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From the Finland Station: Finns In and On the United States

Finnish Women's Rights Activist Tours America in 1888

1) Gripenberg, Alexandra: ETT HALFAR I NYA VERLDEN. STRODDA RESEBILDER FRAN FORENTA STATERNA. Helsingors: G.W. Edlunds Forlag, 1889. [4],290,[1]pp. 12mo. Contemporary three quarter morocco and marbled boards, spine richly gilt, raised bands. Boards lightly rubbed. Contemporary ownership inscription on front free endpaper. Very clean internally. Very good.

First edition of this little-known yet significant account of a Finnish baroness's travels in the United States in 1888. This first edition is in Swedish; a Finnish-language edition appeared in 1891. Gripenberg's account was not translated into English until 1954, the translator calling it "one of the most important travel books on America written by a Northern European."

Alexandra Gripenberg (1857-1913) was born in Kurkijoki, Finland, to an illustrious Swedish-Finnish family. She was a leader in Finland's woman suffrage and temperance movements, and showed an interest in literary activities at an early age. She published short stories and a novel, worked as a journalist and editor, and was an assistant to the Finnish writer, Zacharias Topelius. Along with the present work, she also published accounts of her travels in Germany, Hungary, and England, and an assessment of women's rights in other parts of the world. In 1888 she travelled to the United States in order to study the progress of women's rights and suffrage, and the temperance movement, and to participate in an international women's congress in Washington, D.C. She travelled extensively in the U.S. from New York and Niagara Falls to California and Yosemite, with stops in Indianapolis, Chicago, and Salt Lake City, among other places. She includes considerations on American religions, including Christian Science and Mormonism, as well as politics, education, the effects of slavery, the condition of the Chinese in San Francisco, and more. Gripenberg also discusses Finnish settlements in California and Ohio, based on her visit. She met with Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Joaquin Miller, and developed a long-lasting friendship with Susan B. Anthony.

"One of the most important foreign visitors to the United States during the last half of the nineteenth century was Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, a traveler in the tradition of Peter Kalm and Fredrika Bremer, her famous Northern European predecessors in America....Her experiences abroad convinced her of the social significance of the woman suffrage movement and she became one of the foremost exponents of woman's rights in the world....[*Ett Halfar I Nya Verlden*] is one of the most important travel books on America written by a Northern European. In it she recorded for posterity the United States of 1888 as Peter Kalm and Fredrika Bremer had earlier recorded the America of 1750 and 1850. Although her first concern was woman's rights, her interests were as varied as those of her predecessors. She visited the most important cities in the United States, and saw many of the country's scenic wonders....At the Republican nominating

convention of 1888 in Chicago, she observed certain elements of the party currying favor with the woman suffrage forces. At the convention of the National Educational Association in San Francisco, she learned much about American education, its aims and accomplishments....She expressed a lively interest in American literature and thought, and she was especially interested in the social and historical implications of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona*....Practically nothing escaped her view, whether the domestic arts or the national characteristics of the American people" - Moyne.

"Chapter iii is an extended commentary on slavery in America, an institution which had already disappeared, but she was prompted to make this comment by the condition of women's rights in the country. She met....several feminine abolitionists who had transferred their zeal from slavery to women's rights" - Clark. No copies are listed in Rare Book Hub. Rare in the market and uncommon institutionally.

CLARK, NEW SOUTH II:334. FLAKE 3733a. Moyne, Ernest J. (editor and translator), *Alexandra Gripenberg's A Half Year in the New World Miscellaneous Sketches of Travel in the United States (1888)*, (Newark: Univ. of Delaware Press, 1954). \$3,000

Temperance Advice and Yearbook for the Finnish Community in the Upper Midwest

2) [National Temperance Brotherhood]: RAITTIUS-KALENTERI WUODELLE 1905. [Hancock, Mi. 1904]. xix,[1],172pp., including illustrations. Original limp leather, gilt. Worn at lower portion of front joint, rear cover a bit scuffed. First page of main text a bit effaced in the upper margin. Very good overall.

One of a series of temperance almanacs and yearbooks issued by the Finnish-American National Temperance Brotherhood, this one for the year 1905. Published in Hancock, Michigan, it is illustrative of the large Finnish population living in Michigan and the upper Midwest at the turn of the century. Finnish immigration to the United States steadily increased in the second half of the nineteenth century, as many Finns left their homeland to escape oppressive Russian rule. American companies encouraged this emigration as well, and recruited Finnish immigrants to communities in Massachusetts, Alabama, and elsewhere. "At the turn of the 20th century, Finnish immigration exploded. The decades of struggle for Finnish independence from Russia were at a boiling point, and Finns fled the instability in their homeland at a breathtaking rate. Between 1890 and 1914, more than 200,000 Finns arrived, two-thirds of total Finnish immigration to that point, and more than 30,000 followed before immigration was curtailed in 1924. The new Finnish immigrants poured into the farms and lumber mills of the Great Lakes states, the mines of the western mountains, the factories of New York City, and, later, into the auto plants of Detroit. In 1900 the Finnish population of Detroit was 15; in 1938 it was 15,000. Michigan became, and remains, the heart of Finnish America" - Library of Congress.

The volume opens with an illustrated almanac for each month of the year, showing scenes of domesticity and agrarian life, followed by a list of American holidays and the Presidents of the United States. Following that are selections of poetry, and an essay on sobriety and a healthy lifestyle. Much of the rest of the text is taken up by reports on various Finnish communities in the United States, including the annual meeting of the Temperance Brotherhood in Hibbing, Minnesota; an essay on temperance work among children; another on chastity and sobriety, and more, concluding with a section of obituaries of recently-deceased Finnish

men and women in Michigan and the surrounding region, often featuring photographic portraits of the deceased.

Library of Congress, "Immigration and Relocation in U.S. History: The Finns" (online). \$200

History of the Finnish Church in America, by a Priest Who Had Served There

3) Leiviska, Hannes: PIIRTEITA AMERIKAN SUOMALAISTEN SEURAKUNNALLISISTA OLOISTA [wrapper title]. Helsingissa. 1908. 22pp. Original printed wrappers, stapled. Backstrip chipped, front wrapper nearly detached. Two inkstamps in the upper margin of the first page of text. Lightly tanned. About very good.

A brief history of the Finnish church in the United States. Leiviska writes that the Finns based their church after the model in Finland. After a meeting in Quincy, Michigan in 1867 among Norwegians, Swedes, and Finns, the first congregation was established and was called the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Hannes Leiviska, a Finnish priest and literary translator, ministered in the United States from 1903 to 1905.

An inkstamp on the first page of text notes that this copy was properly deaccessioned from the Finnish Literature Society. No copies are located in OCLC. \$75

Teaching Socialist Theories to Finnish Workers in America

4) [Labor]: VALLANKUMOUS IV. TYOVAEN-OPISTON TOVERIKUNNAN KEVATJULKAISU 1911. Hancock, Mi.: Tyomiehen Kirjapainossa, 1911. 128pp., including illustrations and frontispiece. Half title. Original pictorial wrappers, stapled. Wrappers lightly tanned. Near fine.

The Spring 1911 edition of this work for Finnish laborers in Michigan, including information about the theories of Karl Marx, Gregor Mendel, Charles Darwin, and others. Many Finnish laborers in the United States were associated with socialist causes. The title translates to "Revolution IV," and the text was assembled by a Finnish Workers' College in the Midwest. Articles include a report on the programs of the Workers College, and there is also poetry addressing the miserable conditions faced by workers. An illustration on the front wrapper a "Orjamylyn Polkijat" - a "slave mill" - shows two workers pedaling a large mill wheel, and other illustrations attack the greed of the capitalist class, and show the grim conditions faced by workers in mines and factories. There is also information about the working conditions on the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada.

Rare, with no copies listed in OCLC and none in the trade as of June, 2026. \$375

Finnish Americans Tour Their Ancestral Home

5) [Finnish-Americana]: AMERIKAN SUOMALAISTEN RETKI SUOMESSA 1912 [wrapper title]. Helsingissa: Suomen Hoyrylaiva-Osakeyhtion Kustantama, 1912. 29pp. (including wrappers). Original

printed self-wrappers, illustrated pictorial onlay on front wrapper. Leaf with pages 7-8 loosely laid in, leaf with pages 25-26 lacking. Blindstamp and inkstamp on front wrapper (noting that this copy was deaccessioned from the Turku Library). A bit of wrinkling. Good, lacking a leaf of text.

An interesting account of a tour of Finland made by a group of American Finns in the summer of 1912. The pictorial paper onlay on the front wrapper shows a globe with America and Finland identified, and outstretched shaking hands. The group visited a number of cities and towns in Finland and the text includes the itinerary of the journey, which included an opera performance at the Savonlinnassa Castle, religious celebrations, meetings of youth organizations, and more. A significant portion of the text includes lyrics to traditional songs. The rear wrapper lists a number of books and pamphlets available from the Public Education Society in Helsinki, with prices.

Published by the Finnish Steamship Company, no doubt to encourage travel by American Finns to their ancestral homeland. This copy lacks the leaf containing pages 25 and 26, and the corresponding leaf of that bifolium, with pages 7 and 8, is present and loosely laid in. OCLC locates only a single copy, at the National Library of Finland. Rare.

OCLC 58226180.

\$65

History of Finnish Socialists in New York City

6) [New York]: VIISITOISTA VUOTTA NEW YORKIN SUOMALAISTEN SOSIALISTIEN HISTORIAA 1903-1918. [Fitchburg, Ma.: Suomalaisen Sos. Kunstannusyhdistyksen Kirjapaino, 1919]. 95,[1]pp., including illustrations. Plus double-page illustration loosely laid in. Original printed grey wrappers. Wrappers chipped at spine ends. Very clean internally. Very good.

A history of the activities of the Finnish Socialists of New York City from 1903 to 1918. The contents describe Finnish immigrant life in New York City, temperance activities, religious life, newspapers and restaurants for the community, and the activities of worker unions, singing clubs, and youth groups. Among the specific groups profiled is the Imatra Society, one of the earliest and most significant workers organizations founded by Finns in the United States. The photographic illustrations show members of the New York City Finnish socialist organizations, their facilities and events, homes, etc.

OCLC locates two copies, at the Institute of Social History in the Netherlands and the University of Minnesota. An important and rare history of Finnish workers and socialist activities in the New York City area early in the twentieth century.

OCLC 943383431, 8781085.

\$500

Valuable History of Finns in the Upper Peninsula

7) Hirvonen, Juuso: MICHIGANIN KUPARIALUE JA SUOMALAISET SIIRTOLAISET. [Duluth, Mn.: Paivaleden Kirjapainossa, 1920]. 175pp., including illustrations. Original printed wrappers, stapled. Front

wrapper detached, but present. Presentation inscription on front wrapper (see below). Very clean internally. Very good.

A presentation copy, inscribed by the author to Judge Aaro J. Jalkanen (1875-1960), a Finnish jurist, lyricist, and diplomat. This is a notable history of Finnish immigrants in the "Copper Country" of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, with much attention paid to the Keweenaw Peninsula. Remote and sparsely populated in the early twentieth century (as it is now) this work, self-published by Juuso Hirvonen, is a very important source of information on the region itself, and the Finns who lived and worked there. One of the cities in the region, Hancock, was a center not only of Finnish settlement but also of publishing activity. Included is information on geography, notable residents, the Finnish community in general, religious congregations, schools, hospitals, newspapers, farming, and more. The text also includes portraits and biographical sketches of notable Finnish residents.

OCLC locates six copies, at the National Library of Finland, Lakehead University, Univ. of Washington, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, and the Univ. of Michigan.

OCLC 58210666, 2384952.

\$325

Study of the Finnish Diaspora in the United States

8) Rauanheimo, Akseli Jarnefelt: MEIKALAIKIA MERTEN TAKANA. Porvoossa: Werner Soderstrom Osakeyhtio, [1921]. 182,[1]pp. Lacks the half title. Original pictorial wrappers. Wrappers lightly rubbed. Text lightly tanned. Very good. Untrimmed.

A Finnish publication on the Finnish diaspora in the United States, the title translating to *Our Folks Over the Oceans*. The text describes the lives of Finnish immigrants in various parts of America, including farmers in Michigan and the Dakotas, workers in New York City, grape-growers in California's San Joaquin Valley, and a "snapshot from the Columbia River." Rauanheimo also met with large groups of Finns in Minnesota, including farmers, clergymen, doctors, businessmen, socialists, and communists.

OCLC locates eight copies, at UCLA, Univ. of Minnesota, York University in Canada, York University Law Library, Humboldt University in Berlin, Univ. of Goettingen, the National Library of Finland, and the Library of Congress.

OCLC 5115823, 914715009, 834771024, 58216114, 6303789.

\$225

A Favorable View of the New Soviet Union, for Finns in America

9) [Finnish Workers of America]: VAPPU 1921 AMERIKAN SUOMALAISTEN TYOLAISTEN KEVATJULKAISU [wrapper title]. Astoria, Or.: Toveri Press, [1921]. 160pp., plus illustrations; advertisements on recto and verso of rear wrapper. Original pictorial wrappers. Wrappers lightly soiled. Very good.

The Spring 1921 publication of the Finnish Workers of America, published in conjunction with May Day celebrations. This is an uncommon annual publication, first published in 1913, if not earlier. This 1921 installment was printed at the Toveri ("Comrade") Press in Astoria, Oregon, and it is clearly pro-Communist, with much on the achievements of the Soviet Union just a few years after the October Revolution of 1917. The contents are wide-ranging, and discuss projects and initiatives in the Soviet Union, the activities of the Red Army, poetry, stories by Maxim Gorky, all accompanied by illustrations from photographs.

The Bolshevik Revolution was an opportunity for Finland to declare its full independence from Russia, which had controlled it for more than a century. The Soviet Union recognized Finland's independence, but disputes over contested territory - specifically Karelia - led to fighting between the two nations, not ended until a treaty in 1920. Nevertheless, tensions, suspicions, and fighting lingered. It is interesting that this pro-Socialist annual puts forth such an encouraging account of Soviet Communism for Finns living in America.

\$250

Comparing Finland and the United States

10) Rauanheimo, Akseli Jarnefelt: SUOMI JA AMERIKA MUUTAMIA KOSKETUSKOHTIA. Porvoossa: Werner Soderstrom Osakeyhtio, [1922]. 80pp. Half title. Original printed wrappers. Small inkstamp at lower edge of front wrapper. Lightly tanned. Near fine.

A rare work comparing life in Finland with that in the United States, with considerations of geography, history, trade, American tourism in Finland, life in the U.S. for Finnish immigrants, the history of Delaware (originally settled as "New Sweden") and more. One chapter describes relations between the United States and the young Soviet Union, and its ramifications for Finland, while another considers U.S.-Finnish relations more directly. OCLC locates only two copies, at the National Library of Finland and the University of Minnesota. Rare.

OCLC 58216198, 44975913.

\$200

Observations of the United States by an Educator from Finland

11) Hedlund, Artur: FRAN AMERIKAS UNDERLAND RON OCH IAKTTAGELSER UNDER EN STUDIERESA I FFORENTA STATERNA. [Wasa: A.-B. Rams Tryckeri, 1926]. 212pp., including illustrations. Original pictorial wrappers. Front wrapper detached (but present), and with some soiling and a few small chips around the edges. Clean internally. Very good. Unopened.

Observations of the United States by Artur Hedlund, an instructor at the Helsinki University of Technology, who travelled extensively through the states. As might be expected, there is much on education in the United States, including the organization of schools, study plans, teaching methods, graduation rates, and more. There is much on the New York City region, and Hedlund also reports on Finns of Swedish heritage in America - their home lives, religious practices, celebrations of their heritage, etc. OCLC locates only three copies, at the National Library of Finland, New York Public Library, and the National Library of Sweden.

OCLC 58222607, 43533010, 187034832.

\$300

The Story of Sacco and Vanzetti for Finnish-Americans

12) Hyske, Aaro: SACCO-VANZETTI-TAISTELU. [Worcester, Ma.]: Amerikan Suomalaisten Sosialististen Kustannusliikkeiden Litto, [1927]. 144pp., including illustrations. Original grey and red wrappers. Spine chipped, and with cello-tape repairs. Very clean internally. Very good.

A detailed study of the Sacco-Vanzetti trial and all surrounding it, published in the year of their execution for the information of Finnish-Americans. It is not a mere translation into Finnish of another book, but an original work of reporting by and for the Finnish community in the United States. In the foreword, author Aaro Hyske says that "this book is meant to be read by a proletariat reader," and the work was published by the Finnish-American Socialist Publishing Company. There was a significant Finnish population in Massachusetts, largely working-class, and the story of the case against Sacco and Vanzetti, and their trial would no doubt have been of interest as an example of the persecution of European immigrants who held radical beliefs in America. The first chapter is titled "White Terror in the United States." The text reports not just on the trial and sentencing of the Italian-American anarchists, but on the aftermath of the trial and worldwide demonstrations, protests, and strikes in support of the defendants. Aaro Hyske was a Finnish-American socialist, labor organizer, and author, and this work of original reporting on the Sacco and Vanzetti is his most important work.

OCLC locates six copies, at Syracuse, Univ. of Connecticut, Univ. of Michigan, Univ. of Minnesota, Univ. of Washington, and Lakehead University.

OCLC 36504773.

\$750

Considering Issues of Socialism in the Midst of World War Two

13) [Socialism]: UUDEN AJAN JOULU -- 1943. Duluth, Mn.: Workers Soc. Publishing Company, [1943]. 40pp., including illustrations. Text printed in two columns. Quarto. Original pictorial wrappers, stapled. 1-1/2 inch closed tear in lower edge of first leaf. Lightly tanned. Near fine.

An issue of a short-lived socialist annual periodical produced for Finnish-Americans in the Upper Midwest. The title translates roughly to "Christmas of a new era." Articles include an investigation of international socialist unity and the future, class consciousness, and the IWW. One article considers the importance of copper mining - a profession in which many Finnish-Americans in the Upper Midwest participated - in winning World War Two. There is also poetry, memoirs of the civil war in Finland in 1918, and a final article discussing the use of bees in curing rheumatism.

OCLC locates copies (without specifying the year of the holdings) at Lakehead University and Fitchburg State University. The University of Michigan and University of Minnesota hold the issue for 1943.

OCLC 1042018347, 8608704.

\$250