regions that were ceded to Soviet Union. 60 % of the refugees made a living from agriculture. The massive expropriations of land from estates that followed had a huge impact on manors both culturally and economically. With focus on Esbogård, this paper discusses the effects of the wars of the 20th century on the land reform and what kind of political and emotional tensions can be traced to the reforms. The paper also compares the Finnish postwar refugee situation and the expropriations of land with the situation in West Germany.

Aapo Roselius (PhD.) is a lecturer in political history at the University of Oulu. His research covers political movements of the 20th century and the culture of war memorials. His latest publications are *Kampen om den svenska jorden: Karelarna i Finlands svenskspråkiga områden 1940–1950* (The struggle for Swedish soil: The Karelians in Finland's Swedish-speaking areas 1940-1950) (2020) and *Finlands okända krig: Finska och skandinaviska frikårer i Baltikum och Ryssland 1918–20* (Finland's unknown war: Finnish and Scandinavian free forces in the Baltic States and Russia 1918-1920) (2021).

Esbogård manor:

An estate landscape in the making

The landscape

There are traces of human activity in the natural surroundings of the parish long before the first written testimony. The old primeval forest had thinned out due to slash-and-burn agriculture and cattle-rearing which caused the lakes to show signs of eutrophication as early as the 7th century, and the fields had been farmed without interruption since around 1000 AD. When the migration from what is now central Sweden grew at the end of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th century, previously detached farms gathered together in villages.ⁱ

When King Gustav I commanded a royal demesne to be founded in the parish in 1556, his bailiff chose to situate it in Mankby and Esboby. These two villages were at the bottom of the Espoonlahti bay (Esboviken) by the Stora Strandvägen road, the Great Coastal Road, that had been built around 250 years earlier to connect Turku (Åbo) with Viipuri (Viborg). From there, one branch of the main road went to Hämeenlinna (Tavastehus) and by Magasinsudden in Kallvik there was a harbour where larger ships could dock.



© KAMU, Espoo City Museum

The villages of Mankby and Esboby were close together and tended the Esboby fields and the Mankby fields on both sides of the Espoo river (now Mankån). In addition there were fields belonging to Myntböle on both sides of the Gumböle river. The Danish knight Otto Pogwisch, Seneschal of Raseborg, sent a letter from here dated Espoo 3rd March 1431, which is the first time the parish is mentioned in writing.

These fields, comprising 60 acres (approx. 30 hectares) were all the fields that belonged to the central demesne up to the end of the 19th century. There were meadows along the riverbanks

and towards the estuary, and also a large swampland north-west of the manor.

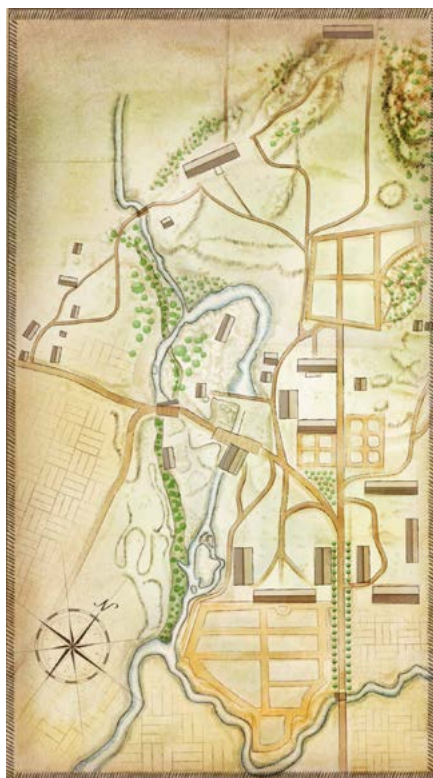
The Espoo river formed two sets of rapids where it passed Esbogård, one higher up and one downstream where the river splits into two branches. Traditionally the village flour mills were placed in a row by the east branch, and below them a sawmill was built.

The location where the manor house was built in the 1550s had a clear view over the river valley along the Espoo river and over the Espoo fields towards the brickworks of the estate and the hill that borders the fields to the south while there was swampland to the north-west. The estate faced south, with its back to the north.

The estate and its buildings

Esbogård was run by royal bailiffs 1556 to 1625, except for a brief period between 1607 and 1614, when it was awarded to military commanders and 1619 to 1621, when it was leased to Count Jakob De la Gardie.

Without a main building, Esbogård would have looked like a large peasant village in the 16th century. The buildings initially largely consisted of houses that had been moved from Espoby and Mankby to the centre of the new royal demesne. The newer buildings were constructed with glass windows and fireplaces with dampers, which constituted innovations in residential buildings of the period. The sawmills and flour mills were also renewed in the 1580s. A prison



© Map edited by Laura Markkanen/Kapteeni Kuu/KAMU
Espoo City Museum

was constructed in 1590. The first proper main building was built by the bailiff Olof Ångerman in 1590. The whole of Nyland county was levied with a separate tax to pay for the construction.

Field Marshall, Count Gustaf Horn (1592 to 1657) received Esbogård as salary estate in 1625 and bought it for tax relief 1641, after which the estate was owned by him and his descendants until 1751. Gustaf Horn transformed the old royal demesne into a large estate with 75 dependent tenant farms covering a quarter of

the parish of Espoo. The first of the large main buildings was constructed between 1644 and 1645. This single-storey building was not intended as a residence. It was likely mostly intended for as a rest stop for travellers. The daily affairs of the estate were handled by a bailiff.

The Baroque manor

Privy Councillor, Count Fabian Wrede (1641 to 1712), who had become the owner of Esbogård through marriage to Gustaf Horn's granddaughter Brita Cruus, erected a timbered hunting manor in Baroque style in 1681. This building is unique in its architecture in Finland.

The closest equivalent to Esbogård hunting manor can be found in Sweden. The Esbogård hunting manor has many similarities to Field Marshal, Count Carl Gustaf Wrangel's hunting manor Gripenberg from the 1660s. Gripenberg has the same number of window pairs on the main facade, the same number of rooms on the ground floor and four corner towers topped with cupolas. Gripenberg, however, had four arched cellar rooms whereas Esbogård only had three.

The Esbogård hunting manor was probably situated where the courtyard in front of the current main building is. At this time there was still no millpond on the estate, so the approach to the main entrance would have been from the south west, which an ink drawing by Ehrensvärd in 1747 also suggests. The driveway to the estate on the map from 1779 is from the south east however,

and continues straight from Stora Strandvägen.

This monumental design with an imposing manor house which travellers far away on the hilltop to the south could see the standing proudly on its hill above the road, was destroyed when it was vandalised by uncontrolled troops during the Great Wrath between 1713 and 1721. When first seen after the peace treaty in Nystad 1721, Esbogård was confirmed to be more or less unusable. The forest had been cut down, the pastures and meadows had turned wild and were overgrown with brush, and the buildings had been demolished. Toward the end of the 1720s, Esbogård had recovered somewhat, but the main building built 40 years previously was allowed to fall into disrepair. Just over ten years later, the estate was devastated by the Lesser Wrath between 1742 and 1743.

The owner of Esbogård, Governor Count Axel Wrede Sparre also suffered economic difficulties at this time. Count Sparre sold his properties in Finland and the Baltic states, and of these Esbogård to the brothers Vilhelm and Mikael Hising in 1751 to pay off his debts. Vilhelm Hising's daughter married County Governor, Baron Anders Henrik Ramsay (1707 to 1782) who bought out his wife's siblings and acquired the estate in 1756.

Baron Ramsay takes over

Anders Henrik Ramsay handled his properties with great energy. He founded crofts and tenant farms and imposed major changes on the estate,

regulating the size of his tenant farms, so that all were equal. After these changes, which were primarily done in 1776, the barn was moved west of the main road and three large drying barns were built on the opposite east side. The estate was also given a new main building around 1776 when the old Baroque manor was demolished.

In order to complete his renovations, Ramsay needed credit from the national bank, which demanded a valuation of the property. The court enforcement officer's report dated 9th August is referenced in Hushållnings Journalen 1777. Thanks to this report we have a fairly clear picture of the estate's buildings.

When Anders Henrik Ramsay's daughter Sophie Louise Ramsay (1754 to 1816) and stepson (as well as nephew), County Governor Otto Wilhelm Ramsay (1743 to 1806) was given the estate as an advance on his inheritance in 1778, he began to plan an impressive new central part of the estate. The plans included a courtyard with a two storey main building flanked by wing buildings. The wing buildings were erected in 1797 and 1801 at an angle to the main building from 1776 and the "really old building", which was demolished. It is probable that the foundations of these older buildings were filled in to level the grounds between the wing buildings.

The area between the wing buildings was scanned with ground penetrating radar in 2008 and returned a clear echo, which suggests the existence of stone structures underground. Only



Drawing by Ehrensvärd, Stockholm City Museum

archaeological research will be able to determine if these structures are the stone foundations and cellar of the old Baroque manor.

Otto Wilhelm Ramsay died in 1806. His widow Sophie Louise Ramsay was a strong-willed woman who ran the estate with tireless energy. The Finnish War 1808 to 1809 caused much damage to the estate and loans were again needed to repair the damage. In 1812, Exchange Emperor Alexander offered Sophie Louise Ramsay compensation for the damage she had suffered during the war if she would only swear fealty to him. She begged to defer this offer, however, since no money could replace her two sons,

who had died in the war. Her wish was granted. But pride has its price. At this point it was not possible to construct a main building and the estate could not be made into an entailed estate as planned since it was being used as a deposit for a loan. The west wing building had to serve as the main building instead.

The sawmill

The vigorous and hard-working Anders Henrik Ramsay (1707 to 1782) changed the design and operation of the estate radically. Planks were needed on the estate and to sell due to the lively spate of house and ship building in Sveaborg (from 1919 called Suomenlinna) and Helsinki (Helsingfors) during the second half of the 18th century. Augustin Ehrensvärd, Commander of Sveaborg, encouraged all estate owners who had the opportunity to build sawmills and brickworks.

After all the deforestation performed by Russian soldiers during the Great Wrath (1713 to 1721) and Lesser Wrath (1742 to 1743) when Finland was occupied, there was no timber forest left near the manor. Anders Henrik Ramsay had the privileges for the Esbogård sawmill (which were bound to the estate) moved from the estate to Qvarnträsket in Noux. There he bought up all the village's homes and founded five new freeholds to gain access to both day labourers on the estate and to the timber forest in the area.

A large sawmill needs access to consistent water power. For this reason, Ramsay also performed

massive dredging and rock-blasting operations in Noux. The sawmill produced all kinds of planks, ship timber, spars and battens. The new sawing techniques, combined with a demand for sawmill products in Stockholm, The Netherlands and England, contributed to a boost in the sawmill industry in Finland in the 1720s and 1730s. Of all the sawmills founded in the Uusima (Nyland) and Hämeenlinna (Tavastehus) counties in 1721 to 1772, only nine were as large or larger than the Esbogård sawmill.

The flour mill

A new waterwheel stone burr mill was built of stone in 1775 to 1777. In connection with the building of the mill, water from the Espoo river was diverted to a dam that was dug out to utilise the entire height of the water head. At this time, the wooden bridges were replaced with two arched stone bridges, which are now the oldest still in use in Finland. The two storey mill was built using excavated rock and had an attic with a curb roof. The road and the bridges were also raised so that the entrance from the main road was on the same level as the second storey of the mill. Rye and corn flour from the Esbogård mill was delivered to the garrison at Sveaborg, among others.

The brickworks

Brick-making was a long tradition at Esbogård. During the 17th century they made so many bricks that they were even used by Gustaf Horn to build his other properties e.g. in Häringe in Södermanland and Malla in Estonia.

There was so much construction at the end of the 18th century that a larger brickworks was built, which can still be seen on a map of the estate from 1832. It is believed that brick-making at the brickworks ceased during the first half of the 19th century. Housing has been built in the brickworks area in the last 20 years.

The park

Any manor house worth the name needs a garden and park. At the end of the 18th century, Swedish manor houses usually only had kitchen gardens. Esbo was no exception. A new kind of park was currently in fashion however. So-called English parks, freely planned landscaped parks where the pathways follow the natural topography became popular in the Nordic countries at the end of the 18th century. Landscaped parks were built wherever possible and were often connected to the kitchen gardens.

These new ideas also influenced the renewal of the Esbogård park. The result of the plans for Esbogård are shown in the document Situations Charta öfver Esbo Gård from around the turn of the century in 1800, which is preserved in the estate archives. The park is a formal garden in French style, with a small landscaped park on the hill to the east of the main building. The garden with its winding paths was included in the park's plans as a relatively early example of an English park in Finland.

The estate was taken over by another family in 1823, when the indebted Adolf

Henrik Ramsay sold it to his brother-in-law, merchant captain Anders Gustaf Myrberg (1793 to 1871).

A map of the estate's grounds from 1832 shows a garden which basically follows the earlier plan, but is somewhat enlarged. The English garden is on the hill to the east of the courtyard and includes a round building that was probably a pavilion. The tree-lined alley is also visible on the topographical map from 1871.

The formal garden was used for planting fruit and vegetables, including strawberries. It was here that the foremost pomological pioneer (pomology is the study of fruit and berry cultivation) in Finland, Alexandra Smirnoff (1838 to 1913), performed an experiment to cultivate 50 different kinds of strawberries during a five-year period between 1876 and 1881. The strawberry plants were purchased from Stockholm and St. Petersburg.

Another Ramsay – between the wars

After an interregnum with several owners 1904 to 1909, Esbogård was transformed into a limited company, whose shares were purchased in their entirety in 1914 by the Actual State Councillor, Senator August Ramsay (1859 to 1943). He performed extensive building work at Esbogård: the main building was rebuilt, the mill was modernised to become a power station for the estate, a new sawmill was built and a completely new barn was constructed on what is now called Ladugårdsbacken (Barn Hill), a new

dairy and smithy were built, the stables were extended and housing for estate workers was built according to designs by the W. G. Palmqvist architect's office. All these changes gave the estate a completely new look.

August Ramsay managed to drain the swamps by excavating the Stallforsen and Kvarnforsen rapids near the estate. The former swamp was transformed into rolling cornfields and the extent of the estate's arable land suddenly grew ten times larger. The area to the north of the estate centre was now also a part of the Esbogård cultural landscape.

During the 20th century, state infrastructure projects became more evident. During the first years land was expropriated from the estate to build the coastal railway line, which was completed in 1903. A side-track was built from the station at Mankby straight over the estate's pastures and fields to a sandpit in Hjärtbacka. The causeway stood out like a sore thumb in the landscape. The causeway is now part of a road called Sandbanan (The Sand Track). The causeway and the sandpit have now become a part of the cultural landscape of Esbogård. A high-voltage power line was built straight across the farmland in 1929 to 1930. With time the power line was extended and it has become a dominant feature of the Esbogård farmland.

Extensive tree-felling (called "Russian cuts") took place as a part of fortification works around Helsinki in 1914 to 1917, and new roads were built. In 1914, Ramsey planted a

spinney of oaks on the old cabbage garden by the confluence of the Gumböle and Esbo rivers in order to prevent a road from being built through the centre of Esbogård estate. The government had a policy of not building on planned and planted parks.

The manor park was also developed during the time of August Ramsay. In 1921, Paul Olsson was contracted to draw up a new plan for the garden. At this stage the formal garden became truly monumental. Olsson used the existing structure as a starting point and kept the old longitudinal axis from the estate to "the End of the World", which was the name given by the family to the cliff that plunges steeply towards the fields. An observation point over the sprawling property was built here. New parkways were built around a sun dial that served as a central point. The old, landscaped park on the hill was left largely unchanged. At the top of the hill, a dam was built as a water reservoir. The park was maintained according to Olsson's design all the way up to the 1950s.

After the war

At the end of the 1940s a new ring road around Helsinki was planned. The plan was voted through in 1959 and the road, called Ring III, was completed at Esbogård in 1967. This was an important intervention in the cultural landscape. At this point the road that August Ramsay had tried to avoid was finally built, which meant that a fifteen-foot-tall causeway now divided the centre of the estate from the fields that had been the heart of the estate's



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farmland since time immemorial. At the time of writing the road still only has two lanes, but there are plans to extend it to a four-lane motorway.

Population growth in the area surrounding the capital meant that the existing dump sites became insufficient. The solution to this was the Kärtingmossen refuse site, which is now an eco-industrial site. The estate company sold the large 200 hectare swamp in 1988 and financed the renovation of the main building with the proceeds from the sale.

In 2002 a building company signed a contract with Esbogård to design and build housing on large parts of the estate grounds. The plans proved to be overly ambitious, and the building company later withdrew from the

project. The city has later completed the design of some city planning areas closest to the ring road. The first city planning on the estate's former fields was clubbed through in 2005 and the area was developed shortly thereafter.

A cultural heritage map of the Esbogård lands was also drawn up in connection with the first sketches of new city plans in 2004. This survey managed to identify the place where Mankby village was situated up to 1556. It is rare to find a village plot that has been left untouched for 450 years and Mankby is regarded as one of the best-preserved medieval village plots in Finland. During the city planning a decision was made to found an archaeological park on this village plot. The planning of the park is intended

to allow for continued archaeological investigations in the future. The Gamla Mankby archaeological park adds a new element to the cultural landscape which, with the cooperation of the operator of Finns, has the potential to be developed into an important tourist attraction in the future.

Esbogård today

Esbogård contains buildings from three different centuries: the 18th, 19th and 20th. Buildings from earlier centuries are hidden beneath the earth. An old granary that may have been from the 17th century was demolished in 1919. The mill, as well as the arched stone bridges of Stora Strandvägen, remain from the 18th century. The main building and Krogen ("The Inn") are all that remain of the housing from that period. It is also possible that one or two of the old farm buildings are from this period. There are few buildings left from the 18th century, mainly the wing building from 1801 and the old stables from 1826. The main building of the school Mellersta Nylands Folkhögskola is from 1891. There is a score of buildings left from August Ramsay's building spree at the beginning of the 20th century, as well as the school Träskby Folkskola and several of the buildings belonging to the school Finns Folkhögskola.

The main building of Esbogård underwent a major renovation at the beginning of the 1990s and is now being used as a rented party venue instead of housing. The cavalier wing was renovated after 2010 and is being used as a residence.

Today Esbogård is a cultural landscape of national importance. The borders of this cultural landscape do not completely align with the estate grounds: they include the medieval village of Träskby, which situated by the same large field, and exclude some of the forest belonging to the manor house. The centre of the estate and Ladugårdsbacken are protected areas and nearly all older buildings in the area are listed. Denser settlements are being planned outside the protected areas. The estate intends to keep cultivating their fields as long as possible.

The main elements of the cultural landscape remain unchanged: the medieval main road still runs between Turku (Åbo) and Viipuri (Viborg), past estate's main building, where it stands on its hill above the two and a half century old mill and stone bridge, surrounded by the estate's wide fields.

Tryggve Gestrin, Senior Curator

ⁱ This presentation article is based on: "Kulturlandskapet och kulturmiljön kring Esbogård" (The cultural landscape and cultural environment around Esbogård) by Tryggve Gestrin, 2023. "Esbogård – Herrgården vid Kungsvägen" (Esbogård, the estate by Kungsvägen) by Juha-Matti Granqvist, edited by Sophie Holm, pp. 166–192. Bibliography and notes are provided in the article mentioned above. See also:

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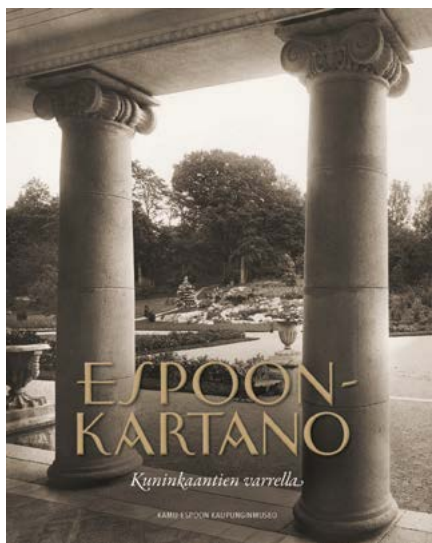
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The Espoo Manor Project

The Espoo Manor project focuses on the Espoonkartano manor and its long and rich history. This research project was launched in 2021.

Espoo Manor is the most significant manor in Espoo, and it was once among the largest estates in Finland. It was established as a royal demesne in 1556 by King Gustav I of Sweden by combining the fields of two villages, Mankby and Espoby, the latter which has given its name to the manor and parish of Espoo. The manor is an essential part of the history of Espoo. The history of the manor is also linked to the highest levels of national politics and the spread of manorial culture. The current manor buildings date back to the 18th century and are privately owned.

The aim of the Espoo Manor project was to produce new information about the manor and its history and about the cultural environments and cultural heritage of Espoo. The research results have been presented in an extensive publication and at an exhibition at the KAMU Espoo City Museum at the Exhibition Centre WeeGee since October 2023.



The research publication has been published in both Finnish and Swedish in October 2023 and covers the history of the manor from the 1500s to the 2000s. The publication is not just a basic work on Espoo Manor and its history, but also a collection of articles on various themes related to manorial history in the context of Espoo Manor.

The Espoo Manor exhibition, entitled "The Manor on the King's Road", is to be on display at KAMU at WeeGee from 2023 to 2025. The exhibition has made use of the research data collected during the project, and the data has been presented with the help of the latest exhibition technology in a visual and experience-based manner through stories. The exhibition includes a diverse program of events.

Minna Vento

Project Manager and Curator

Encounter

European Network for Country House and Estate Research

In October 2015 the European Network for Country House and Estate Research 'ENCOUNTER' was founded at Gammel Estrup The Danish Manor Museum, Denmark, by a group of European researchers, curators, professionals in the heritage sector and others with an academic interest in the field.

The aim of the network is:

- To form European partnerships between scholars and cultural institutions who share a professional interest in research and interpretation of manor and country house history.
- To explore and highlight regional variations and notable similarities in the history of castles and manors across Europe from 1500 to the present
- To discuss how estates and estate landscapes are preserved and interpreted as cultural heritage today.

Members of the network wish to cross traditional boundaries between history, archaeology, art history, architecture and heritage management and to further international transdisciplinary partnerships between researchers and professionals in universities and museums.

Network activities and initiatives:

The network facilitates meetings, seminars and conferences about different themes on the field of manorial and country house studies.

The network produces applications for larger-scale activities such as common research and education projects, heritage projects, public initiatives and other common interests of the network.

The members of the network share updates on network activities and news.

Steering group:

Arne Bugge Amundsen, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway.

Signe Boeskov, Head of Research Centre, The Danish Research Centre for Manorial Studies, Denmark.

Jonathan Finch, Director of Studies MA in Historical Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, University of York, United Kingdom

Göran Ulväng, Associate Professor, Department of Economic History, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Paul Zalewski, Professor for Heritage Studies, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/O, Germany

Hanneke Ronnes, Professor, Chair: Historic Country Houses and Landed Estates, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

For more information and joining the mailing list to receive updates, please visit the website: European Network for Country House and Estate Research - (encounter.network)

Conference administration:

Tryggve Gestrin, Senior Curator, cultural environment and ancient monuments, archaeological research

Susanna Aaltonen, Senior Curator, research, publications, exhibitions

Tanja Ekholm, Museum Lecturer, Swedish-language services, KULPS contact person

Sara Riento, Co-Ordinator, museum shop

Sohini Nandi, Co-Ordinator, Manors at War conference

Hanaholmen Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre

Hanaholmen Cultural Centre was founded by the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation following a proposition from the Norden Association in 1960. Sweden shouldered the construction costs and Finland paid for the land and the building designs. The Cultural Centre was inaugurated by Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Finland's President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen in 1975.

The building, designed by architect Veikko Malmio, is a reflection of its time in more ways than one. It represents the value and importance of politics, history and relationships between people. Stylistically, the modular design of the building combines the rationalistic ideas of 1960s and 1970s with a concurrent and more

organic approach that lets the building blend in with its natural surroundings. Organic and rational architectural ideas combine to create a fascinating time-capsule in Hanaholmen.

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Villa Sinebrychoff

Opposite Hanaholmen, on the other side of Björnsundet, lies Villa Sinebrychoff, a neoclassically inspired edifice designed by the architect K. A. Wrede. The estate and villa were founded when a 30 hectare area was partitioned from Otnäs Manor and given to Nicolas Sinebychoff, the son of the owner of Otnäs Manor Paul Sinebrychoff. Björnholm was inherited by his daughter Olga, who married Uno Donner, who in turn donated the villa to the Åbo Akademi Foundation. The villa has been called a "miniature manor house", and a "city farm". Today Villa Sinebrychoff is owned by Espoo City. Its cultural heritage is of national importance. The main building has recently been renovated and is intended to be used for meetings and conferences.

During the Crimean War of 1853 to 1856, Björnholmsudden was fortified with an artillery battery and gun emplacements that controlled the

Björnsundet channel, which was also blocked by a water barrier.

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www.espoonkaupunginmuseo.fi

