

Wasa Daily

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24/7



VAASA

Today they are coming – but with the most demanding requirement: electric scooters have returned to Vaasa



Vaasa, April 5. Then they rotate again. Electric scooters. But this year, it's not going to be a wild ride without control. From April 5, the season will begin – with completely new conditions. The city's streets are full of popular but controversial vehicles.

Forced parking will be introduced when parking spaces are marked out-

doors, approximately in mid-June. In forced parking areas, operators also monitor parking with geofences. If the electric scooter is parked elsewhere and the city has to move it, the move will cause costs to the driver, who in turn may charge the user of the electric scooter.

In the spring, parking for electric scooters can be restricted when the streets are cleared of sand. Operators will temporarily block parking in areas where sand removal is in progress.

In the future, the max-

imum speed allowed for electric scooters will be 20 km/h during the day and 15 km/h at night

You have to be sober, park cleanly and drive like an old lady really wants to cope with her walk.

So charge your phone, check the rules – and enjoy the spring sun. But remember: no one is throwing their scooter into the bush this year. Or is it?

Source: City of Vaasa
Photo: City of Vaasa / Mikael Matikainen

Image of the Week:



The Magic of Wool – a fairytale textile exhibition at Tornin Galleria in Vaasa

VAASA

PANEL TO RESCUE VAASA'S MUSIC SCENE: "What happens to the venues?"

Vaasa. How do you save a city's live music? A panel debate will tackle the issue on April 9 at the main library at 6-8 PM – We need to talk about the future. The discussion covers local venues, cooperation, and events' cultural impact. Panellists include the culture director and local activists.

The event is free and open to everyone. If you care about music, don't miss it.

Source: STT Info / City of Vaasa



LOCAL NEWS

STUNDARS

May Day at Stundars – celebrations, fire and spring awakening at the open-air museum



The first of May is traditionally celebrated at Stundars with flag games, singing and speeches. Visitors are invited to the first celebrations of spring in a historic setting, where a bonfire is lit and spring is welcomed with festivity. The event is suitable for the whole family and offers a glimpse into how Walpurgis was celebrated in the past. The museum café is open, and there will be a sausage grill party and a sense of community. Don't miss the first real spring festival of the year at the Ostrobothnian Open Air Museum. Source: <https://stundars.fi/kalender/forstamaj-pa-stundars-2025/>

KORSHOLM

Clean up the village and earn 200 euros

– Korsholm challenges associationsThe municipality of Korsholm challenges local associations to participate in the garbage collection campaign "Cleaning in the village" from 2 to 17 May. Associations that register and carry out a cleaning collection can receive a compensation of 200 euros. The goal is to get the residents to participate in a cleaner local environment while socializing and doing something concrete for the village. The municipality is responsible for garbage bags and gloves. The perfect activity for sports clubs, village councils or pensioners' associations that want to make a difference – and at the same time replenish their coffers. Source: <https://korsholm.fi/2026/03/foreningardelta-i-kommunens-skrapplockningstalsnyggt-i-byn-2-17-5-2026-och-tjana-200-euro>



KORSHOLM

Record pressure for summer jobs – more than 1,300 young people applied to

KorsholmThe municipality of Korsholm has received a total of 1,135 summer job applications and an additional 201

EDITORIAL

A free speech farce in Finland

The editorial in the Washington Post a week ago with the headline "A free speech farce in Finland" is worth reading for us in our country.

This editorial is a sober and necessary reminder that the legal persecution of unpopular views – even when they are rooted in traditional religious beliefs – poses a serious threat to liberal democracy, regardless of which country commits the abuse.

The writer is absolutely right to point out the absurdity of the actual issue: "The Supreme Court of Finland ruled that this is a crime. Because her statement was judged to be incorrect, she was convicted of 'making available to the public a text that insults a group.'" This is an astonishing departure from any reasonable standard of free speech. When courts take it upon themselves to determine what are "correct" theological or moral beliefs, they cease to be neutral interpreters of the law and instead become the enforcers of a state-approved truth.

Equally striking is the distinction that the prosecutor made in the case of the post on social media in 2019. As the editorial points out, the prosecutor said that it is permissible to quote the Bible, but "it is Räsänen's interpretation and perception of the Bible verses that is criminal." This distinction is a legal fiction that undermines the very idea of religious freedom. If you are allowed to quote a sacred text but not express what you in your conscience believe it means, then freedom of belief is reduced to an empty ritual.

The editorial's conclusion on the chilling effect of such prosecutions is unassailable: "If Finland can do this to a sitting member of parliament and a priest who leads an international organization with millions of members, then no one with less prominent standing can feel safe to publicly express similar views." That is exactly the point. When a country that is constantly ranked as "the happiest in the world" subjects an elected politician to years of legal proceedings – which ultimately result in a conviction for a publication from 2004, despite lower courts having acquitted – it sends a clear signal that certain views are not only unpopular but even illegal.

Three things that the editorial does not address: In 2004, there was still no law on incitement to racial hatred. Päivi Räsänen

is thus punished on the basis of a law that did not exist when her "crime" was committed. Secondly, the "crime" was committed 22 years ago. According to Finnish law, only three types of crimes are not time-barred within 20 years: murder and manslaughter. If this was a crime, it is definitely time-barred. After 22 years. And thirdly, Finland is generally considered to be a tolerant and LGBTQ+ friendly country, especially in a global context, and often ranks highly in European comparisons of the rights of sexual minorities. But could we not then be a little tolerant of the few who think a little differently on these issues. To be tolerant only of those who have exactly the same opinion as ourselves, that is actually quite one-sided tolerance.

Suurin osa kaikista Räsänen tapaukseen osallistuneista oikeustieteilijöistä on ollut sitä mieltä, ettei rikosta ole tapahtunut, mutta sitten käy ilmi, että yhden korkeimman oikeuden tuomarin mielipide ratkaisee tapauksen täysin päinvastaisella tavalla. Onko tämä silloin oikein ja reilua, on kaikkien päätettävissä.

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Pääkirjoituksessa esitetyt mielipiteet eivät ole vain riittäviä; Ne ovat välttämätön puolustus liberaalille periaatteelle, jonka mukaan valtion ei tulisi rangaista kansalaisia mielipiteiden esittämisestä tai esittämisestä, jotka eivät saa osavaltion hyväksyntää. Olipa Päivi Räsänen teologian kanssa samaa mieltä tai ei, periaate – että vapaassa yhteiskunnassa hallitus ei saa päättää, mitkä Raamatun tulkinnat ovat rikollisia – on asia, joka yhdistää kaikki, jotka arvostavat omantunnonvapautta.

WÄRTSILÄ

Wärtsilä appoints IKAD Engineering as authorised distributor for Australia



Australia's shipowners, listen up! Wärtsilä – the Finnish tech giant that keeps vessels humming – just shook hands with a new local partner. Meet IKAD Engineering, the fresh face authorised to distribute Wärtsilä's engines, propulsion systems, and all those clever bits that stop boats from breaking down mid-ocean.

Why the swap? Wärtsilä wants faster service, smarter solutions, and less "sorry mate, we'll order that part from Europe." From now on, IKAD will sell and support Wärtsilä's gear across the continent. Think of it as a maritime marriage made in engineering heaven.

"We need boots on the ground – or rather, boots on the dock," a Wärtsilä insider joked. IKAD, based in Western Australia, already knows salty water: they've been fixing and building marine equipment for years. Now they get the official stamp of approval from one of the world's biggest marine technology names.

For Aussie fishermen, tugboat captains, and LNG carriers, this means shorter waits, local expertise, and fewer headaches. No more cry-

ing into your Vegemite sandwich because a spare part is stuck in Helsinki.

Ivan Donjerkovich, Managing Director, IKAD Engineering, says: "Wärtsilä Water and Waste is globally recognised for its leadership in marine environmental technologies, and we are proud to be appointed as its authorised distributor for Australia. This partnership aligns strongly with IKAD Engineering's capabilities in supporting complex marine and defence systems and strengthens our ability to provide Australian operators with responsive local service and technical expertise.

Australia's naval and commercial marine sectors require reliable, compliant wastewater treatment solutions, and through this collaboration we can ensure customers have access to Wärtsilä Water and Waste's proven technologies alongside dedicated local support."

Image caption: Wärtsilä appoints IKAD Engineering as authorised distributor for Australia. © Wärtsilä Corporation

Reference: <https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/02-04-2026-wartsila-appoints-ikad-engineering-as-authorised-distributor-for-australia-3735493>

VAASA ELECTRICITY

Vaasa Electricity sells electricity to Helsinki residents



summer job coupons, which is 40 per cent more than last year. Jobs in daycare centres were the most popular, but cleaning work and property management also attracted a lot of applicants. This year, the municipality is offering a total of 45 summer jobs of its own. A summer job permit worth EUR 250 was granted to 162 young people born between 2011 and 2012. Employees will be notified by 7 April at the latest. Source: <https://korsholm.fi/2026/03/korsholms-kommun-fick-over-1-300-ansokning-ar-om-sommarjobb-och-sommarjobbs-sedlar>



MALAX

April is Reading Month in Malax – study for 30 hours and win a book gift card

During April, the municipality of Malax encourages the joy of reading through a campaign in which everyone who reads for 30 minutes can cross out a reading card. The aim is to inspire both young and old to discover the joy of reading – whether it's a book, a newspaper or an audiobook. Everyone who has accumulated at least 30 hours during the month will participate in the raffle for a 40 euro gift card. Even those who read for five hours or more can win smaller prizes. Reading cards are available in libraries and must be returned by 8 May at the latest. Source: <https://www.malax.fi/nyheter/kampanjen-lasgladje>

MALAX

Malax municipality takes a stand

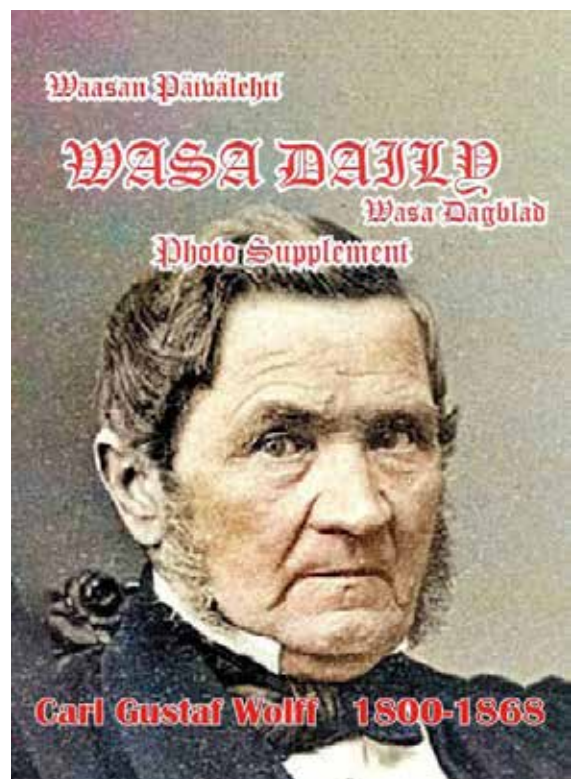
– becomes an area free from discrimination. The municipality of Malax has made a clear decision: the entire municipality must be an area free from discrimination. By placing special signs in all activities, you make your stand against bullying and harassment visible. The initiative is part of the work for a child-friendly municipality, and the next step is to involve local associations. The goal is for at least ten associations to join and make their areas of activity free from discrimination. "Everyone's equal value is fundamental," says Mayor Jenny Malmsten. Source: <https://www.malax.fi/nyheter/malax-kommun-ska-vara-fritt-fran-diskriminering>

PÖRTOM

Giant project in Brändskogen – up to 30 wind turbines planned in Pörtom

The environmental impact assessment for Brändskogen's wind power project in Närpes has taken a step forward. Prokon Wind Energy Finland Oy plans

Photo Supplement



EXHIBITION

THE ENCHANTMENT OF WOOL



An exhibition in Vaasa, 31 March – 19 April 2026- The Enchantment of Wool (Villan Lumo) is an exhibition assembled by five women who have fallen in love with felting.

The exhibition is on display at Gallery 2, Art Center Torni in Vaasa, and features textiles made from wool. One room of the gallery is filled with a variety of garments – almost fairytale-like jackets, accessories, a springtime brimmed hat, and home textiles. All the pieces on display are made mainly from wool and silk, but also include other fibres such as chiffon, bonnet silk, sari silk, and even snippets of woollen yarn.

Materials and techniques

The primary material is wool, most often hand-dyed merino wool, decorated with different types of silk or other fibres. An experienced felter plans the patterns and the parts of the garment in advance. For example, the fabrics for sleeves are decorated at the same time to achieve the desired matching patterns. After patterning, the work is wetted with soapy water and rolled until felting begins to show – in other words, until the fibres lock together. An estimated 200 rolling motions are needed. This is the most strenuous stage of

the process. After that, the piece is washed. The resulting fabric is often pressed and then ready to be sewn into the desired garment. The technique is called wet felting or nuno felting.

The group has been practising felting for several years under the guidance of felting master Anelma Lehto, in courses organised by the adult education centre Alma. The courses have typically lasted two weekends, and at the participants' request, Anelma has also held summer courses in a villa by the sea, surrounded by nature.

The exhibition also includes other works. For example, a couple of woollen balls hang in the windows – they are lamps, also made of wool. Wool can also be used to make window curtains, wall hangings, and table runners, and all of these are on display, not to mention a glass vase filled with felted flowers.

Artists: Pirkko Jokinen, Anelma Lehto, Erja Rinne, Maritta Sandler (in the picture) and Heli Vuorenmaa.

Opening hours:
Monday closed
Tuesday-Friday 12 noon – 6 pm
Easter Sunday 12 noon – 4 pm
Art Center Torni, Pitkäkätu 66, 65100 Vaasa, Finland
torniart@gmail.com
+358 40 852 5111
Free entry!

to build up to 30 wind turbines with a total height of 300 metres and an output of no more than 300 MW.



The project is being investigated in three different options with 9, 22 or 30 turbines. The electricity transmission is planned either with an overhead line to Östermark or with an underground cable to a nearby station. The liaison authority issued its reasoned conclusion on the assessment on 27 March 2026. The project is expected to have a major impact on the green energy transition in the region. Source: <https://www.ymparisto.fi/sv/medverka/miljokonsekvensbedomning/brandskogens-vindkraftsprojekt-narpes>

RITZ Pop icon Mira Luoti takes over the Ritz – An evening of raw energy and nostalgic hits

The powerhouse of the Finnish pop scene, Mira Luoti, is getting ready to turn the Ritz into a boiling cauldron of emotions. As one half of the legendary band PMMP, she has already written

herself into Finnish music history, but as a solo artist she has found an even more personal and intense nerve. Mira is known for her uncompromising stage presence and a unique ability to combine punky attitude with captivating melodies. The audience in Vaasa can expect a setlist filled with both fresh material and beloved classics. It will be an intimate but magnificent concert experience where the boundary between artist and audience is blurred in time with the thumping rhythms.

Source: ritz.fi

RITZ Edu Kettunen's low-key masterpiece: Deeply moving stories

When Edu Kettunen steps onto the stage with his "Lainatut lauseet" tour, it's not just a concert – it's a lesson in the art of storytelling. For decades, Kettunen has been one of Finland's most respected songwriters, known for his ability to capture the melancholy of everyday life and life's big questions in simple, beautiful phrases. At the Ritz, an atmospheric evening is promised where the music can breathe and the listener can sink into a universe of acoustic timbres. For those who appreciate the craftsmanship behind a really good song, this is a rare opportunity to experience a true master in an environment perfectly suited to his delicate expression.

Source: ritz.fi

RITZ Time travel begins in Vaasa – Wa-

saSpex offers humorous chaos in the future

Fasten your seatbelt and get ready for a crazy journey through time and space! WasaSpexet is back with a bang, and this time the theme is "Back to the future". In true spex spirit, satire, musical numbers and improvised comedy are combined where the audience can control the course of events by shouting "retake!". The enormous energy of the students and the clever puns make this one of the absolute highlights of the spring in Vaasa's cultural life. It doesn't matter if you're a dedicated spex veteran or a curious first-time visitor – when the curtain rises on the Ritz, an unpredictable evening awaits where laughter is guaranteed to be in the driver's seat.

Source: ritz.fi

RITZ Kokuho unites worlds: A magical musical journey at the Ritz

On 5 April, the Ritz will be transformed into a meeting place for global sounds when Kokuho invites you to a concert experience beyond the ordinary. Rooted in traditional Japanese aesthetics but with a modern and innovative twist, Kokuho manages to create soundscapes that are both meditative and powerful. It is music that demands presence and that rewards the listener with rich textures and unusual instrument combinations. For those looking for something other than the traditional pop and rock scene, this evening offers a unique insight into an art form where precision meets improvisation. Don't miss the chance to experience an atmosphere that stays in your consciousness long after the last note has faded.

Source: ritz.fi

FINLAND

PARADOX Museum Here's the new selfie king: Paradox is soaring in popularity

In just one year, Helsinki's most photo-friendly museum has climbed into the city's top ten most visited. Paradox attracted over 180,000 visitors – an increase of almost 30 percent. The success is explained by unique exhibitions and a new approach that makes both professionals and amateurs long for the camera. Source: STT, 26.3.2026

KIASMA Artificial respiration: Sámi voices are given new life at Kiasma

A new exhibition at Kiasma puts Sámi

Wasa Daily
Nearly everything You want to know, in eight pages
vpress.fi

NEWS

RUSSIA

The oligarch's draconian plan: 72-hour weeks will save Russia's economy



The Russian industrial magnate Oleg Deripaska has never been known to save on gunpowder. Now he is launching his most controversial recipe to date to counteract the effects of Western sanctions and the country's economic isolation: A five-year plan in which the Russian people are expected to work 12 hours a day, six days a week.

According to Deripaska, it is only through massive sacrifices and a "total mobilization of the workforce" that Russia can build the industrial base necessary to become self-sufficient. His proposal for a 72-hour working week aims to force economic growth that can compensate for the lack of foreign capital and technology.

From aluminum war to the Kremlin's inner circle

Oleg Deripaska's career is like something out of a suspense novel about 90s Russia. He rose to power during the brutal "aluminum wars" after the fall of the Soviet Union, where he managed to seize the country's enormous raw material resources with rare ruthlessness and strategic skill. As the founder of the industrial giant Rusal, he at

one point became Russia's richest man.

Although he has periodically had a complicated relationship with President Vladimir Putin, he has remained a key player in the Russian power elite. Since 2018, he lives under harsh US and European sanctions, which has forced him to restructure his empire and focus entirely on the domestic market and relations with China.

An economy on the brink

Deripaska has recently become one of the most vocal critics of Russia's economic choices. He regularly attacks the central bank's high policy rates, which he believes "strangle all remaining enterprise". His analysis of the Russian situation is gloomy: without a radical shift towards Asia and a dramatic increase in productivity, the treasury risks being empty within a few years.

By advocating extremely long working hours, he paints a picture of a Russia that is in an economic state of emergency. The question, however, is whether the Russian population, already feeling the effects of the war, is prepared to trade their remaining free time for the oligarch's vision of industrial survival.

Sources: Kommersant, RBC, TASS

Image: Dzinko Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

TRAINS AND KOGNITION

Brain training on rails: Fast trains can save your cognitive health

Can the choice between train and car affect how quickly your brain ages? New research suggests that the answer is yes. Fast and smooth train connections are about much more than just saving minutes on the way to work - it can be a crucial factor for our brain health.

A study by the University of Helsinki has found a link between transport infrastructure and healthier ageing in different population groups. The study, published in the journal Social Science & Medicine by researcher Xu Zong, provides new evidence that using high-speed trains (HSR) can improve cognitive health and reduce social disparities as a person ages.

As distances between cities shrink thanks to modern fast tracks, opportunities for social interaction and access to stimulating environments increase. For the elderly population, good accessibility means that they can participate in community life, visit specialist care or attend cultural events without the stress of a complicated journey. The report points out that a well-functioning



infrastructure acts as a protective factor against social isolation, which is one of the main risk factors for cognitive impairment.

Instead of getting stuck in passivity or traffic jams, the train enables a more active life that keeps the brain stimulated. Investing in rail is therefore not only a question of transport or climate, but also a powerful investment in the public health of the future. Building faster tracks can simply be a way to keep the population more alert and clearer in the bud for longer.

Source: sttinfo.fi/tiedote/71897574/nopeat-junayhteydet-voivat-edistaa-ihmisen-kognitiivista-terveytta

experiences in the spotlight - and does so through previously invisible works. Several of the artworks have never been shown to the public until now. The initiative is described as a long-awaited opportunity to let stories from the indigenous people take place in the fine art of contemporary art. Source: STT, 26.3.2026

RIIKKA PURRA Finland's Thatcher? Now comes the book about Purra



Today, Sunday at 3 p.m., there will be a bang at the Academic Bookstore. At that time, "Riikka Purra - Finland's Iron Lady" will be released. The book promises in-depth analyses of the hardline power players of the True Finns. Expectations are high - and so are the critics. The question is whether the book will be a declaration of love or a nail-biter. Source: STT, 26.3.2026

CARE QUEUES Good news: How the care queue will become history

Now there is actually positive news from the healthcare front. At a press conference organised by Duodecim in the future, a new model will be unveiled that will cut the waiting lists in Finland. Behind the initiative are several players who are tired of waiting. And no, it's not about a new IT system - it's

something that can actually work. We will come back to this!! Source: STT, 26.3.2026

ALKO Viinaa ei kulu: Alko drops in a sober version

Now it's official: Finns are drinking less. The alcohol giant's sales fell by as much as 8 percent last year. The CEO points to changed drinking habits and tougher competition from abroad. Alko is now responding by investing heavily in customer experience - both in-store and online. Source: STT, 26.3.2026

SPACE

MOON TRIP Finally! Now man is going back to the moon

After 53 years, it's time again. On April 1, NASA launched the rocket for the Artemis II mission - four astronauts will travel around the moon. On board is the first woman, the first person of color and the first non-American to go to the moon. Four people will spend ten days in space. The start window opens at 18:24 Swedish time. Keep your fingers crossed for a successful trip! And we are waiting for many new pictures from the far side of the moon! Source: NASA/Central News Agency, 31.3.2026*

MOON TRIP The moon trip that finally leaves the

arms of the earth - now they're going around the moon!

Finally! NASA confirms that the Artemis II astronauts have left Earth orbit. For the first time in over 50 years, people are floating towards the moon - without landing, just around. Reid, Victor, Christina and Jeremy get to enjoy the view for ten days. The goal: test everything before the next landing. "Like a luxury cruise, but without a hot tub," jokes an insider. But sure, we're a little jealous. Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasas-artemis-ii-mission-leaves-earth-orbit-for-flight-around-moon/>

MOON OF URANUS 5. Voyager 2's Secret: Uranus' Moon is an icy battlefield

NASA has published a new processed image of Titania - Uranus' largest moon - taken by Voyager 2 back in 1986. The image reveals a surface full of craters, chasms and chaos. Scientists believe that the moon once fractured from within when frozen water expanded. Half of Titania is made up of ice, half of rock. Beneath the surface, there may be floating oceans right now. Source: NASA APOD, 31.3.2026

CLIMATE

CLIMATE The Barents Sea - the culprit that is melting the Arctic?

The ice disappears faster than vodka at a Russian party. Now the researchers point to the Barents Sea. The warm water there controls the entire Arctic ice extent. When the Barents warms up, the ice shrinks LIKE the summer snow on a car window. The result: record-low sea ice. "The Barents is like a thermostat, but it's broken," says a climate scientist. And it's not a fun story considering the climate. Source: <https://science.nasa.gov/earth/earth-observatory/barents-sea-tied-to-low-arctic-sea-ice/>

RUSSIA

RUSSIA Putin's secret message: The war could last for 15 years

According to information to the channel "Kremlin Secrets", Vladimir Putin has said in a closed meeting with big business leaders that the war in Ukraine could last for 10-15 years. The entrepreneurs were urged to pay extra billions into the war chest - otherwise the front awaits. Several of the participants are said to have been shocked by the time forecast. A Kremlin source calls the time "complicated but heroic". And oligarchs can gladly give a billion as a gift to the budget, or alternatively is to voluntarily join the army. Source: Telegram, 31.3.2026

EASTER READING

ART

From the poor's home to the Ateneum – Eero Nelimarkka's unforgettable life as an artist



He was born in a poorhouse and became a professor. Now Eero Nelimarkka's (1891–1977) paintings are taking over the Ateneum – and they are worth seeing.

When Eero Nelimarkka was born in Vaasa in October 1891, his home was the city's poorhouse. The father died in a mental hospital when the boy was nine. The family had almost nothing – but the son had a passion.

Nelimarkka first acquired the baker's apprentice papers. Then he saw Carl Larsson's work in Stockholm, and everything changed. He studied in Paris, threw himself into the teachings of Eero Järnefelt and found his own voice – in the infinite expanses of Southern Ostrobothnia.

And how he painted! At the 1938 exhibition, the

newspaper Ilkka praised Nelimarkka's "restrained and confident moves", in which the atmosphere of a summer evening and the yellow grain fields merge into a "shining autere" in the distance. The critic was particularly moved by the house paintings: "They all exude a warm feeling of home."

Nelimarkka never forgot its roots. He had his studio built in Alajärvi and returned again and again to the people and landscapes of Ostrobothnia. He received the Pro Finlandia in 1956 and the title of professor in 1966.

Now, his works are on display on an unusually large scale at the Ateneum in the capital.

Eero Nelimarkka 13.3.-13.9.2026 at the Ateneum
*Sources: Wikipedia / STT / Ateneum / Ilkka
26.11.1938



*Lasten lauantai Ateneumissa 28.3.2026
Barnens lördag i Ateneum 28.3.2026
Childrens Saturday on March 28, 2026*



Eero Nelimarkka: Omakuva (1922). Kansallisgallerian kokoelma / Ateneumin taidemuseo. Kuva: Kansallisgalleria / Hannu Pakarinen.



Eero Nelimarkka: Omakuva (1924). Yksityiskokoelma. Kuva: Kansallisgalleria / Jenni Nurminen.



Eero Nelimarkka: Talo Ranskassa (1920). Nelimarkka-Rahasto sr., Nelimarkka-museo. Kuva: Aja Lund.

EASTER READING

ALEXANDRA FROSTERUS

Alexandra Theodora Frosterus-Såltin: Palosaari Church and two of her paintings



Palosaari church was designed by architect A. W. of Stenfors and completed in 1910. The church building was made possible thanks to funds donated from Gustaf Duvaldt's gift fund and was called the prayer room Bethany.

The parish council in Vaasa discussed the altarpiece in Palosaari church in November 1910. *Vasa-Posten* on 26.11.1910 relates the discussion that has taken place:

"Regarding the purchase of an altarpiece for Palosaari prayer house, the chairman announced that the artist, Doctor Alexandra Såltin, had offered to paint one free of charge, if the congregation was willing to pay for the materials. In the collection for this purpose 303 mk had already been collected and these were available. The offer was received with gratitude. Reverend O. Ahlström proposed the appointment of a committee to support the artist in practical matters. The proposal was approved and the following were elected members of this committee: Pastor Ahlström, Dr. Rosendahl and architect Stenfors.

Pastor Ahlström informed those present that the artist had conceived Christ as a subject among the brothers and sisters in Bethany, "Mary at the feet of Jesus", because the prayer house was called Bethany, and the first text that was preached there dealt with that subject.

The council decided that the congregation's gratitude for the magnificent gift should be recorded in the minutes."

The altarpiece "Christ in Bethany" was painted by Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin in 1912 and this was one of the last altarpieces she painted. . Frosterus-Såltin was living in Vaasa at the time,

and she offered to paint the painting free of charge, as long as the congregation paid for the materials. Since Palosaari church was originally called Bethany, the commissioners and the artist thought that a suitable motif for the altarpiece could be "Christ in Bethany". This motif has not been used anywhere else by this artist. .

The colours red, blue and green appear as pure and bright colours in the altarpiece. The paint is applied thinly and the fabric is visible in places. Jesus visits Mary and Martha and the atmosphere is quite sensitive. The church architect Stenfors designed neo-Gothic light oak frames for the altarpiece.

The stained glass windows in the church hall were made by the artist Lennart Segerstråhle, Alexandra's niece's son. His artistic skills and interest in church art ran in the family. . The stained glass windows were completed in 1929, six on each side of the altar. Seen from the altar, to the left are the Old Testament topics and the birth and baptism of Jesus. On the opposite wall, the life and teachings of Jesus are depicted. Each motif consists of a main image and a low lower window, where the theme of the upper part is transformed into an ornamental composition.

On the sides of the altar there are also two motif groups with six windows each, completed in 1938. On the left side of the altar is the Gethsemane motif and on the right is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

But back to Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin. The altarpiece is not her only work of art in Palosaari church. There is another painting.

In 1908, the Christian Association for Young Women had held its annual meeting in Vaasa. Alexandra donated a drawing with the motif "The wise virgins" that the association had on the background wall during the annual meeting.



A few years later, Alexandra, who was a member of this association, painted an oil painting with similar motifs, but in that painting there is only one virgin, so the painting may be called "The Wise Virgin". She also donated this painting to K.F.U.K. Through various fates, this painting is now in the possession of the Vaasa parishes and is located on the upper floor of Brändö church.

Source: Vaasa Swedish Congregation

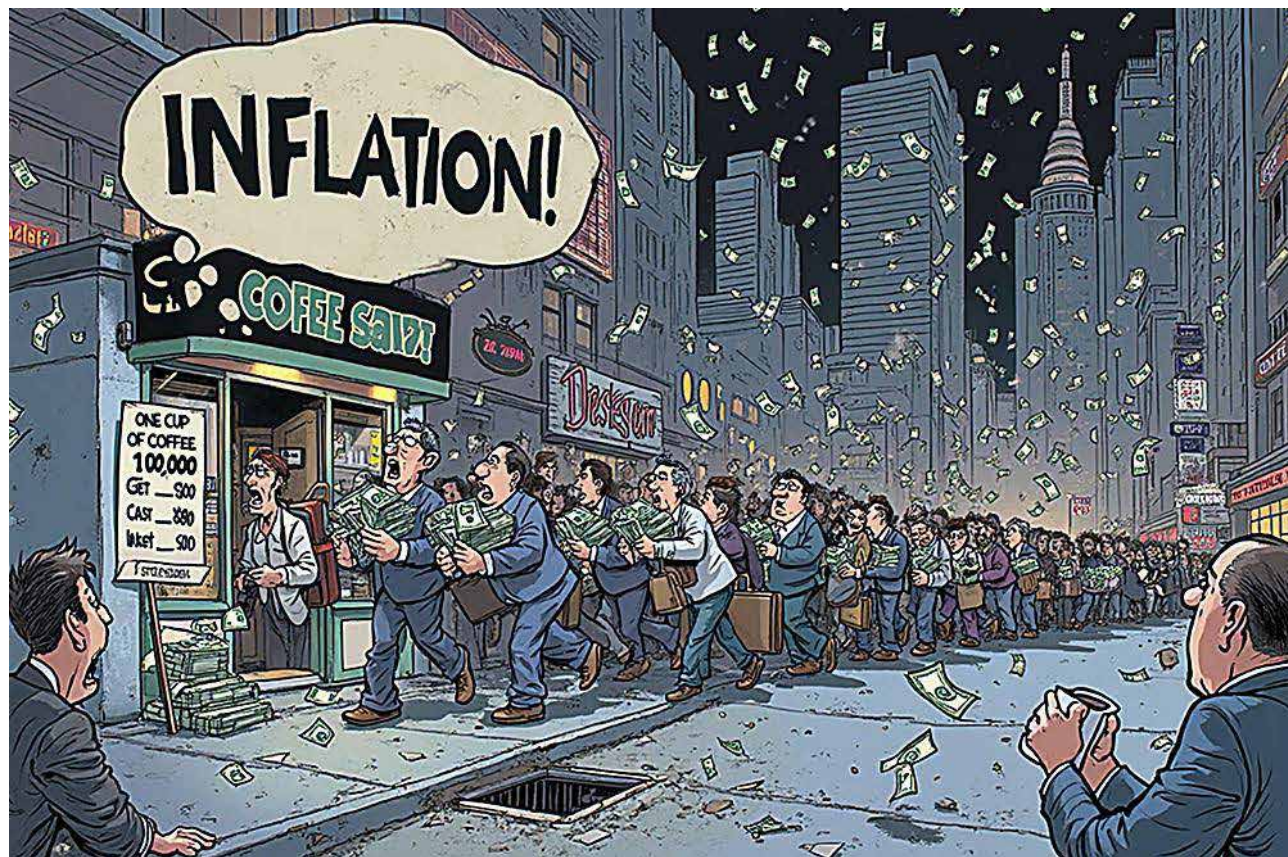


The stained glass windows are made by Alexandra Frosterus' niece's son, Lennart Segerstråhle

EASTER READING

INFLATION

Pirouettes of inflation: A wheelbarrow with money for the store and the crazy price of coffee



One Saturday morning, with the sun shining gently through the curtains, I decide to buy a cup of coffee at the local café. I'm not a coffee connoisseur, but something about the aroma of freshly ground coffee is hard to resist. With my hand in my pocket, I reach for my wallet, but instead of just grabbing for a couple of bills, I find a thumbled map of the residential area. On the map, I've drawn a route that takes me from home, past the bank to pick up a wheelbarrow full of money, and on to the café.

It's easy to marvel at how the world is changing, but just this morning, inflation has taken hold of me. I look out the window and see the neighbors struggling to drive their own wheelbarrows to the convenience store. It's a sight that could belong in an absurdist play, but it's reality.

A cup of coffee for the price of a month's salary? We've all heard stories about how much a cup of coffee costs in some high-end places. But it's not exotic coffee beans from the Andes or gold flakes on top that are driving up the price. No, it is simply money that loses its value faster than an ice cream melts in the sun. I remember a conversation I had with a friend who was visiting Zimbabwe during their inflation peaks. He told me about how he paid several billion Zimbabwean dollars for a single cup of coffee. It's like asking someone to trade with Monopoly money – even though those notes were actually real money, and the craving for coffee was very real.

Hungary in the 40s: An inflation record

But nothing beats inflation in Hungary during the 1940s. At that time, people lived in a time where numbers on banknotes began to look like phone numbers rather than money. In 1946, in the midst of the chaos of World War II, prices rose so quickly that it became almost impossible to keep track of them. The prices of all goods doubled every 14 hours. If you bought a cup of coffee in the morning and waited until the afternoon to drink it, the price could have doubled. And no, I'm not exaggerating. In fact, they finally launched a banknote, 100 quadrillion money, as a desperate measure to deal with the situation.

Try to estimate how high inflation was in Hungary at this time. 100%? 1000%? Even higher? Ok, let me tell you! In July, 1946, the inflation rate was 41,900,000,000,000,000%

Imagine walking into a store and handing over a note with so many zeros that you can barely count them, to buy a loaf of bread. It's almost comical, but for those who lived in it, it was a nightmare. The value of money became so devalued that people had to put their faith in something else. In Hungary, the use of the pengő was finally stopped and the forints were switched to, and with that the economy stabilized.

What is actually driving inflation?

But what is it that drives inflation? Why are we going from buying coffee for a couple of coins to needing wheelbarrows to shop for basic goods? There are several factors, but perhaps the most common culprit is an excessive amount of money in circulation. When central banks print more money than is needed in the economy, this money loses its value. Imagine you're in a market where everyone has a thousand apples to sell, but there's only one buyer. What happens to the price of apples? They fall, because there are too many of them. The same thing happens with money – when there is too much of it, its value drops.

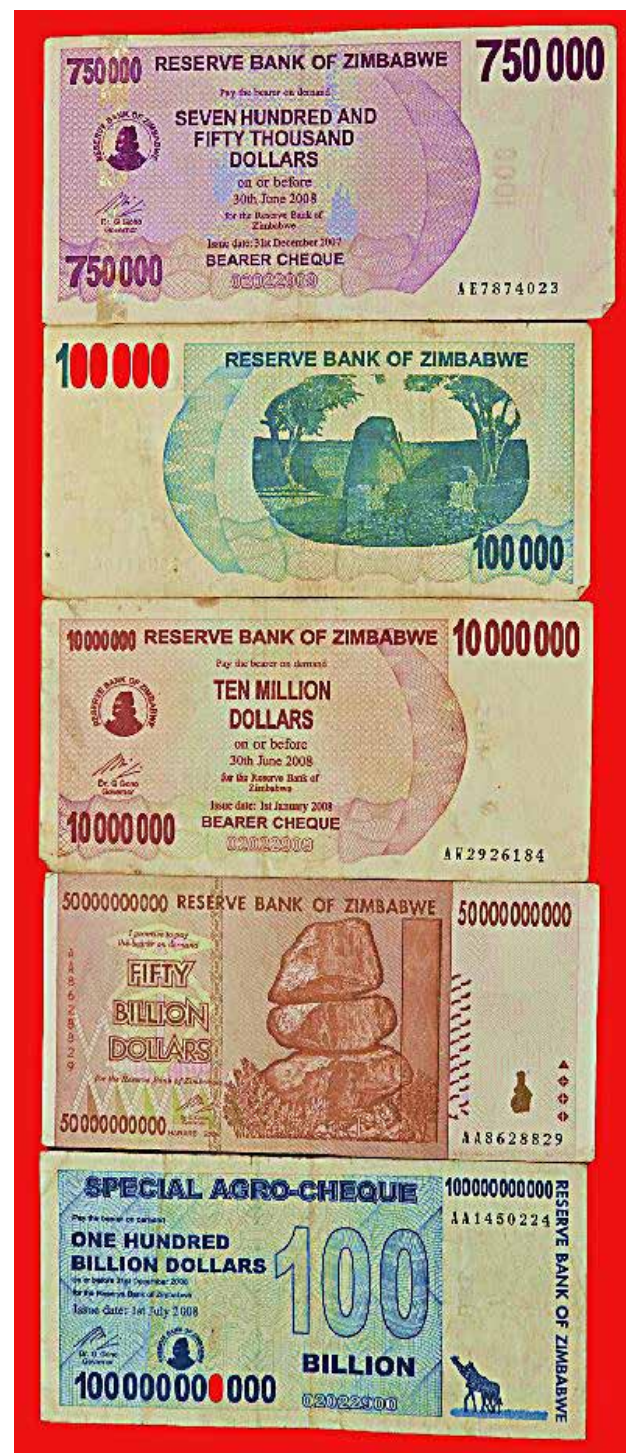
Another reason is cost-driven inflation, where it becomes more expensive to produce goods and services. When commodity prices, wages, and other production costs rise, these costs are passed on to the consumer, driving up prices. And as we all know, when prices go up, and wages don't keep up at the same rate, we all start to feel it in our wallets.

Wheelbarrow logistics and everyday life

Now I'm back at my door, ready to go out for that cup of coffee. The wheelbarrow is ready, filled with money that is almost worthless if I wait too long. I think back to the stories of Germany in the 1920s, where children played with bundles of money as if they were Lego. Or how families lit fire in their stoves with banknotes because firewood was more expensive than money.

But what exactly is value? It may not be the coffee or the money, but the ability to trust that one's money still has the same value tomorrow as it has today. And therein, my dear readers, lies perhaps the greatest challenge for all economies – maintaining confidence in the currency. Because when it's lost, we're all standing there with our wheelbarrows, ready to shop – but with wallets that feel emptier than ever.

So, with this in mind, I'm going to trudge down to the café. And while I enjoy my cup of coffee, I will reflect on the value of money, both historically and in my own life. Because no matter how much inflation rises, there's one thing that always retains its value – a great story to share with friends, maybe over a cup of coffee, or two, if I can afford it.



The image above shows banknotes with a total value of \$150,010,850,000. If you would have these and if it were US dollars, well, I would be a rich man! But unfortunately, these dollars are from Zimbabwe.

SCIENCE

Johan Gadolin – Finland's forgotten science giant who gave the name to an element



The only one in the world who gave a name to nature's elements – and he came from Finland

When we talk about great Finnish scientists, we often mention names such as Artturi Ilmari Virtanen, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1945, or Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, who became famous during his exploration of the Northeast Passage. But there is one name that should stand above them in Finnish pride, a name that unfortunately is all too often forgotten: Johan Gadolin.

Johan Gadolin (1760–1852) occupies a unique position in the history of science. He is the only person in the world named after a natural element – gadolinium, and the chemical name Gd is number 64 in the periodic table. No other scientist before the discovery of transuranium elements shared this honor.

This fact is enough for Johan Gadolin to become a well-known name in Finland, his portrait should adorn every chemistry laboratory in the country, and every schoolchild should know his achievements. But history has not been as generous to Gadolin. Today, there are hardly any traces left in his hometown of Turku, and his laboratory – where he made his groundbreaking discoveries – now serves as a daycare centre.

As Professor M Hupa from Åbo Akademi University said in 2020: "If Turku were a city in the United States, there would be huge signs on the way there that read 'Welcome to Johan Gadolin's hometown', but in Turku and Finland they have not been very successful."

It's time to change that. It is time for us Finns to learn who Johan Gadolin was – and to be proud of him.

A respected family of scientists

Johan Gadolin was born on 5 June 1760 in Turku into one of the most prolific scientific and clerical families in 18th-century Finland. Her father, Jakob Gadolin, was a bishop of Turku and a professor of physics and theology, and today's Elisabet Browallia came from an educated family. Unlike his father, who had financial difficulties, Johan was able to start his career in secure circumstances.

Even as a child, Johan showed great mathematical talent and was encouraged by his father. At the age of fifteen, he began studying mathematics at the Royal Academy of Turku (now Åbo Akademi University). But mathematics, despite its talent, turned out to be too la-

borious. Professor Pehr Adrian Gadd's research in chemistry – especially chemistry experiments and their applications – suited the young Gadolin much better.

That was a turning point. Johan Gadolin had found his calling.

Studied with the giants of the time

In 1779, at the age of 19, Gadolin moved to Uppsala University, where he studied under Torbern Bergman, one of Europe's foremost chemists. Bergman became his mentor and Johan Gadolin developed into Bergman's foremost pupil. In 1781, Gadolin presented his comprehensive treatise "De analysi ferri" – on the analytical definition of iron. A year later, he defended his master's degree with the mathematical work "De problemate catenario".

When Bergman died of tuberculosis in 1784, the new professorship of chemistry in Uppsala was vacant. Gadolin, who according to contemporary testimonies was Bergman's best student, was placed in the second suggestion room – a bitter disappointment. This was repeated when a lecturer was to be filled at Åbo Akademi University. But fate had other plans. In the spring of 1785 he was appointed Extraordinary Lecturer in Turku and a few months later Extraordinary Professor.

Equipped with the king's letter of recommendation, Gadolin set out on a two-year study trip through Europe in the spring of 1786. He visited Germany's two leading chemists, Lorenz von Crell and Johann Friedrich Gmelin, as well as other scientists. This trip shaped his scientific outlook and gave him contacts that would prove invaluable.

The discovery that changed everything

In 1792, what would make Johan Gadolin immortal in the history of science happened. In 1787, the amateur geologist and lieutenant Carl Axel Arrhenius had found a strange black, heavy mineral in a quarry in Ytterby on Resarön in the Stockholm archipelago. What this heavy stone – which was called "tungsten" – actually consisted of remained a mystery.

Until it came to Johan Gadolin.

With the precision and systematics that characterized his work, Gadolin analyzed the mineral chemically. After extensive experiments, he determined that about 38 percent of the sample was a previously unknown "earth type" – an oxide that was later named yttria (yttrium oxide). His results were published in 1794 in an article that would revolutionize chemistry.

This was the discovery of yttrium – the first known rare earth element. For the first time, someone had identified an entirely new group of elements that would prove to be of enormous importance to both science and technology.

Gadolin's discovery was the start of the rare earth metals' history of discovery – a story that would last for 150 years. During this period, no less than 17 rare earth elements were discovered, and four of them – yttrium, ytterbium, terbium and erbium – got their names from the small village of Ytterby where it all began.

As early as 1800, the black mineral from Ytterby was named gadolinite – an honour for the discoverer. But the greatest tribute came in 1880, when the famous Swiss chemist Jean Charles Galissard de Marignac isolated a new element from gadolinite and named it gadolinium after Johan Gadolin himself.

A versatile scientist

But Johan Gadolin was far more than the discoverer of yttrium. He was one of the most versatile and prolific chemists of his time, and his contributions to science spanned many fields.

Pioneer of modern chemistry: Although Gadolin never visited France, he became a proponent of Antoine Lavoisier's revolutionary theory of combustion. His textbook "Introduction to Chemistry" (1798) was the first chemistry book in the Nordic countries to question the old phlogiston theory and discuss the role of oxygen in combustion in a modern way. This was groundbreaking – Gadolin helped introduce modern chemistry to the Nordic countries.

Thermochemistry: Gadolin studied the relationship between heat and chemical changes, especially the ability of different substances to absorb heat (specific heat) and the absorption of heat in phase changes (latent heat). His work in this field was extremely precise and is the basis of modern thermochemistry.

Oxidation states: As early as 1788, Gadolin showed that the same element can occur in several oxidation states. He studied tin and showed that it can occur as Sn(II) and Sn(IV), and vividly described the disproportionation reaction: $2 \text{Sn(II)} \rightarrow \text{Sn(0)} + \text{Sn(IV)}$. This was fundamentally important for the understanding of chemical bonding.

Mineral classification: In 1825, Gadolin published "Systema fossilium" – a system of mineral classification based on chemical principles. The introduction summarized Gadolin's theories, and the text presented mineral species in a systematic order that was revolutionary for its time.

Technological innovations: Gadolin is also known for publishing one of the earliest examples of counter-current capacitors. In 1791, he improved a capacitor design that he had developed by using the "counter-current principle" – a technique that is still used today in chemical engineering.

Analytical chemistry: His studies of various alloys, such as the Chinese alloy pak tong (also known as alpaca or German silver) in 1810 and 1827, demonstrated his breadth and precision as an analytical chemist.

The Pioneer of Laboratory Teaching

Johan Gadolin was not only a prominent researcher – he was also an educational pioneer. He became a full professor of chemistry at the Royal Academy in Turku in 1797, after the death of Pehr Adrian Gadd, and held this position until his retirement in 1822.

What made Gadolin particularly remarkable as a teacher was that he was one of the first chemists to give laboratory exercises to students. At the time, chemistry laboratories were often the private domain of professors. But Gadolin opened his own private laboratory to students and actually allowed them to perform experiments – something that was revolutionary for the time.

This educational philosophy—that students learn

chemistry by doing chemistry, not just reading about it—was way ahead of its time and laid the foundation for modern chemistry teaching.

Socially engaged

Johan Gadolin was not an isolated academic in his ivory tower. He was genuinely interested in social development, economics and industry. He was instrumental in the founding of the Finnish Rural Economy Society – an organisation that worked to improve agriculture and the economy in Finland.

In 1802 he published an essay with the telling title "Which handicrafts and manufactures are the most affordable for our Finnish cities?" – an example of how he linked his scientific expertise to practical social issues. Gadolin saw science not as an end in itself, but as a tool to improve people's lives and the prosperity of society.

He also served as rector of Åbo Akademi University on two occasions, which testifies to his administrative ability and respect for, among others.

International recognition

Johan Gadolin's reputation quickly spread internationally. In 1790 he was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm – a great honour for a 30-year-old. His chemical studies were published in German in the prestigious journal "Crell's Chemische Annalen für die Freunde der Naturlehre" and read by chemists all over Europe.

When the famous Johann Friedrich Gmelin died, the University of Göttingen – one of Europe's foremost universities – named Johan Gadolin as holder of the professorship in chemistry after Gmelin. This was a huge honour and recognition of Gadolin's international standing. But to the happiness of Åbo Akademi University and Finland, Gadolin declined. He stayed in his homeland.

For his scientific contributions, Gadolin was knighted and registered under number 245 in the Finnish House of Nobility. He was also awarded the Order of Saint Vladimir and the Order of Saint Anna – high honours from the Russian Empire.

A long life

Johan Gadolin married Hedvig Tihleman for the first time at the age of 35, with whom he had nine children. After her death, he remarried at the age of 59 to Ebba Palander.

In 1822, at the age of 62, Gadolin retired – this was the mandatory retirement age at the time. He moved to Mynämäki (Virmo) where he lived on a country estate for another 30 years. There he lived a quiet life surrounded by his books (his library contained 3,400 titles and is still preserved in the Åbo Akademi University library), his family and his research.

Johan Gadolin died on August 15, 1852 in Virmo, 92 years old. At his grave a memorial was erected made of stone from Ytterby quarry – the place where it all began. The symbolism could not be clearer: from the small quarry in Sweden to eternity, united by science.

Gadolinium – the legacy that lives on

In 1880, almost three decades after Gadolin's death, Swiss chemist Jean Charles Galissard de Marignac isolated a new element from the mineral gadolinite. As a tribute to Johan Gadolin, he gave it the name gadolinium.

Gadolinium is a silvery-white metallic element that belongs to the group of rare earth elements. With atomic number 64 and the chemical designation G, it is today one of the most important elements in modern medicine and technology.

In modern medicine: Gadolinium compounds are used as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). When patients undergo MRI scans, gadolinium-based contrast agents are often injected, which dramatically improve the quality of the image and make it possible to detect diseases that would otherwise be invisible. Millions of people every year around the world owe Johan Gadolin to the fact that their diseases could be detected in time.

In technology: Gadolinium is used in the manufacture of CDs and computer memory. The element has unique magnetic properties that make it invaluable in data storage and electronics. It is also used in nuclear reactors as a neutron absorber and in the production of X-ray tubes and lasers.

In industry: Gadolinium is used in alloys to improve workability and resistance to oxidation and corrosion at high temperatures.

Every time a doctor arranges an MRI scan with contrast medium, every time someone plays a CD or uses advanced electronics – Johan Gadolin's legacy is present, even if few people know about it.

The Great Fire and the Lost History

In 1827, Turku was hit by the Great Fire – a disaster that destroyed most of the city. Johan Gadolin's laboratory and many of Åbo Akademi University's historic buildings were destroyed or badly damaged. With the fire, much of the physical history of Gadolin's business also disappeared.

After the fire, the university moved to Helsinki and became the University of Helsinki. Åbo Akademi University, which was to be resurrected later as a Swedish-speaking university, had lost much of its material connection to Gadolin.

Today, what was once Gadolin's laboratory serves as a daycare center. In 2020, the City of Turku decided to sell the building to the kindergarten company Mukulax, which meant that the dream of creating a Gadolin museum in the building was shattered. Professor Mikko Hupa at Åbo Akademi University called this a "missed opportunity".

The main building of the Faculty of Engineering of Åbo Akademi University was named Gadolinia after Johan Gadolin – a fitting monument. But the house was later demolished, and although the name remains on the wall of the new Astra building, it is a faint reminder of what once was.

Why have we forgotten him?

It is a paradox that Johan Gadolin, who achieved so much and whose name is borne by an element, is so little known in his own homeland. There are several reasons for this.

The timing: Gadolin's heyday was during the late 1700s and early 1800s. His greatest discovery, yttrium, was made in 1794 – over 230 years ago. Many generations have passed since then, and history has a tendency to forget even its greatest heroes if they are not constantly kept alive.

Gadolinium's late naming: The element gadolinium was first named after Gadolin in 1880, almost 30 years after his death. By that time the memory of him had already faded somewhat, and the connection between the man and the element never became as strong in the public consciousness as it should have been.

History of Finland: Gadolin's life took place during the Swedish era (until 1809) and the early Russian era. Finland, as an independent nation with its own identity and history, is still in the process of rediscovering and valuing its heritage from these periods.

The lack of a Nobel Prize: If the Nobel Prize had existed in Gadolin's time, he would undoubtedly have received one, probably in chemistry. But since the prize was not established until 1901, he is not included in the prestigious list of Nobel Prize winners that Finland so proudly lists.

As Professor Hupa, Finland and Turku have not been good at marketing: Gadolin's greatness. In other countries, he would have been a national hero with museums, memorials and a constant presence in school books.

A man we should celebrate

It is time to change this. Johan Gadolin deserves his place among Finland's greatest scientists – not only as one of the greatest, but perhaps as the greatest, given his unique place in the history of science.

We Finns should be enormously proud of Johan Gadolin. He:

Is the only person in the world who is named after a naturally occurring element

Discovered a whole new group of elements (rare earth elements)

Be a pioneer in modern chemistry in the Nordic countries

Revolutionized chemistry education by introducing laboratory exercises to students

Be internationally recognized and respected by the greatest scientists of the time

Contributed to the development of society by linking science to practical applications

Lived a long, productive life and continued to contribute to science until old age

If the Nobel Prize had existed in the 1790s, Johan Gadolin would of course have received one. His discovery of yttrium and the opening of the world of rare earth metals were of that calibre.



Gadolin's legacy today

Johan Gadolin lives on in many ways, even if his name is not widely known:

In medicine: Every day, gadolinium-based contrast agents save lives by making early detection of tumors, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological conditions.

In technology: Gadolinium is a key component of modern electronics and data storage.

In education: The principle of practical laboratory teaching pioneered by Gadolin is now the standard in the world.

In science: The discovery of rare earth metals opened up completely new fields of research and technological possibilities.

In culture: The name Gadolin lives on through Gadolinia (although the building is gone), through the gadolinite mineral, and through gadolinium in the periodic table.

A vision for the future

It is not too late to make Johan Gadolin the national hero he deserves to be. Finland needs:

A Gadolin Museum: Turku, as his hometown, should have a museum dedicated to his life and works. It doesn't have to be huge, but it should exist.

Gadolin in schools: Every Finnish child should learn about Johan Gadolin and his discoveries. He should be as famous as Väinämöinen or Mannerheim.

Gadolin Prize: Finland should establish a Johan Gadolin Prize for outstanding scientific contributions in chemistry.

Gadolin Day: June 5, Johan Gadolin's birthday, could be celebrated as a day of science and discovery in Finland.

Visibility in Turku: Statues, signs, streets – Turku should be filled with reminders of its greatest scientist.

Johan Gadolin (1760–1852) was a Finnish science giant whose contributions influenced the world in a way that few other Finns have. He is the only one in the world who got his name from a naturally occurring element. His discovery of yttrium opened the door to a whole new world of elements. His educational innovations changed the way chemistry is taught. His scientific precision and creativity were a model for generations of scientists.

We Finns have ancestors in our country that we can and should be proud of. Johan Gadolin is definitely one of them – perhaps the foremost of them all in science.

The next time you see the symbol "Gd" in the periodic table, remember: it stands for gadolinium, named after a Finnish scientist who changed the world. Remember Johan Gadolin.

We must not forget him. We will celebrate him.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Volodymyr Zelenskyy Presented State Awards to Representatives of the Crimean Tatar People

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree awarding state honors to representatives of the Crimean Tatar people.

The Head of State noted that Russia moved gradually toward full-scale war against Ukraine, which is still ongoing, and its first aggressive step was directed precisely against Ukrainian Crimea.

“Now we are fighting with the utmost principle so that the aggressor receives no reward for this war – so that Russia is truly held accountable for everything: for aggression against us, against our people, against all of Ukraine. And so that Russian crimes – against people, against the state, against sovereignty and independence, against our Crimea – do not go unpunished,” said Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

According to the President, the issue of Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty, our land, and all our people – and therefore the issue of Ukrainian Crimea – is absolutely fundamental.

“We will certainly end this war with a dignified peace for Ukraine. And in order to prevent new Russian aggression, there must also be a moral security guarantee for Ukraine, for Europe, and for the world – a guarantee that Russia will

not be allowed by the world to consider any part of another country as if it were theirs, Russian. Therefore, the question of our people, our land, and our Crimea must be met with a clear and principled answer: this is our state, our land, our Crimea,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy stressed.

The Head of State emphasized that the Ukrainian people, the Crimean Tatar people, and other Indigenous peoples of Ukraine must not be deprived of their home. In addition, all those held in Russian prisons and camps must be released. Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Crimean Tatars to continue fighting together with all Ukrainians – to remain active, principled, and, when necessary, loud, so that all partners clearly hear them.

The President presented state awards to representatives of the Crimean Tatar people.

Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Ilmi Umerov, was awarded the Order of Merit, I class. He did not recognize the Russian annexation of Crimea in spring 2014 and openly opposed the illegal actions of the aggressor and the dismantling of his people’s representative institutions. In 2016, he was sentenced by a so-called court in Simferopol to two years in a penal settlement. In October 2017, he was released and transferred to

Ukraine through mediation by Türkiye. He continues active human rights and advocacy work.

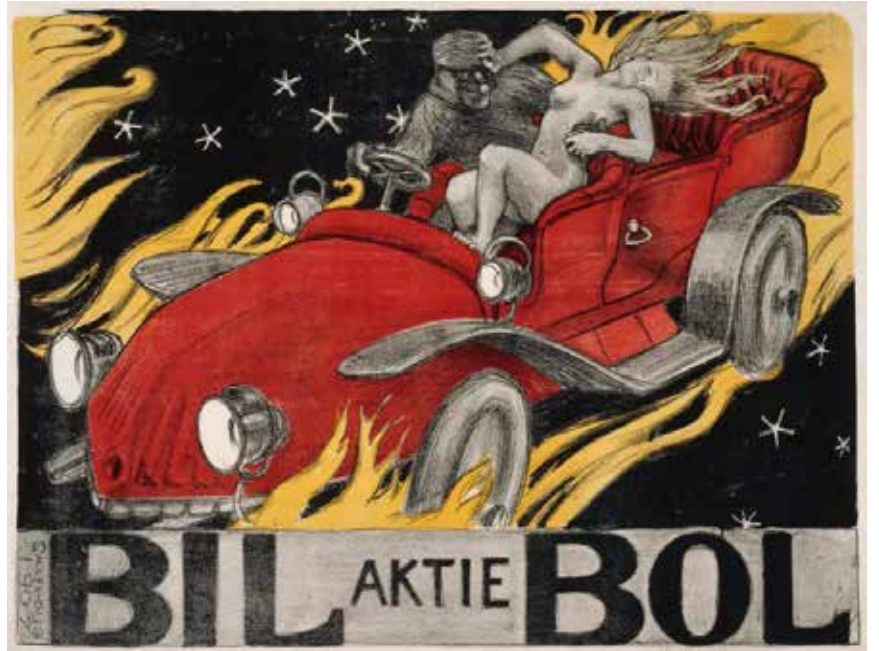
The Order of Merit, II class, was awarded to journalist and producer Akim Galimov. He is the author of documentary and historical films such as “Ukraine. Returning Its Own History”, “Secrets of Great Ukrainians”, “Treasures of the Nation”, “Ukrainian Palaces. Golden Age”, “Rashism. A Medical History”, and “The True History of Crimea”, as well as the project “Real History”. His work highlights the inseparable link between Crimea and Ukraine, the true history of the peninsula and its Indigenous peoples, countering Russian propaganda.

The Order of Merit, III class, was awarded to:

Director of the Defence Procurement Agency, Arsen Zhumadilov. From 2019 to 2023, he headed the state enterprise “Medical Procurement of Ukraine,” contributing to the development of anti-corruption infrastructure and transparent procurement systems. He served in the Medical Forces Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As head of the State Logistics Operator, he reformed the procurement system for non-lethal supplies for the military. Since March 2025, he has served as Director of the Defence Procurement Agency-



ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Akseli Gallen-Kallela

26.4.1865, Pori

7.3.1931, Stockholm

Bil-Bol, Poster for an Automobile Retailer, 1907

Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum

Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Petri Virtanen

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George Orwell

1984

24

A little later all three were re-arrested. It appeared that they had engaged in fresh conspiracies from the very moment of their release. At their second trial they confessed to all their old crimes over again, with a whole string of new ones. They were executed, and their fate was recorded in the Party histories, a warning to posterity. About five years after this, in 1973, Winston was unrolling a wad of documents which had just flopped out of the pneumatic tube on to his desk when he came on a fragment of paper which had evidently been slipped in among the others and then forgotten. The instant he had flattened it out he saw its significance. It was a half-page torn out of ‘The Times’ of about ten years earlier--the top half of the page, so that it included the date--and it contained a photograph of the delegates at some Party function in New York. Prominent in the middle of the group were Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford. There was no mistaking them, in any case their names were in the caption at the bottom.

The point was that at both trials all three men had confessed that on that date they had been on Eurasian soil. They had flown from a secret airfield in Canada to a rendezvous somewhere in Siberia, and had conferred with members of the Eurasian General Staff, to whom they had betrayed important military secrets. The date had stuck in Winston’s memory because it changed to be midsummer day; but the whole story must be on record in countless other places as well. There was only one possible conclusion: the confessions were lies.

Of course, this was not in itself a discovery. Even at that time Winston had not imagined that the people who were wiped out in the purges had actually committed the crimes that they were accused of. But this was concrete evidence; it was a fragment of the abolished past, like a fossil bone which turns up in the wrong stratum and destroys a geological theory.

It was enough to blow the Party to atoms, if in some way it could have been published to the world and its significance made known.

He had gone straight on working. As soon as he saw what the photograph was, and what it meant, he had covered it up with another sheet of paper.

Luckily, when he unrolled it, it had been upside-down from the point of view of the telescreen.

He took his scribbling pad on his knee and pushed back his chair so as to get as far away from the telescreen as possible. To keep your face

expressionless was not difficult, and even your breathing could be controlled, with an effort: but you could not control the beating of your heart, and the telescreen was quite delicate enough to pick it up. He let what he judged to be ten minutes go by, tormented all the while by the fear that some accident--a sudden draught blowing across his desk, for instance--would betray him. Then, without uncovering it again, he dropped the photograph into the memory hole, along with some other waste papers. Within another minute, perhaps, it would have crumbled into ashes.

That was ten--eleven years ago. Today, probably, he would have kept that photograph. It was curious that the fact of having held it in his fingers seemed to him to make a difference even now, when the photograph itself, as well as the event it recorded, was only memory. Was the Party’s hold upon the past less strong, he wondered, because a piece of evidence which existed no longer HAD ONCE existed?

But today, supposing that it could be somehow resurrected from its ashes, the photograph might not even be evidence. Already, at the time when he made his discovery, Oceania was no longer at war with Eurasia, and it must have been to the agents of Eastasia that the three dead men had betrayed their country. Since then there had been other changes--two, three, he could not remember how many. Very likely the confessions had been rewritten and rewritten until the original facts and dates no longer

had the smallest significance. The past not only changed, but changed continuously. What most afflicted him with the sense of nightmare was that he had never clearly understood why the huge imposture was undertaken. The immediate advantages of falsifying the past were obvious, but the ultimate motive was mysterious. He took up his pen again and wrote:

I understand HOW: I do not understand WHY.

He wondered, as he had many times wondered before, whether he himself was a lunatic. Perhaps a lunatic was simply a minority of one. At one time it had been a sign of madness to believe that the earth goes round the sun; today, to believe that the past is unalterable. He might be ALONE in holding that belief, and if alone, then a lunatic. But the thought of being a lunatic did not greatly trouble him: the horror was that he might also be wrong.

He picked up the children’s history book and looked at the portrait of Big Brother which formed its frontispiece. The hypnotic eyes gazed into his own. It was as though some huge force were pressing down upon you--something that penetrated inside your skull, battering against your brain, frightening you out of your beliefs, persuading you, almost, to deny the evidence of your senses. In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would have to believe it. It was inevitable that they should make that claim sooner or later: the logic of their position demanded it. Not merely the validity of experience, but the very existence of external reality, was tacitly denied by their philosophy. The heresy of heresies was common sense. And what was terrifying was not that they would kill you for thinking otherwise, but that they might be right. For, after all, how do we know that two and two make four? Or that the force of gravity works? Or that the past is unchangeable? If both the past and the external world exist only in the mind, and if the mind itself is controllable what then?

But no! His courage seemed suddenly to stiffen of its own accord. The face of O’Brien, not called up by any obvious association, had floated into his mind. He knew, with more certainty than before, that O’Brien was on his side. He was writing the diary for O’Brien--TO O’Brien: it was like an interminable letter which no one would ever read, but which was addressed to a particular person and took its colour from that fact.



HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

THE NARROW ROAD TRAVELER.

Salvation Army Lieutenant (fishing for a soul who has been following the meeting devoutly):
 “Are you, my friend, travelers of the narrow road?” “I am.”
 “So you believe in Jesus?”
 “Not particularly.”
 “You don’t believe in Jesus and yet you say you are a traveler of the narrow road! How is that to be understood?”
 “I am a circus artist and my profession is to walk on a wire.”

THE WRONG SIGN.

While walking along Avenue A in New York, a couple of men noticed a sign in the window of a tavern that had in large letters the words:
 “lei on parle francais.”
 One of the men, who was well acquainted with the area, said:
 “I’ll bet you that no one in that den knows French.”
 They made a bet, this was in the old wet days, and so the friends went inside to find out. Here a red-haired Irishman came to serve them. He was evidently the landlord of the tavern.

One of the friends who had learned some French while at sea said something to the landlord in French which meant ‘the weather is beautiful today’. “Yes, two drinks at quarter past four,” replied the landlord.

It was clear, then, that French was unknown in this place. “Why do you have that sign in the window that says ‘French is spoken here,’” asked the guest of the landlord.
 “Don’t be silly! Is that what it says?” wondered the landlord, and when the guest, with knowledge of the matter, assured him that that was what the sign meant, the landlord began to curse, saying, “That bunch of Jews deceived me. I bought the sign with that dollar when it explained that it was in Latin and meant ‘God bless our home.’”

AT THE END OF THE SHOW

In the theater, an old woman was heard muttering to herself: “If everyone else did as I do and waited calmly in their seats until everyone else had gone out, there wouldn’t be such a crowd at the door.”

NIGHTMARE.

A man told a doctor that he was plagued by terrible dreams at night. “I think it’s something called a nightmare,” he explained. “What kind of dream is it?” the doctor asked. The man explained that he always had dreams that he was married.
 “Hm! Married to whom?” the doctor asked.
 “With my wife,” the man sighed

AFTER A THUNDERSTORM.

In the morning, Antti Hokara wondered about the

thunderstorm that had raged during the night. “Was it really a thunderstorm?” asked his wife, Liisa Hokara. “So it was,” said Antti, “it kept pounding all the time and rumbling so much that you would have thought even a dead man would wake up in his grave.” Liisa: “Just like that. And why didn’t you wake me up, even though you know that I can’t sleep in a thunderstorm?” »

TRAIN

An old couple had arrived from a long way from the mountains to a village where they saw a train for the first time in their lives. As the train stood at the station, grandfather carefully examined the locomotive. “Well, what do you think of it, grandpa?” asked the old woman.
 Shaking his head, grandfather said: “It can’t start at all, not at all.” At the same time, a man on the station bridge shouted “oolaboord” and waved his hand, and the locomotive blew a whistle and off it went. The train quickly picked up speed and in that moment it was out of sight.
 “Well, what do you think now, grandpa?” asked the old woman. Grandpa shook his head and said, “It can’t stop in time, not in time.”

Astronomic picture of the week:



Iapetus

Iapetus (/aɪˈæpətəs/) is the outermost of Saturn's large moons. With an estimated diameter of 1,469 km (913 mi), it is the third-largest moon of Saturn and the eleventh-largest in the Solar System.[b] Named after the Titan Iapetus from Greek mythology, the moon was discovered in 1671 by Giovanni Domenico Cassini.

Credit: NASA
Public domain

BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer! Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

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Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can’t wait to hear from you!

WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there’s a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobotnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future. The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers’ writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

FROM OUR READERS

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail.com

ADVERTISE

Being among the first to advertise in this historic and hyper-modern daily may have some PR value. Send ads to wasadagblad@gmail.com

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HOROSCOPE FOR APRIL 2026

April Horoscope – The Stars Are Mumbling (And Maybe Making Some Sense)

- ☐ Aries (March 21 – April 19)
You’re full of energy and initiative, but don’t pick a fight with the coffee machine – it always wins.
- ☐ Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
Your patience will be tested this April. Maybe it’s time to accept that sighing loudly won’t make the checkout line move faster.
- ☐ Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
You have a thousand ideas and zero time to execute them. Try finishing one thing before jumping to the next – or just embrace the chaos!
- ☐ Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
April might be an emotional month, but remember: no one expects you to save the

world... just to deal with your own stuff.

- ☐ Leo (July 23 – August 22)
You love being the center of attention, but maybe let someone else tell the joke at the coffee break – just once.
- ☐ Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
You have a plan, a backup plan, and a backup plan for the backup plan. Breathe – the worst that could happen is... well, not much, really.
- ☐ Libra (September 23 – October 22)
Decisions are tough. If you’re spending over an hour choosing what to eat, maybe that’s a sign you should just cook something yourself. Or not.
- ☐ Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
Your magnetism is at its peak. Use it wisely – or you’ll once again find yourself at a party you don’t know how to leave.
- ☐ Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Your adventurous spirit is soaring, but maybe start small? Like taking a different route to work before booking a one-way ticket to Mongolia.

- ☐ Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
Your hard work is finally paying off! Soon, you can reward yourself with something big – like an overpriced coffee, guilt-free.
- ☐ Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
Your ideas are brilliant, but not everyone is ready for them yet. Maybe wait a bit before suggesting that all meetings should be replaced by memes.
- ☐ Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
You’re daydreaming more than ever. That’s adorable – as long as you remember to get off at the right bus stop.
- ☐ The stars whisper – but you do whatever you want anyway!

