

2010-02-10

## Business Trip into a Winter's tale

by Michael Negele

I could take advantage of the invitation to a workshop with representatives of the new European Chemicals Agency at Helsinki to visit the wonderful antiquarian bookshop of our founder member Kimmo Vålkesalmi. In spite of difficult road conditions – the severe winter had Helsinki under control that afternoon with biting cold temperatures down to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  – my colleague and I could quite well reach the shop on foot from the hotel. Then we had a nice conversation with Kimmo – a long-time barter partner – naturally about chess in Finland and chess books, certainly he had several thousand to view in his shop. At least I could buy three interesting items, among them this strange game collection of the meanwhile inactive GM Heikki Kallio:



— A brochure of 42 pages containing 31 (undated) games. Self published, Vaasa 2008.

A brochure of 42 pages containing 31 (undated) games. Self published, Vaasa 2008.

The author has switched to professional poker in the meantime. Here the link to his web site <http://www.hkallio.net/> and to the [Wikipedia page](#) (in German only).

The origin of the beautifully designed chess set for blind persons (photo below) remained unclear. However Kimmo was completely enthusiastic when I advised him of the historical importance of his youngest new acquisition – Amsterdam 1889: Emanuel Lasker's first international tournament.

- 



— The bookshop of Kimmo

Välkesalmi, Web: [www.shakki.net/kimmoval/...](http://www.shakki.net/kimmoval/...)

-



bookshop

The impressive chess department of the



Kimmo Välkesalmi in his area





A special chess set for blind persons



Kimmo Välkesalmi and Michael Negele

The additional photographs give a little impression of the deeply snow-covered metropolis in the North.



The Alexander Theatre,  
directly adjacent to the hotel

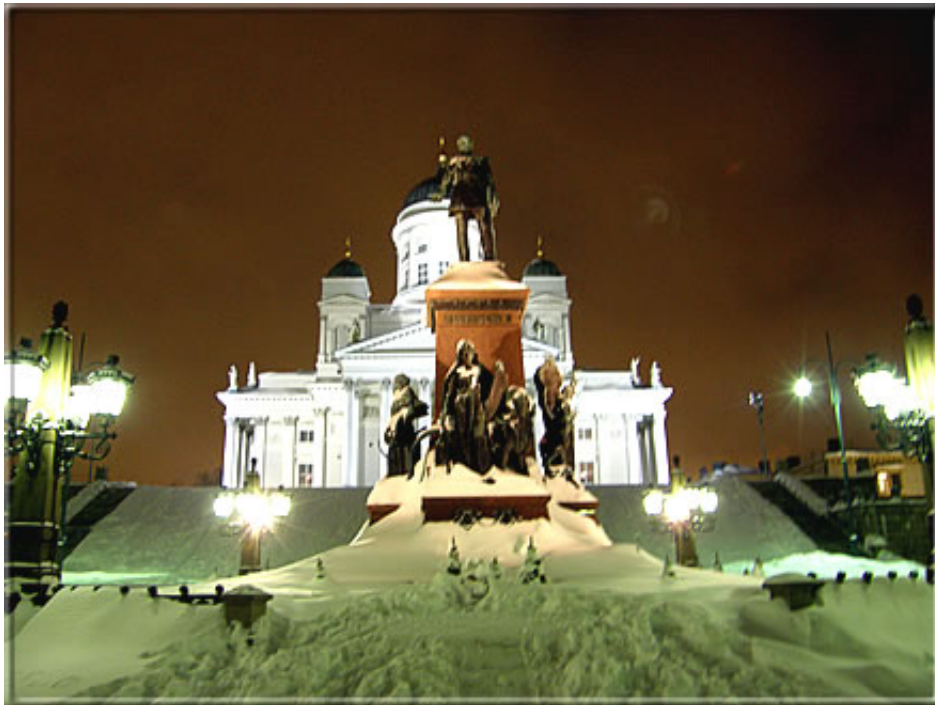


Ice hockey – national  
sport in Finland





Children in the "snowbox" instead of sand – that will harden.



View of the cathedral from the Senate Place – in the centre Czar Alexander II.



The Uspenski Cathedral "towers" over the harbour, the Russian influence is distinctive. It was ice-cold here.