

NEWS FROM FINLAND: Markku Roinila

The only monograph about Leibniz in Finland is **Raili Kauppi**, *Über die Leibnische Logik*. This doctoral thesis appeared in series Acta Philosophica Fennica XII in 1960. Kauppi's thesis continues on the footsteps of Couturat's and Russell's, with some original insights. There have also been some influential articles:

1. **Stenius, Erik**, "On The System of Leibniz" (in *Critical essays II*, Acta Philosophica Fennica, vol. 45, Helsinki 1989).
2. **Hintikka, Jaakko**, "Leibniz on Plenitude, Relations, and the 'Reign of Law'" (in *Reforing The Great Chain Of Being*, ed. by Simo Knuuttila, Synthese historical library 20, Reidel, Dordrecht 1981). Hintikka argues persuasively, against Lovejoy, that Leibniz did not really accept Descartes' notion of all possibilities being realized in the world.
3. **Hintikka, Jaakko**, "Was Leibniz's Deity an Akrates?" (in *Modern Modalities*, ed. by Simo Knuuttila, Synthese historical library 33, Kluwer, Dordrecht 1988). In this article Hintikka continues on the same lines and also considers the problem of akrasia in relation to God. According to Hintikka, Leibniz was not able to prove that there is such thing as a best possible world.

Presently, apart from Hintikka, and Knuuttila (who is primarily known as an expert in Aristotle and medieval modal logic), there are no professional philosophers especially devoted to Leibniz in Finland. Although Leibniz seems to interest many, the relative difficulty of the subject is a hindering aspect to students. I am currently working on a doctoral thesis called "**G. W. Leibniz's political activities and their ethical standpoints.**" (My research plan may be read on the web at <http://www.helsinki.fi/~mroinila/esuun.htm>. Any scholars interested in this topic may contact me at mroinila@cc.helsinki.fi.)

This year Leibniz's *Monadology* appeared finally in Finnish in a series of translations of classics of philosophy (it contains also Spinoza and Locke). The translation contains also Raili Kauppi's shorter writing about Leibniz's logic and the translator's (Jyrki Siukonen) article about the utopian and mystical elements in the *Monadology*.