

SUOMI-FINLAND

KUOPIO



PUNO



View from Puijo.

KUOPIO

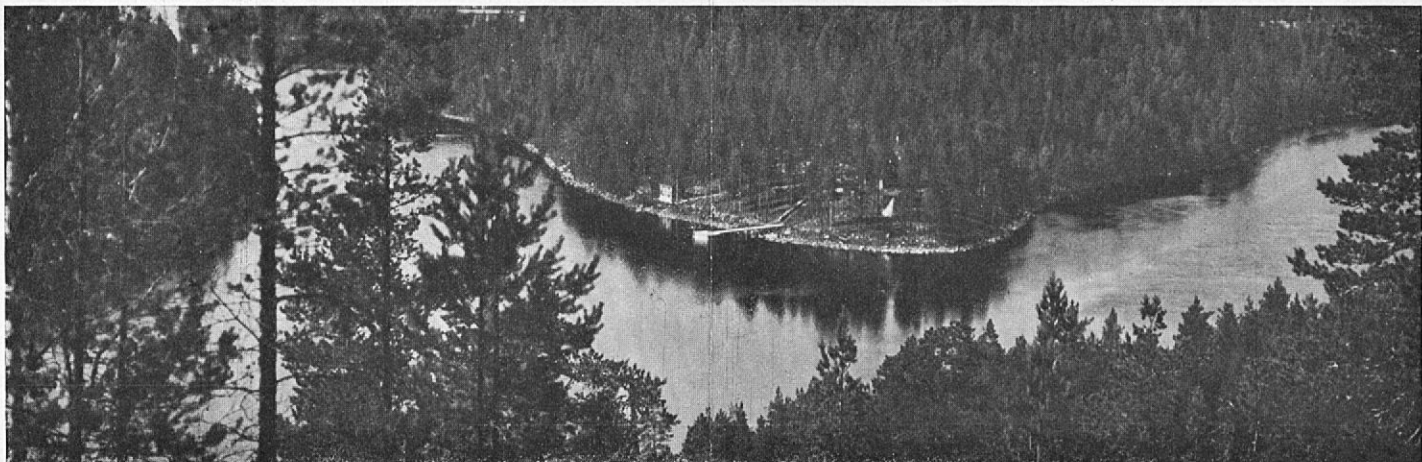
The tourist visiting the town of Kuopio enters the largest centre of population in the province of Savo and the economic and cultural centre of North Savo in particular. This town of 25,000 inhabitants occupies a beautiful site on the shore of Lake Kallavesi, rich in islands; its position enables it to maintain an extensive system of inland waterway communications during the summer. The communications by land are not quite as varied, as owing to the town standing on a peninsula almost surrounded by waterways, only one railway and one highroad lead to it from the south; northward there was formerly only the railway, and in the winter, of course, the ice of the lake, but in 1932 an excellent new highroad — the «Kallantie» — was completed leading over arched bridges — in itself a sight worth seeing — parallel to the railway across Lake Kallavesi, so that interesting motor trips can now also be made northward.

At the beginning of the present century Kuopio still gave the impression of an idyllic country town with its low wooden buildings and primitive streets. Now, however, the aspect of the town has changed owing to its rapid growth. It has acquired extensive suburbs, brick and stone buildings have arisen one after another, including both public buildings and tall blocks of flats and offices. Today, Kuopio is, after Tampere, the largest town in the interior of Finland, with industrial establishments, in particular its mills and spool factory, ranking among the largest in Finland, doing a considerable trade with the surrounding district, and with many schools to enliven with their pupils the life of its streets in winter time.

The history of Kuopio is a short one. The town was founded in 1782, towards the end of the period of Swedish rule. As

a centre of population and a parish it is of course much older; its name occurs in records of the middle of the 16th century. The famous Per Brahe planned a town on the Kuopio peninsula in the middle of the 17th century, but the settlement soon relapsed into its previous village form. It became, however, the centre of the provincial administration in 1775, before it had received its town charter; the new province of Savo was given a black shield with a stretched bow and arrow in gold as its coat-of-arms. The cultural life of Kuopio has flourished exceedingly at times. Here lived and worked the great awakener of the Finnish national spirit and, in a way, the originator of the present Finnish intellectual and social structure of Finland, *J. V. Snellman*, between the years 1843—1849. Commemorative tablets mark the houses in Tulliporttikatu and Snellmaninkatu in which he lived. Here *Minna Canth*, the novelist and dramatist, and *Juhani Aho*, the greatest depicter of the Savoians and the delightful nature of Savo, lived and created their literary masterpieces, the former in 1880—1897, the latter towards the end of the 'eighties. To Minna Canth, who strongly demanded social reforms in her works, the women of Finland erected a statue in Kuopio in 1937 (sculptor: Eemil Halonen). The memory of the War of Independence of 1918 is preserved by a monument to the fallen erected in the new cemetery immediately behind the railway on the left side of the road to Puijo Hill. Since 1939 Kuopio has become a bishop's see.

In the oldest part of the town, situated on its southern edge, a few mansard-roofed houses built towards the end of the 18th century still remain, but the most noteworthy old building is the solidly-built church of pure design on a mound beside the main thoroughfare and a delightful little park; this, the fourth in order of the churches in the district, was completed in 1815. From its tower a panoramic view of the town is obtained. The central portion of the *school building* in



From the Heinävesi route.

Renaissance style on the south side of the market place is the next oldest public building, dating from 1825. Both buildings flank the main business thoroughfare, *Kauppakatu*, along which lie the local banks and, below the church, the *Snellman Park*, in the centre of which there is a bust of Snellman, modelled and cast in bronze by the Finnish sculptor *Johannes Takanen*. The *Town Hall* on the north side of the market place and the *Provincial Government House* on the shore to the south are examples of the ornate official style of the 'eighties. In front of the latter is another small public garden, *Piispanpuisto* or Bishop's Park, so-called because of the Bishop's residence that once graced its western side. Of the new buildings the most interesting are the *Industrial School* and the *lyceum for girls*, both on the street *Maaherrankatu*, leading to the station, and the *Valkeinen elementary school* in the western suburb of Niirala. Behind Niirala to the west lies the hill *Huuhankäki* (156 m) with its water tower providing a magnificent view over the town from its top. The sights of the town also include the narrow and wooded cape *Väinölänniemi*, about a kilometre long, jutting out towards the south, a curious natural formation with lovely walks and drives, an old theatre tucked away under its shoulder and a summer restaurant, *Peräniemi*, at its point. Here in addition to the open-air swimming baths is the beautifully situated running track on which the first Finnish middle distance runner of international reputation and Olympic Gold Medallist, *Hannes Kolehmainen*, a son of Kuopio, used to train. A summer sight not to be neglected is the harbour on the east shore, where the great number of lake-craft, the weekday bustle of arrivals and departures and the lively crowds provide an excellent picture of conditions in this land of inland waterways.

The *Museum*, a two-storey building in castellar style, owned by the municipality, was completed in 1907. The ground floor

contains the town library and the upper floor the collections of two separate museum societies. Three rooms on the north side house the prehistoric, ethnographical and historical collections of the «Kuopio Patriotic Society» (founded 1883) and a chimneyless cabin, one of the primitive dwellings of settlers in olden times. The rest of the rooms upstairs are devoted to the biological groups and botanical, zoological, geographical and mineral collections of the «Kuopio Society of Friends of Nature», of which the botanical and zoological collections in particular are very fine. The museum is open daily from 11—13 and on Sundays in addition from 17—19; at other times entrance can be obtained by application to the caretaker. Admittance Fmks. 3.

In Kuopio there are the following hotels:

HOTELLI ATLAS, in the market place. Central heating, hot and cold water, bathrooms, telephones in every room. Tariff: single rooms Fmks. 35—50 double rooms Fmks. 60—90. Complete restaurant.

HOTELLI SEURAHUONE, Maaherrankatu 5. The oldest-established first-class hotel in the town. Rooms Fmks. 25—65. Complete restaurant.

HOTELLI OSUUSRAVINTOLA, Minna Cantinkatu 16. First-class hotel. Rooms Fmks. 25—50. Complete restaurant.

HOTELLI KUOPIO, Kauppakatu 39. Tariff: single rooms Fmks. 25—35, double rooms Fmks. 40—70. Complete restaurant.

Y. W. C. A. HOSPITZ, Myllykatu 4. Tariff: single rooms Fmks. 25—45, double rooms Fmks. 50—70. Central heating, hot and cold water in every room. Bathrooms. Home cooking in restaurant.

STATION RESTAURANT. Complete restaurant. Lunch and dinner Fmks. 15.

PUIJON MAJA (Puijo Inn). Five rooms for tourists. Dinners and suppers à la carte, for parties if required. Coffee and refreshments all day. Branch Post Office.

Post and Telegraph office: Kuninkaankatu 19.

Finnish Tourist Association's information bureau: Vuorikatu 23. Manager Mrs. B. Mansnerus. Open weekdays 8—14.



Puijo tower.

SURROUNDINGS OF KUOPIO

Northwest of the town, about 3 kms. away, *Puijo Hill* rises to a height of 232 metres above sea-level. At the top of the hill there is an inn with accommodation for travellers, a restaurant and branch post office attached. Beside the inn is a tower providing from its successive storeys and flat roof one of the finest views in Finland; the bright winding labyrinth of lakes, islands by the hundred, capes and bays, valleys and hills, and forests in endless succession over and beyond the horizon — the whole summer splendour of the interior of Finland. Below, in the south-east, lies the town; between the west and northwest stands the complex of buildings forming the *Niuvanniemi Asylum*. Near Niuvanniemi is a steep hill called *Taivaanpankko* (175 m). Puijo is famous throughout Finland and its powers of attraction have remained undiminished through many decades. Winter is recalled by the ski-jump beside the tower; Puijo is a veritable paradise of winter sports — ski-jumping, cross-country ski-ing and tobogganing.

Returning from Puijo Hill the tourist might find it worth his while to take a motorboat trip among the islands of *Lake Kallavesi*, where *Hietasalo*, for instance, will be found to be a pleasant place with its sandy shore, or round *Kuopionniemi Point*, the variegated beach of which, *Puijonsarvi Horn*, is lined with villas. South of the town, about five kilometres away are the fine straits of *Jynkänlahti* and on the east the broad *Toivalansalmi Straits*, both districts famous for the stubborn defence put up there by the Finns during the invasion of North Savo by the Russians in the spring and summer of 1809. In 1933 a monument was erected about 11 km from the town near the «Kallantie» to the memory of the battle at Toivala. Farther south, near *Pitkälähti* station, are large industrial



From the Leppävirta route.

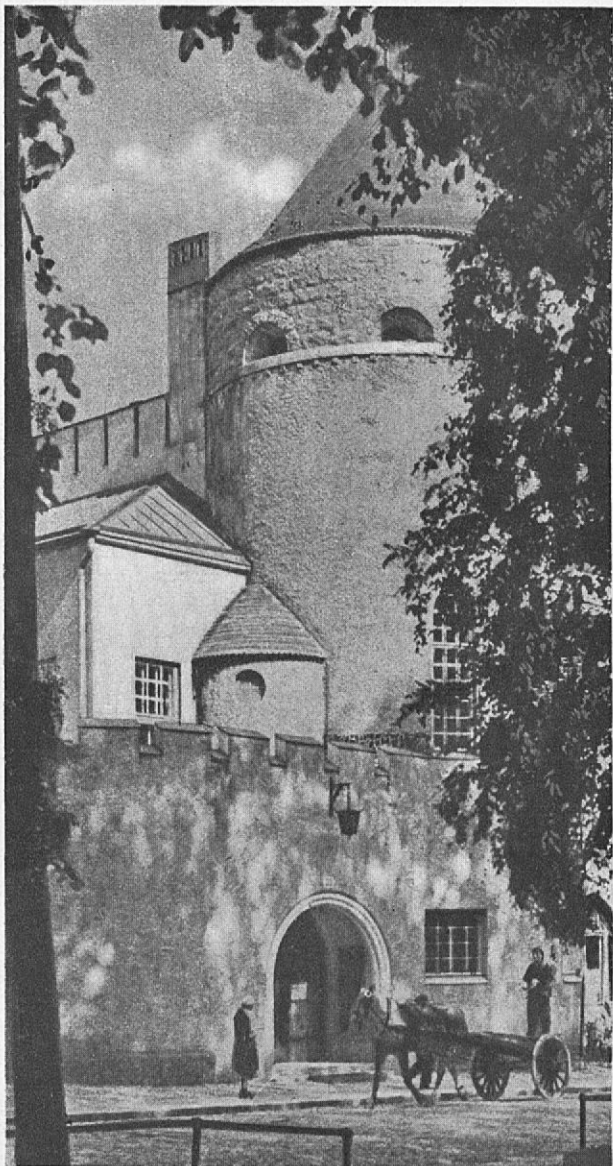
establishments and on the road leading southward from these the pretty *Koivumäki People's College* and the magnificent *Vanunvuori Hill* (197 m) rising from the deep dark basin of *Hiltulanlahti Bay*.

Two routes lead southward to Savonlinna. The older of these, made with the aid of canals already in 1839, proceeds via Leppävirta, and the newer, for which the canals were completed in 1905, via Heinävesi. The narrow waters of Lake Heinävesi are ploughed by the «Heinävesi» steamers, the captains of which supply tourists with a printed account of the sights along the trip. On this route lie the *Palokki Rapids*, which afford opportunities for salmon-fishing. Similar printed accounts are supplied to those who choose the Leppävirta route, which passes the important industrial centre *Varkaus*. Another route is the one to *Karjalankoski Rapids*, from the terminus of which a narrow gauge railway leads to the nearly two hundred year old factory site of *Juankoski* and onward to *Pisa*, a fine hill with wonderful views. This hill, the boundary-mark of the provinces of Savo and Karelia and once a national boundary-mark, rises to the height of 270 metres, and thus exceeds *Puijo Hill*. From the proud summit of *Pisa (Holy) Hill* the view is open in all directions; the forests lie far below like a green undulating sea, the old cultivated area being long since hidden under an unbroken mass of leaf-trees.

Time-tables of the chief Kuopio-steamers:

s/s «Leppävirta I» and s/s «Heinävesi I» leave Kuopio and Savonlinna alternately every day at 10.30 and arrive the same day at 22.00 at their destination.

s/s Leppävirta II» and s/s «Heinävesi II» leave Kuopio and Savonlinna alternately every day at 13.30 and arrive the following morning at 8.00 at their destination.



Kuopio museum.

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