

RUSSIAN MIND

LA PENSEE RUSSE

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Founded in 1880
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EDITOR'S LETTER THREE RUSSIAN MINDS



The Russian Mind is celebrating its 140th anniversary. Its path was very difficult over almost one and a half hundred years. The print was established back in 1880 during the rule of Alexander II known as the Liberator Tsar. The magazine was founded as a liberal mass medium, that generally complied with the spirit of the times.

But a year later, the bombers blew up the liberal tsar, and he was succeeded by his authoritarian and autocratic son, Alexander III. The policy implemented by the conservative tsar did not coincide in any way with the constitutional point of view of the magazine. The Russian Mind readers were intelligent people and, of course, they opposed autocracy. Therefore, the magazine passionately supported the February Revolution and the overthrow of the monarchy, not expecting that very

soon the Bolsheviks, in the words of Lenin, “will pick up the power lying under their feet” and would cease the magazine. That exactly happened in 1918.

The Russian Mind together with its team ended up in exile, where it was poorly published one way or another until 1927. Meanwhile, “new Russia” was turning into the USSR.

The Russian Mind was revived in Paris in 1947, but then as a purely anti-Soviet newspaper funded by America, which at the last stage of its existence in this incarnation became one of the voices of the Soviet human rights movement.

However, in 1991, America's funding ended. The comfortable times changed to severe days of impecuniousness, leading to unavoidable closure of the medium.

But when everything seemed lost, suddenly kind people from Russia appeared, who not only saved the Russian Mind, but allowed it to transform, acquire a new function and a new sense as a pan-European Russian print medium being in sync with the times.

Dear readers, let me offer you my congratulations for our common glorious jubilee!

Victor Loupan

**Russian Mind
No128/12(4999),
DECEMBER 2020**

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HIGHLIGHTS

FOURTEEN DECADES

Now existing monthly Russian Mind magazine differs from both the original thick magazine and the Parisian weekly newspaper, but we strive to maintain the quality mark inherent in our glorious print

VICTOR LOUPAN,
Head of the Editorial Board

The Russian Mind magazine is 140 years old now! Long ago, being a young student, I admired the intriguing title of this print medium. It was in the late 1970s, that the Russian Mind was issued as a weekly newspaper, no longer with an “émigré” bias, but rather with a “dissident”, “human rights” focus. Although at that time the newspaper was still headed by Princess Zinaida Shakhovskaya, whose resonant surname clearly reminded of the “White Guard” origin of the print. But it resembled incorrectly. Because the Russian Mind newspaper, which was established in Paris in 1947 under the guidance of the French Confederation of Christian Workers, was no longer a “White émigré” mass medium with its specific topics, ethics, and aesthetics, but a pan-European Russian-speaking anti-Soviet printed media outlet that played its role during the then beginning Cold War.

Below we will pay more attention to this historical period and its influence on our print medium.

The Russian Mind, the 140th anniversary of which we are celebrating today, differed radically from the aforementioned émigré-focused weekly. It was a thick magazine about literature, politics, and economics that had been published monthly in Moscow since 1880 and was clearly not intended for an “ordinary”



A pre-revolutionary issue of the Russian Mind monthly magazine founded in 1880

reader. The print was established by Vukol Mikhailovich Lavrov, a well-known journalist and publisher.

The Russian Mind issue dated April 1888 lays in front of me, on my desk. Its name “RUSSIAN MIND.” was written just like that, with a dot. And between the name and the word “APRIL.” it contained a clarification, the “NINTH YEAR.”

The term “thick magazine” has not been usurped. The Russian Mind issued in April 1888 consisted of 600 pages of finely printed text. It is also interesting, that such a thick magazine contains, according to its table of contents, as little as thirteen articles. The first seven of them are pure literature. They include the Canto the Tenth of “Don Juan” by Byron, the story written by Karonin, the story “from the times of Charlemagne” by Felix Dahn, a Frug’s poem, six chapters of the Salov’s novel, some anonymous text signed with initials, and, finally, an excerpt from the masterpiece “On the Niemen” written by Eliza Orzeszkowa, a Polish writer. Let me briefly comment on this publication. Orzeszkowa was a Russian citizen, but a Polish patriot or nationalist. In this novel, she portrays ordinary peasants who remain faithful to the traditions of the Polish anti-Russian uprising of 1863. By the way,

she took part in that uprising, and her husband was exiled for an indefinite term for participation, with their estate being confiscated in favour of the government. I like Eliza Orzeszkowa as an author. I especially like her novel “Meir Ezofowicz”. In 1905, she was even nominated for the Nobel Prize, like Leo Tolstoy, but the Prize was granted to Henryk Sienkiewicz.

The fact of publication of the author prejudiced against Russia, in the magazine called “Russian Mind”, is a pretty big deal. First of all, it speaks for itself that the tsarist-era censorship was not that fierce. But this also speaks about the ideological postulate of the medium.

The Russian Mind was one of the most respected intellectual prints of the late 19th century and the early 20th century. Not only respected, but also popular, according to the number of subscribers – it averaged to 14,000 people! This is a lot, especially considering that after literary publications (which were not simple ones, to be honest) the magazine offered terribly long articles on a modern zemstvo system, Schopenhauer’s theory of knowledge, the history of Russian legislation, group struggle and moral ideals, history of women’s education in Russia, the fundamental matter of the oil industry, regression in history, and French positivism. After absorbing those rich issues, the Russian Mind readers probably felt more educated and smarter.

Since its establishment, the Russian Mind has adhered to the “left”, or “liberal”, or, shall we say, “progressive” ideas. The magazine was founded a year before the assassination of Alexander II known as the “Liberator Tsar”. Bombers had blown him up on March 13, 1881, and



Pyotr Struve

he was succeeded by very authoritarian and autocratic Alexander III, whose policy was extremely anti-liberal and radically reactionary. Therefore, “constitutionalism” ideas advocated by the Russian Mind, which later gave rise to the Cadet party, were directly opposing to the Russian concept of autocracy.

The magazine continued to be leftist until the 1905 Revolution, which it supported naturally. Then the Russian Mind greeted warmly the February Revolution and the overthrow of the monarchy. In particular, such attitude was expressed by its editor-in-chief Pyotr Berngardovich Struve, who even became a part of the Provisional Government as a direc-

tor of the department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

But the October Revolution was perceived by the Russian Mind as a catastrophe for the country and it openly called the Bolsheviks “usurpers”. As a result, the Bolsheviks simply ceased the magazine in 1918.

The Russian Mind had not been published at all for further three years. After that, in 1921, the magazine was renewed abroad, but not on a regular basis, with long interruptions due to financial difficulties. The last issue of the thick Russian Mind magazine was published in Paris in 1927.

Over the 1920s and the 1930s, the Russian émigré was very active. Despite the dire financial situation, a lot



Ivan Bunin had cooperated with the Russian Mind for many years

of newspapers, magazines, and books were published in Russian both in Paris and Berlin. Opposing circles continued their pre-revolutionary disputes and ideological showdowns during their emigration period.

Vasily Vitalyevich Shulgina, a State Duma deputy, whose ideas were associated with the Black Hundred movement and who accepted the renouncement of Nicholas II, recalled one of his lectures devoted to the February Revolution and voiced before the members of the NTS (People’s Workers’ Union, the émigré movement of Russian Solidarists – V.L.), at which Struve was present. After the lecture, the debate began and Struve declared he had the only reason for criticizing Nicholas II, as he was too soft with the revolutionaries, who, according to Struve, had to be “eliminated ruthlessly”. Shulgina jokingly asked if Struve thought of himself to be eliminated this way.



The first issue of the Russian Mind newspaper, 1947

Struve exclaimed, being extremely agitated:

– Yes!

And, getting up from his seat, he walked across the hall shaking his gray beard:

– Yes, and I am the first candidate! Exactly! As soon as any revolutionary raises his head – bam! – buttstock on his skull!

That emotional, almost comical scene conveys the atmosphere that prevailed even in the elite circles of the Russian pre-war émigré with amazing accuracy.

After the war, however, the status of the Russian émigré changed dramatically. It became not only inconceivably difficult, but also dangerous to criticise the victorious Soviet Union. The communist parties were at the height of their power in France and throughout entire Western Europe. Those who dared to criticise the USSR in any way were declared Nazis, Hitlerites, and collaborators. And therefore, by 1945 there was practically not a single Russian medium left, except for those promoting a return to their homeland. Finally, there was only a small number of “returnees”, but an entire émigré was under the pressure or influence of the returnee infused propaganda.

However, the triumph of the USSR did not last long in the West, because the Cold War began very soon after the Great Victory. On the one hand, it was a “race of armaments”, but on the other hand, it was a rampant propaganda. It was against this background that the radio stations “Radio Liberty” and “Radio Free Europe” were established, and the Russian Mind newspaper too, which soon became a weekly newspaper taking over the inspiring name of the famous thick magazine.

Vladimir Lazarevsky, a pre-revolutionary Russian journalist, became the first editor of the renewed Russian Mind. It is funny, that before the revolution he worked for the Kievlyanin newspaper owned by aforementioned Vasily Shulgin, who inherit-



The editorial staff of the Russian Mind: A.P. Chekhov and V.A. Goltsev, back row; M.N. Remezov, M.A. Sablin, I.I. Ivanyukov, V.M. Lavrov, I.N. Potapenko, front row

ed it from his father. Very soon the newspaper became officially funded by the US State Department, and unofficially by the CIA – just like the radio stations residing in Munich.

Lazarevsky served as editor-in-chief until 1953. He was replaced by Sergei Vodov, who headed the editorial office until 1968. That continuous period is remarkable due to many great authors, such as Boris Zaitsev, Ivan Bunin, Ivan Shmelev, Nina Berberova, Gaito Gazdanov and many others whose masterpieces were published on the Russian Mind pages.

From 1968 to 1978 the newspaper was headed by Zinaida Shakhovskaya. This period saw the emergence of the human rights movement in the USSR, which greatly inspired the newspaper. Viktor Nekrasov, a political emigrant, the author of the notable military book “In the Trenches of Stalingrad” and the Stalin Prize laureate, became one of the most “unexpected” authors of the Russian Mind newspaper. And then such authors as Joseph Brodsky, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Vladimir Maksimov, Andrei Sakharov, Sergey Dovlatov and many others came to light.

Thus undergoing several modifications, the Russian Mind had existed comfortably until 1991, when the USA abruptly stopped its funding. Its editor-in-chief Irina Ilovaiskaya-Alberti started seeking for new sources of funding. And she found them as the Roman Catholic Church and the Soros Foundation ... But for a short time only.

By the early 2000s, the Russian Mind newspaper was again on the verge of closure, when it was miraculously saved by Russian kind people. In 2006, as a part of the “Homecoming” programme, the Paris archives of the newspaper were donated to the Russian State Library and thus saved.

Now existing monthly Russian Mind magazine differs from both the original thick magazine and the Parisian weekly newspaper, but we strive to maintain the quality mark inherent in our glorious print.

THE RACE TO ZERO EMISSIONS

A host of countries have recently announced major commitments to significantly cut their carbon emissions, promising to reach “net zero” in the coming years. The term is becoming a global rallying cry, frequently cited as a necessary step to successfully beat back climate change, and the devastation it is causing. United Nations is raising some important questions – and providing answers that matter.



Photo: Appolinary Kalashnikova

What is net zero and why is it important?

Put simply, net zero means we are not adding new emissions to the atmosphere. Emissions will continue, but will be balanced by absorbing an equivalent amount from the atmosphere.

Practically every country has joined the Paris Agreement on climate change, which calls for keeping the global temperature to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial era levels. If we continue to pump out the emissions that cause climate change, however, temperatures will continue to rise well beyond 1.5, to levels that threaten the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere.

This is why a growing number of countries are making commitments to achieve carbon neutrality, or “net zero” emissions within the next few decades. It’s a big task, requiring ambitious actions starting right now.

Net zero by 2050 is the goal. But countries also need to demonstrate

how they will get there. Efforts to reach net-zero must be complemented with adaptation and resilience measures, and the mobilization of climate financing for developing countries.

So how can the world move toward net zero?

The good news is that the technology exists to reach net zero – and it is affordable.

A key element is powering economies with clean energy, replacing polluting coal – and gas and oil-fired power stations – with renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar farms. This would dramatically reduce carbon emissions. Plus, renewable energy is now not only cleaner, but often cheaper than fossil fuels.

A wholesale switch to electric transport, powered by renewable en-

ergy, would also play a huge role in lowering emissions, with the added bonus of slashing air pollution in the world’s major cities. Electric vehicles are rapidly becoming cheaper and more efficient, and many countries, including those committed to net zero, have proposed plans to phase out the sale of fossil-fuel powered cars.

Other harmful emissions come from agriculture (livestock produce significant levels of methane, a greenhouse gas). These could be reduced drastically if we eat less meat and more plant-based foods. Here again, the signs are promising, such as the rising popularity of “plant-based meats” now being sold in major international fast-food chains.

What will happen to remaining emissions?

Reducing emissions is extremely important. To get to net zero, we also need to find ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Here again, solutions are at hand. The most important have existed in nature for thousands of years.

These “nature-based solutions” include forests, peatbogs, mangroves, soil and even underground seaweed forests, which are all highly efficient at absorbing carbon. This is why huge efforts are being made around the world to save forests, plant trees, and rehabilitate peat and mangrove areas, as well as to improve farming techniques.

Who is responsible for getting to net zero?

We are all responsible as individuals, in terms of changing our habits and living in a way which is more sustainable, and which does less harm to the planet, making the kind of lifestyle changes which are highlighted in the UN’s Act Now campaign.

The private sector also needs to get in on the act and it is doing so through the UN Global Compact, which helps businesses to align with the UN’s environmental and societal goals.

It’s clear, however, that the main driving force for change will be made at a national government level, such as through legislation and regulations to reduce emissions.

Many governments are now moving in the right direction. By early 2021, countries representing more than 65 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions and more than 70 per cent of the world economy, will have made ambitious commitments to carbon neutrality.

The European Union, Japan and the Republic of Korea, together with more than 110 other countries, have pledged carbon neutrality by 2050; China says it will do so before 2060.

Are these commitments any more than just political statements?

These commitments are important signals of good intentions to reach the goal, but must be backed by rapid and ambitious action. One important step is to provide detailed plans for action in nationally determined contributions or NDCs. These define targets and actions to reduce emissions within the next 5 to 10 years. They are critical to guide the right investments and attract enough finance.



Photo: Science in HD

So far, 186 parties to the Paris Agreement have developed NDCs. This year, they are expected to submit new or updated plans demonstrating higher ambition and action. Click here to see the NDC registry.

Is net zero realistic?

Yes! Especially if every country, city, financial institution and company adopts realistic plans for transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050.

The COVID-19 pandemic recovery could be an important and positive turning point. When economic stimulus packages kick in, there will be a genuine opportunity to promote renewable energy investments, smart buildings, green and public transport, and a whole range of other interventions that will help to slow climate change.

But not all countries are in the same position to affect change, are they?

That’s absolutely true. Major emitters, such as the G20 countries, which generate 80 per cent of carbon emissions, in particular, need to significantly increase their present levels of ambition and action.

Also, keep in mind that far greater efforts are needed to build resilience in vulnerable countries and for the most vulnerable people; they do the least to cause climate change but bear the worst impacts. Resilience and adaptation action do not get the funding they need, however.

Even as they pursue net zero, developed countries must deliver on their commitment to provide \$100 billion dollars a year for mitigation, adaptation and resilience in developing countries.

BOOSTING THE DIGITAL EVOLUTION

A new online safety centre of excellence and six new research projects across the UK will help people seize the possibilities of the digital revolution while addressing challenges to online safety and privacy.

The initiatives are part of a £29 million investment by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and include projects to test how immersive technology can improve people's education and explore how the Internet of Things can benefit people's lives and improve their wellbeing.

The package includes £7 million from UKRI's Strategic Priorities Fund for a new National

Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence online (REPHRAIN) bringing together researchers from the universities of Bristol, Edinburgh, Bath, King's College London and UCL.

REPHRAIN will also work with industry, academics and the voluntary sector to develop new technologies to help human moderators tackle the spread of online disinformation and identify harms linked to online targeting and manipulation.

The centre will develop a world-first Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs) test site to trial new ways to boost data privacy.

"The UK's world-renowned universities and fast-growing safety tech



Photo: Rodion Kutsaev

sector are coming up with answers to the important questions of the digital age – around privacy, security and online wellbeing," said Minister for Digital and Culture Caroline Denenage. "With this investment we are supporting organisations to build trust in the technology of tomorrow so people and businesses can use it to improve their lives and boost the economy."

The government is investing in this research as part of efforts to support the UK's burgeoning safety tech sector which is creating solutions such as automated content moderation to tackle online harms including disinformation and providing age-appropriate experiences for users.

"We rely on technology for so many things in our lives – from paying our bills and buying our weekly food shop to tackling climate change and finding new treatments for diseases. We must continue investing so we can keep pushing the boundaries of technological developments that improve our daily lives and transform industries," said Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Amanda Solloway. "The six new research centres will support our ambitious scientists and researchers to develop incredible innovations such as strengthening our online safety and delivering virtual education and healthcare, helping to cement the UK as a science superpower."

SANTA CLAUS VILLAGE: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE LEGACY

In Finnish Lapland, Rovaniemi, the Arctic Circle, it's a busy time for Santa Claus. He has taken over the protection of an ambitious project called Santa's Forest. The project aims to make Santa Claus Village a carbon-neutral tourist destination over the next five years while offering individuals and companies a way to offset their carbon footprint.

Santa's Forest project began in 2019 when ways were sought to promote low-carbon tourism in Lapland. A project funded at that time by the European Regional Development Fund; Santa Claus Village – a year-round international tourist centre, found an operator to Santa's Forest whose vision was in line with the goals of Santa Claus Village.

Santa's Forest aims to take responsible tourism one step further. While responsible tourism seeks to minimize harm to both nature and local culture, Santa's Forest also seeks to create something new and lasting for the regional economy, nature and people; now tourists can leave behind carbon sinks, nature reserves and jobs for locals.

"Our goal is to plant a million seedlings in Santa's Forests around Lapland over the next 10 years meanwhile creating a thousand

hectares on new nature reserves to act as carbon sinks," says Judy Sallero, one of the founders of the Santa's Forest project. "We have created a portal that allows anyone to be involved in achieving this goal with an investment starting from just 10 euros. Planting a tree costs only 2.5 euros per unit and this also includes the acquisition of the ground. The project received seed funding from Business Finland, which has been used to create a conceptual operating model and has now been launched on the santasforest.org web portal."

When new forests are planted, locals, mainly young people and those

in the early stages of their careers, are employed. After planting, these forests will be then turned into nature reserves through our portal so that they cannot be felled in the future, but can act as carbon sinks for centuries to come.

"The Santa's Forest project provides excellent support for Santa Claus Village's goal of promoting low-carbon tourism. The operational concept of Santa's Forest also strengthens the region's experiential service offering, by providing customers with a new responsible and year-round way to ensure White Christmas in the future," adds Antti



Santa Claus Village

THE ROOSEVELT CABIN – A PIECE OF HISTORY

When Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the widow of the former President of the United States, famous for her humanitarianism, paid a surprise visit to Rovaniemi in 1950 to see Lapland and the post-war reconstruction of the city, her host, the Governor of the county, Uuno Hannula had the difficult task of organising the programme. Hannula was helped by the local mayor, Lauri Kaijalainen, who, with his assistants, found a suitable piece of land bordering the north-bound Highway 4 on which to build a cabin. The land was donated by Eemeli Karinen and it was here, at the Arctic Circle, that the welcoming ceremony was to take place.

The idea went back more than twenty years to when Colonel Oiva J. Willamo had erected a stake in the vicinity to serve as a stopping place for tourists to photograph. Neither the stake, destroyed during the war, nor the cabin was erected on an accurately measured spot. The former was erected on the spot where the Arctic Circle was assumed to cut Highway 4, the latter on the site available, which was later found to be 108 m. too far south.

The Arctic Circle cabin, which had to be erected in a week and which was designed overnight by the architect Ferdinand Salokangas, was built by Jarl Sundquist's experienced construction crew from logs taken straight from an Ounasjoki drive. According to the instructions, the number of logs needed was the number required to "house a rather large

busload of people". There was no time for more since the first logs were taken from the river on a Saturday and on the following Saturday, as Mrs. Roosevelt's plane was landing, the outer door was fitted in the otherwise completed cabin.

Thus, on Sunday, June 11th, 1950, the cabin was ready to receive its distinguished visitor. Many of the inhabitants of Rovaniemi who took part in the welcoming ceremony have since grown accustomed to seeing distinguished visitors from all parts of the world. The event, was, however, important as far as local tourism was concerned since it marked the first effort to attract a growing number of visitors to stop and enjoy a refreshing coffee-break, buy souvenirs and send the inevitable postcard home bearing the special Arctic Circle postmark. The cabin, which was open during the summer months, collected thousands of names in its visitors' book



The Roosevelt Cabin

every year. In 1956 it became necessary to carry out the first extension.

The City Tourist Board, set up in 1948, took over the management and development of the Arctic Circle Cabin. Activity became regular and the

crush during the height season became unbearable. It was also impossible to comply with health and hygiene regulations in respect of both staff and customers. At the beginning of the 60s the active efforts of the Tourist Board brought new colour to the experience of crossing the "magic circle" in the form of reindeer and their drivers.

In June 1965, exactly fifteen years after the first Arctic Circle ceremony, a new cabin opened its doors to the public. This was designed by Lempi Purdy and both in size and fittings was considerably better equipped to serve the ever-growing number of tourists. By the beginning of the 1970s, the number of visitors had doubled in accordance with the prediction made at the roof-raising ceremony and today 90 000 visitors a year call in during their stay in Lapland. For many groups the crossing of the Arctic Circle is a ceremonial occasion which leaves an unforgettable memory.

Many heads of state and distinguished figures have visited the Arctic Circle and the Lapland landmark. These include the Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party Leonid Brezhnev, President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, President Lyndon B. Johnson of the United States, President Edward Ochab of Poland, Crown Prince Carl Gustav of Sweden, the Shah of Iran, President Senghor of Senegal, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia Lubomir Strougal, and French Foreign Minister Maurice Schuman.

ADVENT IN THE ORTHODOX TRADITION

Dr. AUGUSTINE SOKOLOVSKI,
Priest

Advent, or the Nativity Fast, is the time leading up to Christmas. On December 4th, if Christmas is celebrated on January 7th, according to the Julian calendar, special hymns are sung: "Christ is born, glorify him!". As the Christmas Holiday approaches, many very special days approach.

The days before Christmas are called the Forefeast. The day before the Nativity of Christ is called "Christmas Eve". It is about such a time that Nikolai Gogol writes in his story "Christmas Eve". In a broad sense, the entire month of December is a month of the Christmas Celebration.

The Gospel texts bring us to the story of the birth of Jesus Christ into the world. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Nativity stories are preceded by a reading of Jesus' genealogy. The very complicated listing of the names of the ancestors of Christ the Messiah signifies a symbolic indication of the extraordinary length of mankind's path to God.

These great Biblical names, the names of the faithful who preceded Jesus in this world are read during the service on the eve of Christmas. These are many names such as Abraham, Tamar, David, Ruth, Daniel... descending down to Joseph and Mary, the names of the great believers and witnesses of all times, read in the genealogy of the Lord in the Gospel on the eve of Christmas.

According to the Gospels the Divine covenant was established again



Eastern Orthodox icon of the birth of Christ by Andrei Rublev, 1405

with Jesus Christ. Jesus has become an absolute "Yes", an "Amen" to all that God had been awaiting from mankind, to all that humans had been simply not able to fulfil.

Thus, The Nativity is the beginning of the New Testament, named after our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ, who comes from Nazareth, but was born in Bethlehem and was crucified in Jerusalem.

In the time before Christmas, faith and unbelief meet. They meet to give way to the One who, through the mysterious gates of history, now enters into the history of the world in order to receive his own biography. In Jesus Christ God was given a hu-

man biography. In this biography of God, named Jesus, the biography of mankind, the biographies of all people are already included. God became biography, in order to be with his people forever.

Our great and glorious Lord Jesus enters into history. This Event – which is actually Advent – that once took place in history, is considered by us not through retrospection or nostalgic memory, but as an eternally current divine "Yes and Amen."

The Christmas Event is not, or not only, about the past, but about the future. It turns out that what happened and took place two thousand years ago in history, we see not with the eyes of the flesh, but with the eyes of the words of the Bible. Paul says that the Nativity event is revealed to us in the light of the Resurrection (cf. 2 Cor. 5,16).

This incomparable Event of Advent that took place once in history gives us the chance to participate in the immortality of the Eternal Christ by faith. The very meaning of the reading of the whole genealogy of Jesus on Christmas Eve is that from now on our names are also added to the eternal Biblical genealogy, which in fact became His own.

In the Christmas Event God became a contemporary of us all, he became our contemporary. Christmas means our communion with the Divine Nature, according to the Scriptures, from which the Church of Jesus Christ lives (2 Pet. 1: 4).

A JOURNEY IN THE WORLD OF WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS

Whether they are young designers or renowned photographers, women play a leading role in the world of photography. An exciting digital journey makes it possible to discover it, reports French Ministry of Culture. Even though Paris Photo, the international fair dedicated to photography, cannot take place this year because of the global pandemic situation, there is still an opportunity to discover the digital version of the journey dedicated to women photographers through the project Elles X Paris Photo.

The website of the project is curated by Karolina Ziebinska-Lewandowska, who is also a curator at the Centre Pompidou's photography office. She shares some of the key insights about the project in an interview.

Bright images, dreamy images, transformed images, militant images and witness images: the journey of ellesxparisphoto.com is organized around five themes. How do these themes focus on women photographers?

Karolina Ziebinska-Lewandowska: These themes make the selection more readable and testify to the fact that among the masters

and historical figures who inspired the contemporary authors, there are also women. They combine aesthetic approaches or photographic genres

by demonstrating that there is always an elder to discover for contemporary women. For example, for a young photographer who is in the surrealist vein, we spontaneously tend to cite Man Ray, Brassai or Hans Bellmer as sources of inspiration. We might as well quote Kati Horna or Dora Maar.

How did you choose the forty photographers in the selection?

K. Z. – L.: This choice comes from the proposals made by the galleries for Paris Photo. There were about

other women I did not know, who were discoveries for me. Then, and we discussed this within the team, it seemed to me that the fact of only proposing new names could be discouraging for the public who also likes to find known names. It was at this point that I began to think about these older women who could be the inspirations of contemporary women. With one difficulty however: for contemporary creation there were many original, surprising and strong proposals. For historical photography, on the other hand, one remained on the same names, as if in the history of photography, there was nothing more to discover with regard to the presence of women, which is not the case, quite the contrary.

The challenge today is to make them discover. I find it a shame that the galleries, even though they know that a course will be dedicated to women in Paris Photo, continue to present the same photographers, as interesting and talented as they are. For example, there were many women to discover in the 19th century. The authors of *Une histoire mondiale de la photographie* are not mistaken. They

focused specifically on the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. But this disappointment aside, I naturally integrated these historical



Karolina Ziebinska-Lewandowska. Photo: Magdalena Lawniczak

200 to 250 women photographers among the 1,000 authors proposed. It is from this corpus that I made my selection. I first became interested in

authors known to trace a genealogy different from that which usually exists.

Who are the historical photographers and, at the other end, the discoveries, that you would spontaneously like to talk about?

K. Z. – L.: As for the historical authors, I was very fortunately surprised by the work of the galleries working on the Japanese scene. We have photographers, Miyako Ishiuchi or Hitomi Watanabe, to name a few, all born in the 1930s, who have worked in the documentary vein. However, during the 1960s

and 1970s, they were often absent from the presentations of Japanese photography on the model of the avant-garde magazine *Provoke* [a journal that popularized the work of Moriyama and Araki (Ed.)] while aesthetically they are very close to this movement. It is a very interesting sign to see them among these proposals.

What also struck me was the strength of the younger generation. I'm not just talking about the very young women, but also the middle-aged. Among these generations, the women are very numerous and talented. I am also very impressed by the non-European scenes. We can see that parity is emerging and, more generally, changes that echo those that occur throughout society. For some of them, they are authors I already know, I observe and I support. I am thinking in particular of Charlotte Abramow, Tanja Lazetic whom I discovered several years ago and who is still unknown in France, who carries out a very interesting and committed work, especially on feminist and environmentalist themes, to Yael Burstein, an Israeli photogra-



The Arrival by Diana Markosian is part of the *Elles X Paris Photo* project

pher who is probably seen for the first time in Paris Photo, to Ira Lombardia, a very interesting Spanish photographer... It is impossible to mention them all because they are so numerous. The strength of their work and their presence undeniably mark contemporary photography.

Working under extremely special circumstances, we also decided at the last moment, when we learned that Paris Photo would not take place, to modify the selection intended initially to make discover new authors by adding a few French authors of more confirmed generations, such as Valérie Jouve, Sophie Calle or Sarah Moon to whom the Musée d'art moderne de Paris dedicates an exhibition that the confinement has come to interrupt.

The particularity of the site is also to give voice to these women photographers through filmed testimonies.

K. Z. – L.: When we organize these courses today exclusively dedicated to women, it is not neutral. Some authors do not wish to identify with this approach, while others on the contrary are very supportive and support it. We wanted to give an in-

dication of how the other women are positioning themselves in relation to this action. On the other hand, it is always interesting to give them the floor. That is why we are doing these actions: to make them more present and to encourage them to speak out. The idea of filming some of them is directly related to this desire to give them more visibility.

The site also publishes infographics that show the place of women in photography schools, exhibitions, fairs...

K. Z. – L.: This is very important work that was undertaken by the Ministry of Culture's photography delegation. There had never been any investigations from that angle. So there was no comparison. Beyond this survey, it is the policy generally pursued by the Ministry of Culture in favour of parity that is important. The results have not been long in coming. Let us hope that this continues and changes the situation in a sustainable way. We are of course no longer in the 1970s, things have changed, but they have progressed less quickly than we might have supposed, which is why institutional actors and civil society are mobilizing today. There's still a lot to do.

TRAVEL

SKIING IN FINLAND: TOP 10 RESORTS

There are around 75 ski resorts in Finland. That's quite a high number for a country that has no mountains. Instead of mountains, there are a great deal of hills, which are covered with snow for about 200 days a year. Here are 10 ski resorts that are not to be missed if you're traveling in Finland.

Finnish ski resorts are practically guaranteed to have snow for the whole season, which, at the first resorts, starts as early as October and ends, at the latest, in May. For this, we can thank our northern location and the efficient snowing systems.

You'll find slopes to fit every skill level at Finnish ski resorts. Even small children and absolute beginners can enjoy skiing down the gentle family slopes. Most of the slopes are pretty easy, wide and not very long. But there are also some world-class race slopes that are challenging enough for experts, as well as plenty of parks and streets for snowboarders and new school skiers.

Levi

Levi is the largest ski and recreational resort in Finland. It is situated 170 km north of the Arctic Circle and Rovaniemi City. The resort has a great variety of slopes and ski lifts. Levi offers downhill enthusiasts everything from kids' runs to black slopes, and snow parks – even the cross-country skiing tracks range an impressive 230 km. The season starts in late October lasting until in early May. Levi Destination offers a wide variety of hotels, cabins and apartments from 1 to 5 stars. Whether you are looking for an Alpine style apart-



ment in the middle of the village, a log-cabin surrounded by nature or a glass igloo in the fell you will surely find a suitable option.

Pyhä ski resort and Pyhä-Luosto National Park

The idyllic Pyhä Fell is just a short drive away from the Rovaniemi airport. At Pyhä the wilderness is truly just behind your doorstep and everything is easily accessible by walking or skiing. If you have never experienced downhill skiing before, the slopes and off-piste routes at Pyhä satisfy the needs of both beginners and more experienced adven-



turers. The new and improved Pyhä Ski Resort serves skiers better than ever before: 9 lifts, 14 slopes and pure natural surroundings create a unique experience.

The basic zone of the National Park is formed of Finland's most southern fell chain. The Pyhä-Luosto National Park is located just a side of Pyhä and Luosto tourist centres, connecting these two centres along the hiking and skiing trails. Pyhä-Luosto National Park is a superb destination for day trips and short hikes throughout the year. Visitor Centre Naava is a good place to start your visit to Pyhä-Luosto National Park.

Saariselkä ski resort and Urho Kekkonen National Park

Saariselkä is located in the far North, but still just a short flight from Helsinki. A wide range of accommodation op-

tions and other amenities are nearby, yet the peace of the wilderness is only a few steps away. First and foremost, visitors come to Saariselkä to indulge in outdoor activities in the magnificent backdrop provided by the fells. In winter, there are about 200km of well-maintained cross-country skiing tracks. For downhill skiers there are a total of 15 slopes spanning two fells, along with a vast selection of other winter activities.

In summer, the well-marked routes of the Urho Kekkonen National Park invite visitors to hike for a few hours or even a few weeks. Saariselkä is a particularly popular hiking destination thanks to the easily traversable fell terrain, the untouched natural environmental and a dense network of wilderness refuges and cabins that can be hired out for the day or night.



Vuokatti

Vuokatti, thanks to its unique geographical situation in Kainuu region, is one of the most popular all year around holiday resorts in Finland. Situated at the crossroad of the famous Finnish Lakeland area and Lapland, Vuokatti and the surrounding area offer a mixture of the highlights of the authentic Finnish experience in one package. In winter time

one can easily make all the "must experience" Finnish snow activities (i.e. snowmobile, reindeer and husky safaris) in Vuokatti area.

Because of its unique facilities like the ski & snowboard tunnel, Vuokatti can offer all year-round winter activities both for professional level winter sports training as well as leisure oriented travellers. Vuokatti has long experience from hosting different sport teams of national and international level to camp and train in the area and Vuokatti Sport has an official Olympic Training Center status.

Ruka

Ruka is located in Kuusamo, Eastern Lapland, and reachable through good travel connections. Ruka is one

of Finland's most popular ski and holiday resorts and a lively alpine-like town. Ski season lasts from October until May and the resort is one of the most snow secure places in Europe. 21 ski lifts and 34 slopes guarantee cool runs for downhill skiers and snowboarders. A vast network of cross-country ski tracks circle around the ski resort. Guests find themselves surrounded by pristine nature of the magnificent hills, pure rivers, wild woodlands and wonderful natural

scenery. With a wide selection of programme services there are plenty of things to do from visits to reindeer farms to enjoying the warmth of the Finnish sauna experience.

Every year at the end of November Ruka is proud to start the World Cup season with 8 World Cup contest with ski jumping, cross country and nordic combined competitions. Ruka offers World Cup level training and competition facilities also in alpine skiing, freestyle skiing and snowboarding.

Tahko

Tahko is a compact, warm-hearted ski resort located in the Lakeland area of Finland. Picturesque slopes, a wide range of interesting outdoor activities and high level accommodation attract crowds of people to spend their winter holidays in Tahko. It is the fourth biggest skiing center in Finland and famous for its perfectly-groomed slopes. 15 lifts, 24 slopes, where the longest trail is 1200 meters long and the biggest vertical drop is up to 200 m.

Tahko Ski Resort is located less than hour drive from Kuopio, one of the biggest cities in Finland. Kuopio is surrounded by a lake Kallavesi and beautiful lake scenery is characteristic for the area.

Iso-Syöte

Iso-Syöte ski area and its 17 slopes and 10 lifts offer excellent settings for skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels. The children's SnowWorld has four slopes and four lifts designed for safe and fun learning. Long and wide blue slopes are perfect for easy and

enjoyable runs, while black and red slopes offer challenges for more experienced. Thrill seekers find great off-piste and park facilities. The close-by Pikku-Syöte ski area has 9 slopes, which are very suitable for those who are just starting their skiing career but also a great place to enjoy the sport of skiing. Finland's longest ski & snowboard park can be found at Iso-Syöte ski resort.

Laajis

Laajis ski resort is a "resort in the middle of the city" – only 4km from the Jyväskylä city centre. It offers various activities for people of all ages and skiers of all levels. Laajis includes 12 slopes and 4 snowparks. Whether you can just about stay up on skis or want to experience big jumps and long rails, it's all there for you. In addition, Laajis offers ice cross tracks (downhill ice-skating) for adventure lovers! Laajis is one of the most important snowpark places in southern Finland.

Laajis also has one of the largest adventure parks in the Nordic countries with nearly 2.5 kilometres of different climbing routes and courses

for both children and adults. Or why not try riding down the slopes with a downhill bike?



Ylläs

Ylläs is the largest ski resort in Lapland – and the whole of Finland. It has 63 slopes and 29 ski lifts, as well as the longest ski runs. Snowpark areas, "super-G slope", many off-piste slopes... the list is almost endless. Ylläs caters everyone from children and beginners to highly skilled professionals who love the untouched snow.

Ylläs is one of the best places to spot the Northern Lights – in Finnish Lapland they appear on almost every other night between August and April.

Messilä

At Messilä everything is only a few steps away as this ski resort is small and compact. Skiers can be



sure that the staff will help them with everything they need. Messilä also has restaurants, cafés and several accommodation options – all near the slopes too.

Messilä is situated in the city of Lahti that has over 100 years of skiing culture and has hosted a record-breaking seven FIS Nordic World Ski Championships! Be sure to visit Lahti's Ski Museum!

TRADITIONS

FIVE TIPS OF FINDING YOUR INNER FINN

In 2020, Finland was announced as the happiest country in the world for the third year running by the United Nations World Happiness Report.

If you ask a Finn, what makes them happy, one answer is nature. Finns like to put on a pair of rubber boots, head to the woods to slow down and calm our mind.

About 70 per cent of Finland is covered by forest and travelers fall in love with Finland's clean air, serenity and silence. Now, however, is not the time to travel, but rather focus on the health and wellbeing of oneself and those around us.

Here are some simple tips from Visit Finland on how to find your calm at home – the Finnish way – while you dream about your next adventure.

TIP 1 – Start your day with a cold shower (instead of a dip in a lake or the sea)

The Finns love winter swimming as much as they love the sauna. The secret of plunging into icy water lies in the feeling that surges through your body once you get out of the water – as soon as you're back on dry land your circulation kicks in and your body starts to warm up and makes you feel happy. Your body is producing the mood-balancing hormone serotonin with dopamine, and stress starts to melt away.

The easiest way to do this at home is to take an ice-cold shower for a couple of minutes. If you do it in the morning, your day couldn't ask for a more refreshing way to start your day. Dive into your inner Finnish mentality "Sisu", and just do it! You can alter-



Photo: Tyler Lillico

nate cold and warm showers to get a "sauna" feeling, and your blood circulating even better.

TIP 2 – Make sense of the world by reading (instead of visiting a library)

Books are close to the Finns' hearts. There are many libraries in Finland with Helsinki's Oodi being the newest library to open in 2019 and was awarded the best public library in the world the same year*. In 2016 the UN named Finland the world's most literate nation, and Finns are among the world's most enthusiastic users of public libraries. We are 5.5 million people, and we borrow close to 68 million books a year.

Moomins are probably the most known and adored Finnish literary icon. The white, hippo-like Moomins are Finnish characters created by the much-loved Swedish-speaking Finn, writer and artist Tove Jansson in the 1940s.

Today the Moomins are part of the Finnish identity, inspiring generations over and over from children to adults. Moomin books can be found in every bookshop and library in Finland. Above all, reading (any) book is surely more relaxing than surfing social media!



TIP 3 – Experience a relaxing forest path on your sofa (instead of walk in an actual forest)

There is something magical about the forest and the Finnish soul has always been linked with it. The green colour is calming; the gentle rustling of the leaves and pine needles is like music. Finns feel good in the forest. The forest roots us and helps us remember who we are and where we come from. In the forest we don't feel being alone or even lost – the forest provides protection and peace for us.

It has been scientifically proven that only 15 minutes in the forest calms your pulse and your body starts to rest; what a wonderfully simple cure for stress! So, please close your eyes, stretch yourself on the sofa, and have an imaginary trip to the Finnish forest.

TIP 4 – Make a world better (and tastier) place by baking a Cinnamon bun (instead of a visiting a Finnish café serving them)

Korvapuusti translates into "slapped ears" in English but they are essentially cinnamon buns baked Finnish style with a dash of cardamom. We Finns love our coffee (we are heavy drinkers of coffee, almost 10 kg per person per year) and korvapuusti so much that there is actually a special word for it, "pullakahvi",

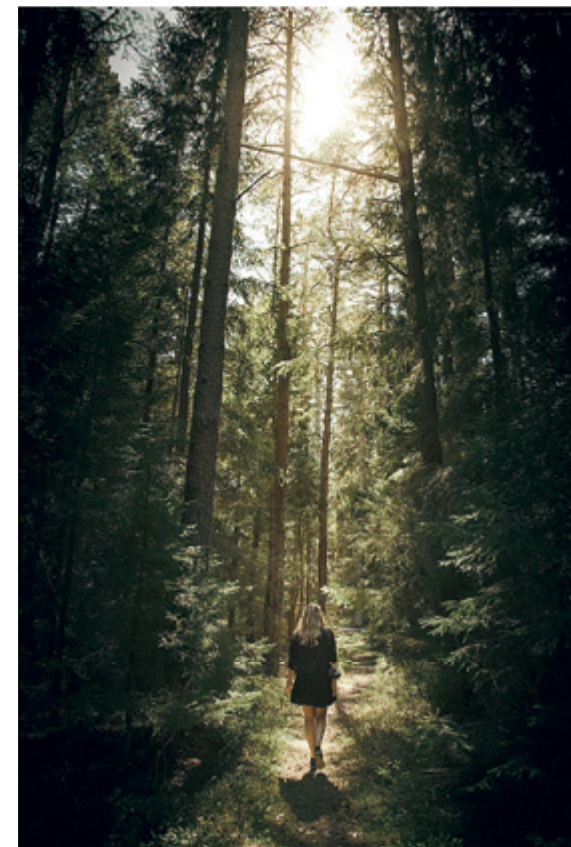


Photo: Geran de Klerk

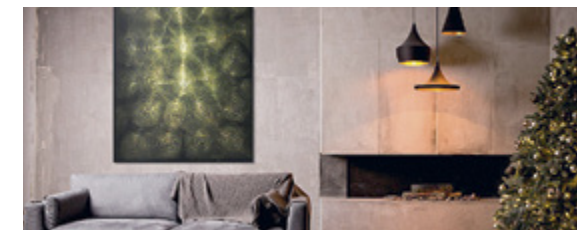


Photo: Otto Norin

which literally means "bun coffee", either it is home-made, enjoyed at a café, or at work with your work mates – at the moment we're doing with virtual "pullakahvi" pauses.

For us, it's the highlight of the day, and we definitely don't count the calories. Cinnamon buns are perfect comfort food as well. Baked

at home they bring a cosy smell to the kitchen as in our childhood days, when we ate them with a glass of milk. Find a recipe online and try it out!



Taiko – the place to visit for unique Finnish art, online

TIP 5 – Transport your thoughts through online (instead of visiting a museum)

Finland's contemporary art scene embraces everything from experimental artist-run initiatives and commercial galleries to flagship art institutions. There are more than 55 art museums, and numerous art galleries packed into our cities. Finland is a country of extremes and contrasts and along with the Finns' close relationship with nature are the main sources of inspiration for Finnish Art.

The Finns use art to calm the mind and transport their thoughts to stress-free comforting places. Why not take a virtual trip from your own sofa to the Finnish museums to understand how art is a tool for happiness. In March 2020, Amos Rex won the prestigious LCD (Leading Culture Destination) Award for New Cultural Destination of the Year – Europe. Have a virtual tour of the new museum to see the new Generation 2020 exhibition in their Instagram Stories (www.instagram.com/amoskonst/)

If you want to discover Lapland, head to Rovaniemi Art Museum located in the Arctic Circle. Their main focus is on Finnish Contemporary Art and Northern Art. (<https://cumulus.rovaniemi.fi/rovaide/>).

Culture Vultures on the search for something more classical should pay a visit to Ateneum Art Museum. The Ateneum Art Museum's collection in Helsinki includes more than 450 works by famous Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela. Have a virtual tour of the Ateneum: (<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/ateneum-art-museum>).

Inspired by the art you have seen online? Visit Taiko, the world's largest online gallery and marketplace for unique Finnish art: <https://en.taiko.art>.

TOP FESTIVE FOOD TRADITIONS IN EUROPE

Wherever you may be celebrating Christmas and New Year's Eve this year, one thing is certain: food will take central stage. As you plan your festive dinners, get inspired by the European top festive food traditions.

United Kingdom

Christmas dinner in the United Kingdom is usually served in the afternoon of 25 December. The centrepiece of the Christmas dinner is usually turkey, served with stuffing and gravy, Yorkshire puddings, cranberry sauce or redcurrant jelly. As side dishes, roast potatoes most often take the crown, but sometimes potatoes are also boiled or mashed. Other side dishes include vegetables, particularly brussels sprouts, cauliflower and parsnips. The desert is usually the Christmas pudding (or plum pudding), sometimes mince pies or trifle, with brandy butter or cream.



Photo: Toa Heftiba

France

After Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, people gather at home or in a restaurant for a feast.

Each region in France has its own traditional menu, with dishes like goose, chicken, turkey, chestnuts and oysters. Some typical French Christmas foods include a white sausage made of pork; a log-shaped cake made of chocolate and chestnuts; Christmas loaf and many other traditional dishes. Worth mentioning



Photo: Bruce Chapman

is La Galette des Rois – a round cake which is cut into pieces and distributed by a child, known as le petit roi hiding under the table. Whoever finds a fève – the charm hidden inside – is named King or Queen.

Germany

In Germany, the primary Christmas dishes are roast goose and roast carp, although suckling pig or duck may also be served. Typical side dishes include roast potatoes and various forms of cabbage such as kale, Brussels sprouts, and red cabbage. In some regions the Christmas dinner is traditionally served on Christmas Day rather than Christmas Eve. In this case, dinner on Christmas Eve is a simpler affair, consisting of



Photo: Jennifer Pallian

sausages (such as Bockwurst or Wiener) and potato salad. Sweets and Christmas pastries are all but obligatory and include marzipan, spice bars (Lebkuchen), several types of bread, and various fruitcakes and fruited breads such as Christstollen and Dresdener Stollen.

Italy

Italian regional Christmas traditions are varied. They are polarised in two areas: Northern Italy and Southern Italy (from Rome southwards). Moreover, often the Christmas Eve Supper is more important than the Christmas Dinner, because the Holy Mass is celebrated at midnight.



Photo: Jamele Reskp

The primo is usually a kind of soup made with pasta (usually filled pasta, like tortellini) boiled in meat or capon broth. The secondo is very different in the two areas. In Northern Italy they usually eat poultry, often filled, or roasted or boiled and seasoned with sauces, like mostarda. In Southern Italy they eat the fried capitone eel, which is typical of Christmas Eve, because this is a fasting day. On Christmas Day they could eat roast lamb or fish.

Austria

In Austria, Christmas Eve is the celebration of the end of the pre-Christmas fast. Christmas is usually celebrated by only Christians. Christmas Eve is historically the day that the



Photo: Hannah Pemberton

Ham tastes best with homemade mustard. Any leftover ham is usually added to pea soup after Christmas. Another popular Finnish Christmas dish is rutabaga casserole, which is not only popular, but also practical as it can be prepared days in advance. Rice porridge is another must. Usually the porridge is served with sugar and cinnamon on top. Some prefer it with a fruit broth known as "fruit soup." Traditionally an almond is hidden in the pot of porridge. Whoever finds the almond in her or his serving gets to make a wish. Sometimes rice porridge is served for breakfast.

Norway

In Norway, Christmas food traditions vary from region to region and are deeply rooted in country's history. On the east coast, the most common dish is svineribbe (usually just ribbe), pork belly side prepared with seasoning (salt and pepper), for proper crackling. Usually, it is consumed together with boiled veg-



Photo: Meny

are eaten, as are many other chocolate delicacies including edible Christmas ornaments. Christmas dinner is usually goose, ham served with Gluhwein, Rumpunsch, and chocolate mousse.

Finland

The undisputed winner of Finnish Christmas dinner is baked ham – Kinkku, writes This is Finland. Most Finns could not imagine Christmas without ham. Slowly baking the ham in the oven is one of a Finnish Christmas ritual.



Photo: Eiliv-Sonas Aceron

etables, sauerkraut, lingonberry jam, potatoes, gravy, and a few shots of akevitt. The traditional lutefisk – white fish that has been dried, salted and pickled in lye – is also increasingly popular in all parts of Norway. For dessert rice pudding is very popular, served with a raspberry sauce.

BOOKS TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD FOR CHRISTMAS

It might not be snowing yet, but you can still get into the festive spirit with the selection of favourite Christmas reads, curated by Penguin Books.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Nothing quite says 'Christmas' like Dickens' mean old miser who hates everything associated with the cursed day. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his ghostly visitations is as synonymous with the season as turkey, Santa and raisin-addled puddings. And with most editions just under 100 pages, it is the perfect book to curl up with alongside a glass of mulled wine.

A Christmas Carol has had an enduring influence on the way we think about the traditions of Christmas ever since it was first published in De-

cember 1843. Dickens's story of solitary miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who is taught the true meaning of Christmas by the three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, has been adapted into countless film and stage versions and is today the most famous and loved of all Christmas tales.

The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories

This is a collection of the most magical, moving, chilling and surprising Christmas stories from around the world, taking us from frozen Nordic woods to glittering Paris, a New York speakeasy to an English country house, bustling Lagos to midnight mass in Rio, and even outer space.

Here are classic tales from writers including Truman Capote, Shirley Jackson, Dylan Thomas, Saki and Chekhov, as well as little-known

treasures such as Italo Calvino's wry sideways look at Christmas consumerism, Wolfdietrich Schnurre's story of festive ingenuity in Berlin, Selma Lagerlof's enchanted forest in Sweden, and Irène Nemerovsky's dark family portrait. Featuring santas, ghosts, trolls, unexpected guests, curmudgeons and miracles, here is Christmas as imagined by some of the greatest short story writers of all time.

Village Christmas by Laurie Lee

From the author of *Cider with Rosie*, this is a lyrical portrait of England which, as with much of Lee's writing, focuses on his childhood home in the Cotswolds. The essays explore the traditions, landscapes and stories of the area and include Lee's memory of Churchill's icy January funeral, and of carol-singing in the snow. A moving glimpse into a vanished world.

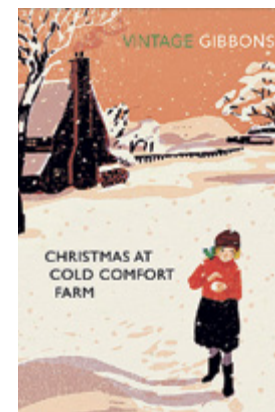
Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons

A must-read for fans of Gibbons' much loved 1932 novel *Cold Comfort Farm*, this is a collection of 16 short stories, including the title tale which heralds the return of the formidable Starkadder family as they take their places for Christmas dinner and tuck into a rather unfortunate Christmas pudding. Full of Gibbons' trademark wit and gentle satire, there's also plenty of period details to make for a very nostalgic Christmas.

The Twelve Birds of Christmas by Stephen Moss

Naturalist Stephen Moss digs beneath the surface of some of our most popular Christmas carols in an ornithological celebration of the Festive Season. The ultimate Christmas present for bird lovers.

Using the structure of the carol as a jumping off point, he explores the place of twelve fascinating British



birds in our history, culture and landscape. Some of the birds are obvious, there's the swan and of course the partridge. Other chapters are loose interpretations of a verse: for drummers drumming he delves into the woodpecker's distinctive drumming tap. Woodpeckers, he ex-

plains, have special padded skulls to mitigate against using its head like hammer drills. They carefully select dead trees for the most hollow, sonorous sound.

With brilliant anecdotes and insights, Stephen Moss weaves history, culture, bird behaviour and folklore into a compelling narrative for each species, tracing its fortunes over the past two centuries.

The Nutcracker by E.T.A. Hoffmann, illustrated by Sanna Annukka

Hoffmann's classic Christmas fairy tale, immortalised by Tchaikovsky's ballet, is brought to life by the gorgeous contemporary artwork of Finnish illustrator, Sanna Annuka.

On Christmas Eve, Fritz and Marie excitedly await the arrival of Godfather Drosselmeier and the marvellous gifts he brings for them every year. When Marie discovers a curious nutcracker doll among the presents, she suddenly finds herself caught up in an age-old battle before being transported to a magical world of sugar-frosted castles, chocolate kings, and true love.

Sanna Annukka is familiar to many from her collaborations with Marimekko and her artwork for Keane's album, *Under the Iron Sea*. The *Nutcracker* is her third book project. This cloth-

bound edition combines the charm of Hoffmann's original nineteenth-century tale with the freshness of Sanna Annuka's gorgeous illustrations.

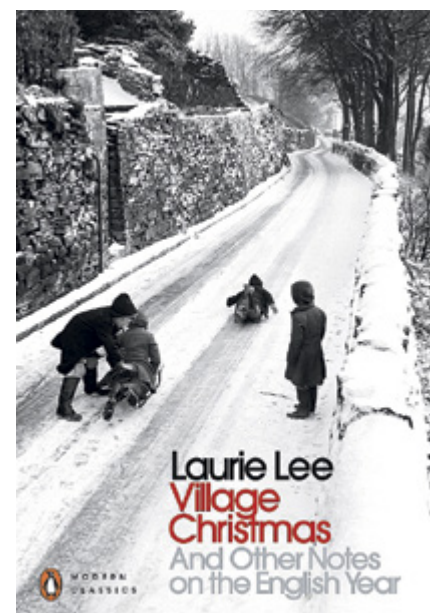
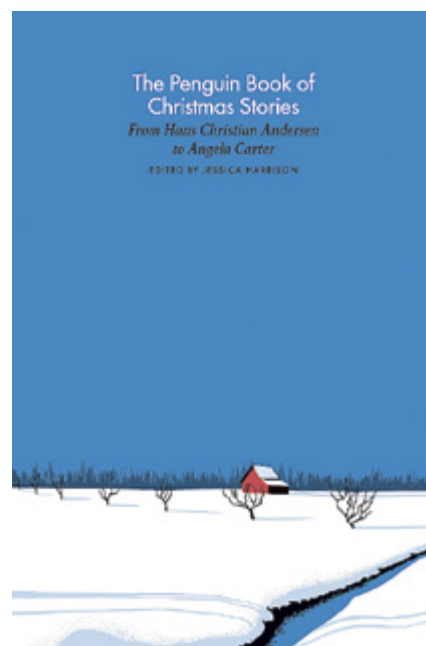
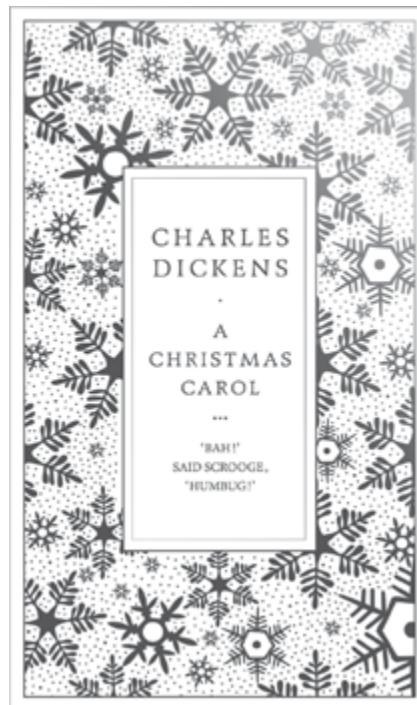
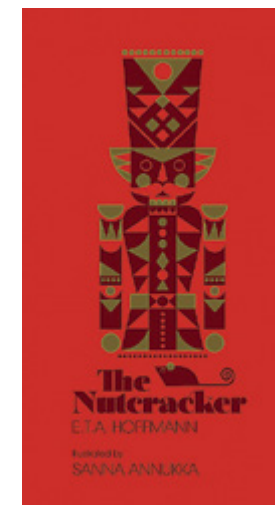
Christmas Days by Jeanette Winterson

A curious book by prize-winning author Jeannette Winterson takes the reader through 12 stories inspired by the festive season (with matching

recipes, no less), including the retelling of the nativity from the donkey's point of view. This is as bold, inventive and funny as you'd expect from Winterson – and also, importantly, very Christmassy indeed.

Read these stories by the fire, in the snow, travelling home for the holidays. Give them to friends, wrap them up for someone you love, read them aloud, read them alone, read

them together. Enjoy the season of peace and goodwill, mystery, and a little bit of magic.



FINLAND'S FIRST MAJOR HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION SET FOR SUCCESS

The sci-fi thriller *Dual*, currently shooting in Tampere, is the first Hollywood production to be entirely filmed in Finland. The production will employ approximately 100 Finnish film industry professionals and its revenue effect in Finland and Tampere can be counted in the millions.

Shot in Tampere in October-November 2020, writer/director Riley Stearns' satirical science-fiction thriller stars Karen Gillan ("Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle"), Aaron Paul ("El Camino: A Breaking Bad Film" and "Westworld") and Beulah Koale ("Hawaii Five-O"). Stearns wrote the script and is producing alongside XYZ Films and Lee Kim, with Film Service Finland providing produc-



Karen Gillan is familiar from the *Avengers* movies, *Guardians of the Galaxy* movies and *Jumanji* movies. Photo: Sam Kim



Aaron Paul is known for his roles in *El Camino: A Breaking Bad Film* and *Westworld*. Photo: Eric Ray Davidson



Beulah Koale is known for his role in TV series *Hawaii Five-O*

tion services. XYZ is financing the film via its fund backed by Helsinki-based IPR.VC.

The film is about a woman (Gillan) who, upon receiving a terminal diagnosis, opts for a cloning procedure to ease her loss on her friends and family. When she makes a sudden and miraculous recovery, her attempts to have her clone decommissioned fail and lead to a court-mandated duel to the death.

"We're thrilled to be working with Riley and this great creative team," says XYZ partner Aram Tertzakian. "XYZ is already deeply invested

in Finland, so it's truly an honor to bring a project with the pedigree of DUAL as Finland's first major Hollywood production."

"Since arriving over a month ago, I continue to find myself inspired by the city of Tampere," says writer/director Riley Stearns. "It has informed the look and feel of *Dual* in ways I never could have imagined while writing the script. I'm excited for audiences to see the world we're able to create thanks to filming here."

The movie will be filmed entirely in Tampere. The production is employing Finnish film professionals

which stimulates the Finnish movie industry hit by COVID-19. Business Finland and Tampere AV incentives played an important role in bringing the production to Finland. Finnish investors have also increased international interest towards Finland. In this production, IPR.VC played a central role and Film Tampere's Ilkka Rahkonen and XYZ Film's Nick Spicer were part of negotiations to bring the film to Finland.

"Bringing such a significant production here is an excellent example of what Finland as a country with low hierarchy and world-class professionals can accomplish through collaboration. Business Finland's Production Incentive for the Audiovisual Industry creates a financial incentive to come to Finland and it is important for us that this American production is left with the experience of safe, functioning and efficient production services. In addition to the incentive, films and series benefit from the same things as international travelers to Finland: we have nature and wilderness destinations and fresh urban milieus, which can be easily accessed with our well-functioning infrastructure," explains Paavo Virkkunen, Executive Director, Finland Promotion Services, Business Finland.

"DUAL is a very important opportunity for Finland, and for Tampere. With our incentive offering and infrastructure, I am pleased that Tampere is emerging as a leading international filming destination," says Ilkka Rahkonen, Director of Film Tampere.

"Finland offers excellent conditions for feature film, documentary film, serial fiction and animation productions not only based on our industry expertise but also thanks to Finland's safe operating environment. Despite the pandemic, we have managed – through cooperation between the partners in this industry – to create conditions where Finland comes across as a flexible and safe place for international productions," says Petra Tarjanne, Special Adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.



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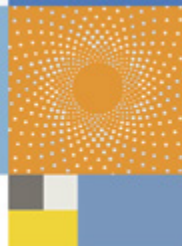


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EDUCATION

FINLAND'S NEW SCHEME OF CHILDREN'S LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The Finnish model for leisure activities will bring children's and young people's leisure activities to the school day from the beginning of 2021.

Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture will carry out a pilot and is looking for municipalities interested in taking part in the pilot. The application period closes on 2 December. The amount of funding reserved for the pilot is EUR 9.5 million. Schools will be expected to select the leisure activities based on their pupils' and students' wishes. Municipalities can map out children's and young people's wishes using the Ministry's survey for pupils and students or hear children and young people in other ways. The survey will be sent to schools this week.

The Finnish model aim to enable every child and young person to have a leisure activity in connection with the school day that they enjoy and one that is free of charge. The pilot is seeking municipalities that are prepared to set their leisure activities in motion in early 2021. The second application round will take place next spring and involves activities starting in the autumn.

The Finnish model focuses on hearing children about their wishes for leisure activities. Municipalities decide how they want to provide the activities based on children's and young people's wishes. The activities take place in the schools and in places near the schools. They may be organised by sports clubs, arts and cultural actors, youth organisations, municipal actors and other communities involved in children's and young people's leisure activities.



Photo: Arseny Togulev

"Leisure activities have many positive effects on the wellbeing of children and young people. A meaningful leisure activity allows them to experience joy and success and helps them find friends. The positive effects that leisure activities bring carry through into adulthood. The Finnish model for leisure activities is designed to make sure that every child and young person has access to leisure activities no matter what their family background is and where they live," says Minister of Science and Culture Annika Saarikko.

The survey for pupils and students carried out by the Ministry of Edu-

cation and Culture is now being conducted for the fourth time, and this year there are a record 62 different leisure activities from which children and young people can choose. The national results of the survey will be published towards the end of the year.

The Finnish model also includes a national leisure activities week in schools. This year, the week took place from 2 November to 6 November, when school children were able to try out leisure activities and, in particular, learn about various kinds of digital and remote leisure activities.