

TURKU (ÅBO)



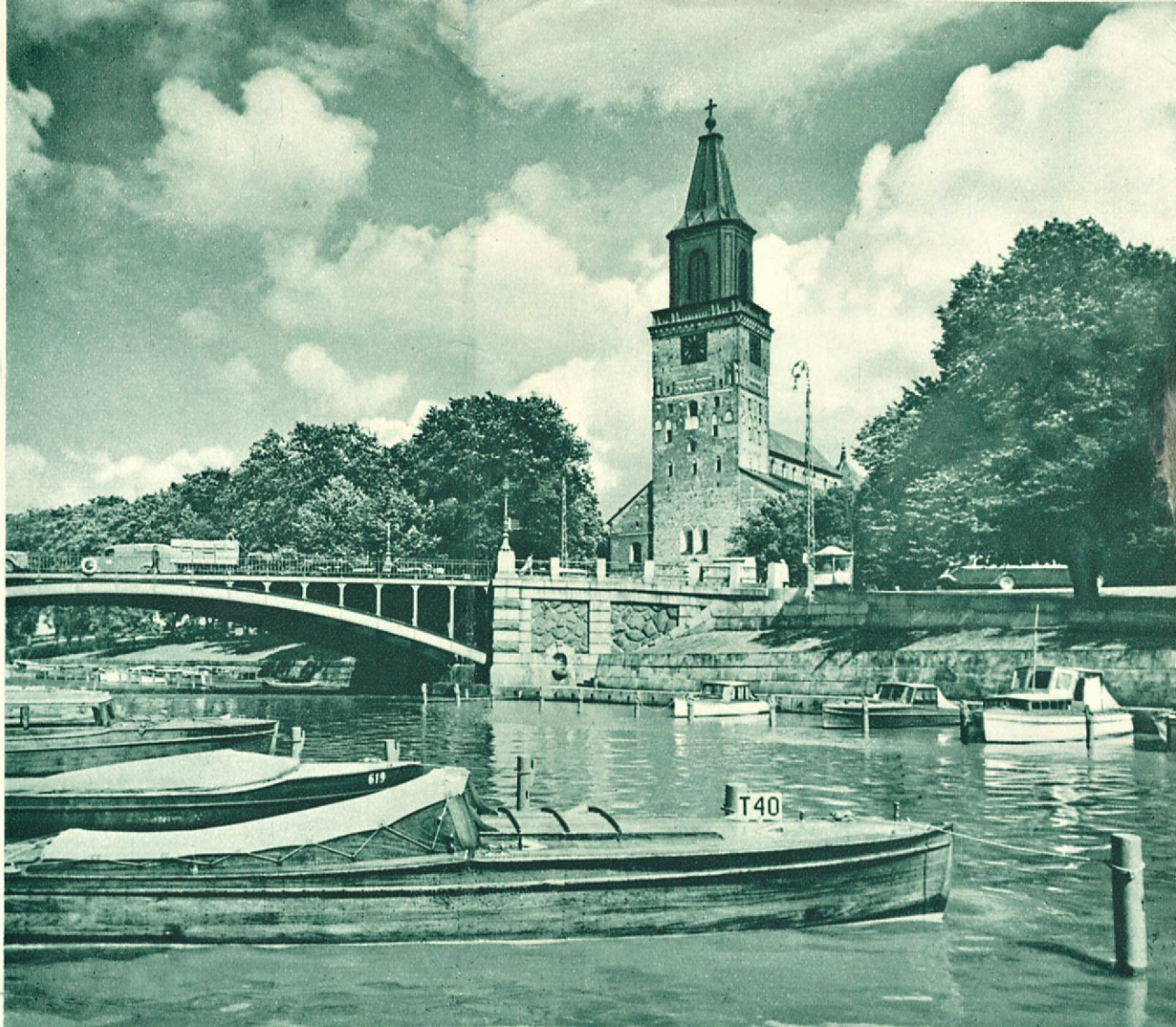
SUOMI ♦ FINLAND



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The 13th century cathedral is the finest medieval monument in Finland.



TURKU

(Swedish: *Åbo*. Pop. ^{110,000} 85,000), cathedral city and Archbishop's seat, university and garrison town, county capital, seaport and airport, is of old the main gateway to Finland from the West. Bishop Henry, of English birth, who brought the Christian Faith to Finland, made the ancient trading centre from which Turku derives its name his headquarters. Tradition has it that St. Henry's Spring in Kupittaa Park is the identical spring where, in 1155 A. D., the first converts were baptized.

And from Turku spread western civilization to the rest of Finland, for it was through Turku that medieval Finland was in touch with the main centres of European learning.

The visitor who arrives at Turku by the sea-routes leading through the archipelago to the deepwater harbour at the mouth of the Aurajoki, is thus following a historical example. He enters Finland by its oldest town and former capital, the place where Finnish history begins.

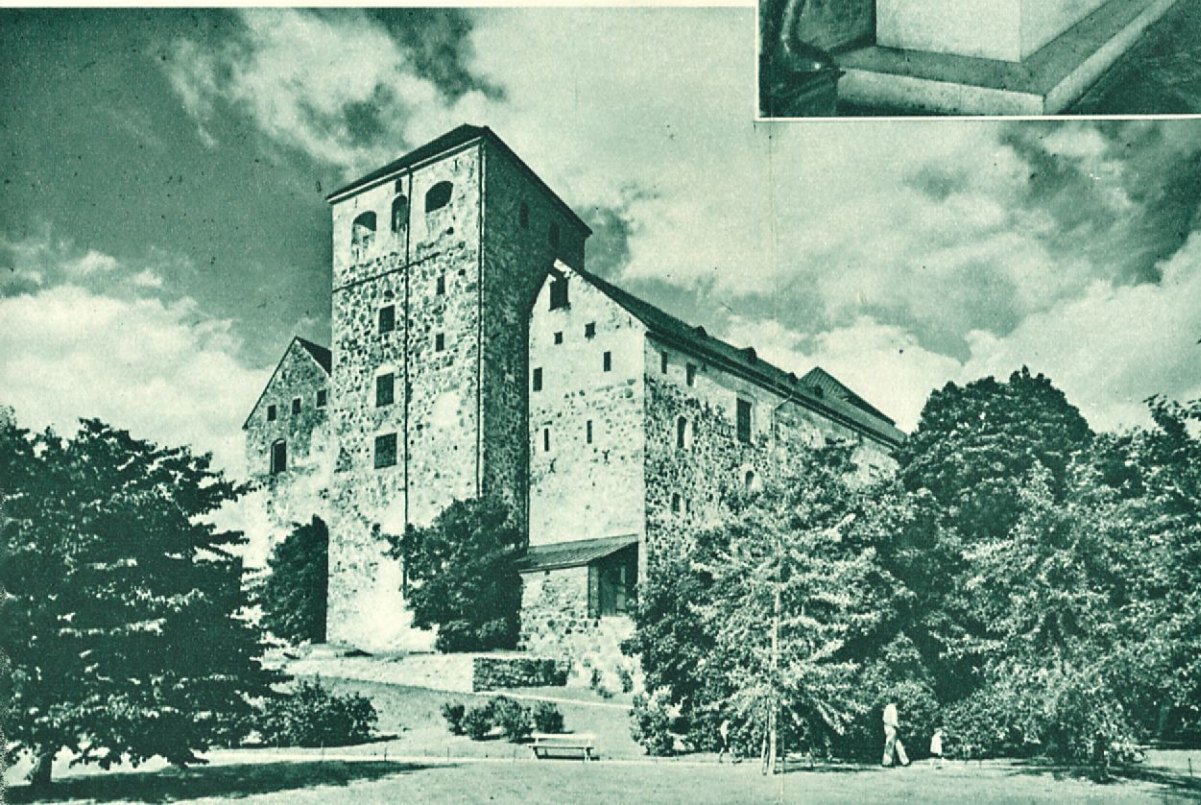
Old Turku.

The Cathedral, founded in 1229 by Bishop Thomas, another Englishman, and consecrated in 1290, and the Castle founded some time towards the end of the 13th century, have miraculously survived. The rest of Turku has been less able to withstand the destructive effects of wars, piratical raids and fires. As a matter of fact, the present town plan dates from the period of rebuilding after the last great fire in 1827, which wiped out the city except for a small area around the Cathedral. Here the old City Hall, now the Police Station, the adjoining school (1724), the Academy, a former university building which now houses the Archbishop's Council and the Court of Appeal (the oldest in Finland), and a few other buildings give an idea of what Turku was like before the Great Fire. A group of picturesque cabins on Luostarinmäki Hill further affords a glimpse into the life of the small tradesman and labourer in past centuries.

But although the visitor will naturally see these places — the Cathedral, the finest example of early Middle Age architecture in Finland, is worth inspecting for the rich



*The Stålhandske chapel
in the Cathedral.*



*Once the home of dukes
and kings — the castle
stronghold at the river's
mouth.*

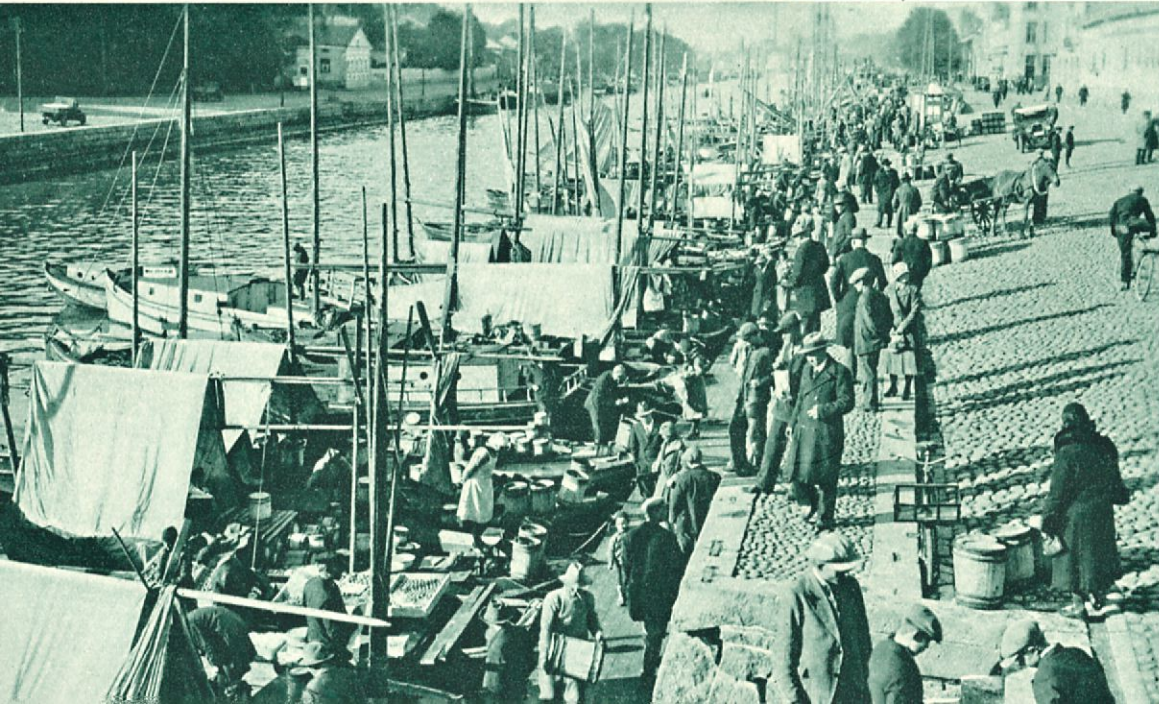


Turku of to-day.

Already the site of Turku is a pleasing one. The Aura-joki, which flows through the city, is crowded in summer with motor-launches, the number of which hints at a certain prosperity; the tree-lined riverside quays are ideal for peaceful strolling. Below the last bridge the private motor-launches give way to a strange variety of craft from which the islanders sell fuelwood, fish, vegetables, and later in the summer, cherries, apples, pears and



historical interest of its family chapels, one of which contains the sarcophagus of a queen of Sweden-Finland, the Castle partly because of its age, partly because of the fine collections of arms, furniture, costumes, pictures, etc., in the newer part, the large rectangle of buildings tacked on to the old castle in the 16th century — Turku does not depend solely on its historical monuments for its charm.



Above : A batch of newly-baked women undergraduates parade their University caps.

Centre : The modern Municipal Hospital.

Left : Fish market day on the river. Islanders sell their fish direct from their boats.



Paavo Nurmi, the greatest runner of our times, Gold Medallist at three successive Olympic Games.

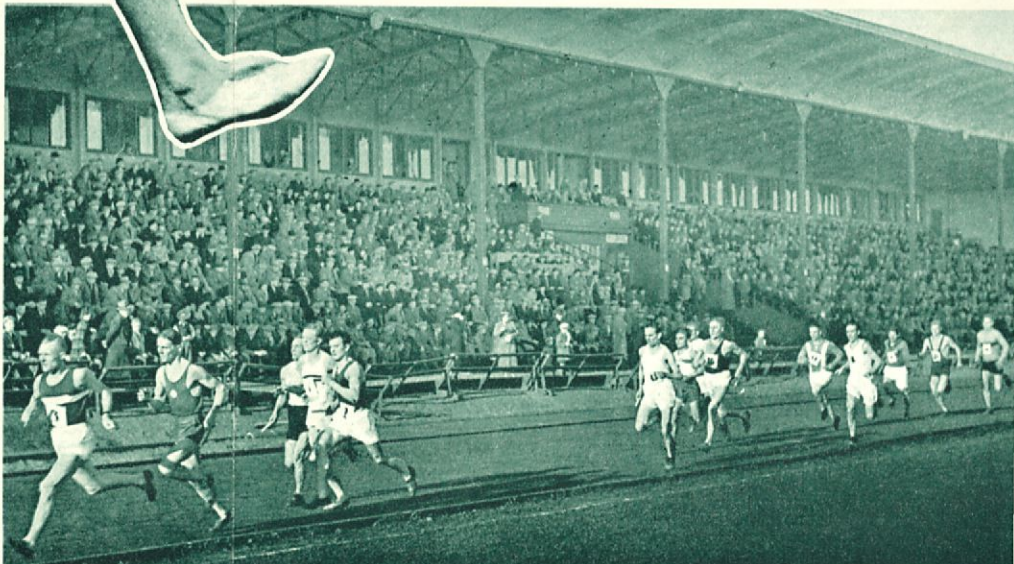
plums grown in the archipelago. Still farther downstream are the small steamers that ply through the archipelago and along the coast, and farther yet the ship-building yards and graving dock, both the biggest in Finland.

On either bank are the low hills and flats on which the city is built. Besides lending variety to the city's aspect, the hills afford extensive views, beautiful at any time, but especially so in the lingering northern summer evenings, when the strings of city lights glow palely under the sunset sky. To the crest of Samppalinnä Hill it is only a few minutes climb up the steps on its riverward slope. From Vartiavuori Hill there is an additional view inland, past the modern white County Hospital to two medieval churches a few miles only from Turku.

Across the river can be seen the granite Art Museum on the top of Puolalanmäki Hill, which houses a really good collection of Finnish paintings.

The Turku of Paavo Nurmi.

A windmill on the left bank of the river marks the site of the Sports Park, where athletic meets and foot-



The athletic track where Nurmi trained and won many victories.



Mouth of the Aurajoki, the river on which Turku stands and the ancient entrance to Finland.

Bridge from the mainland at Naantali to the island on which the President of Finland lives in summer.

ball matches are frequent in summer and where tennis can be played in idyllic surroundings. Here Paavo Nurmi, the greatest star runner of our times, used to train. Harri Larva and Lassi Virtanen, two other Turku men who have won Olympic honours, also trained here.

Incidentally, bird-lovers will find an interesting collection of Finnish birds in their native habitat in the small Biological Museum on the fringe of the Sports Park.





Excursions from Turku.

Directly connected with the town is the beautiful island park Ruissalo (bathing and restaurant). Beyond it are the hundreds of islands, large and small, of the archipelago. A series of tours organized by the Municipal Touring Board enable visitors to make flying trips by car or by car and motorboat combined through some of the best scenery in the archipelago, bridges and ferries making such trips possible.

A few miles north of Turku is the quaint little bathing resort Naantali, reached by bus, train or steamer. Opposite Naantali

Rusko church, one of the many medieval churches in the vicinity of Turku.

Louhisaari, an old manor house in the Turku area.

Shopping.

The main shopping district is on the right bank of the river, thronged at all times of the day. Turku is the shopping centre for a large rural hinterland and the whole of the archipelago, which explains the number of good shops and the curiously large number of gold and silversmiths. Here are the Market Place, a second market square, Puutori, partly for secondhand articles — a stone in the pavement on the south side marks the place where the Great Fire of Turku began — the cinemas, the leading hotels and restaurants.

Dotted all over the city are parks and plantations with numerous fine works of art.





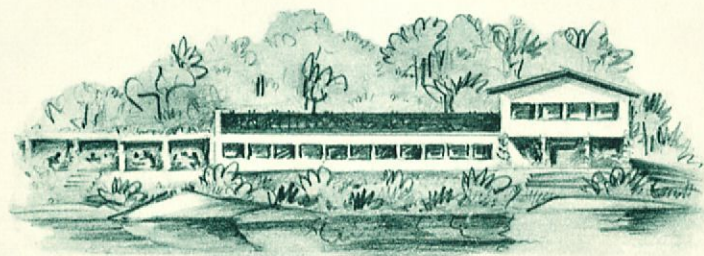
Midsummer celebrations in the fertile archipelago.

and visible from the beach is the President's summer palace Kultaranta. In the opposite direction, southward of Turku, is Stor Mälö, whose modern tourist hotel, opening in 1939, will enable visitors to stay at one of the fairest sites in an archipelago famous for its beauty.

All around Turku lie small medieval churches which can be reached on one or more car runs through country dotted with old farmhouses and manors.

Note. All sites of interest and public offices, etc., in Turku are marked on the appended map of the city.

Information regarding sights in the city or vicinity, sightseeing excursions, hotels and other accomodation will be provided by the Municipal Tourism Board, address Linnankatu 14 A, telephone 45 38, or by your Travel Bureau.



Architect's drawing of the tourist hotel at Stor-Mälö in the archipelago, opening in the late summer of 1939.

Right : the bathing resort Naantali, ten miles north of Turku.



Kultaranta — summer palace of the President.



The archipelago conceal innumerable scenes of idyllic beauty.

