



The Bank of Finland through the eyes of the political cartoonist

- How do we get the people to fall in love with euro banknotes?
- By printing more of them.

These are the lines of conversation followed by a group of bankers and an ad man in a satirical cartoon by Kaarlo A. Rissanen, which is currently on display as part of the Bank of Finland Museum's exhibition of political cartoons. The seasonal exhibition comprises dozens of political cartoons inspired by the goings-on at the Bank of Finland and in the world of money and finance. The exhibition will be on display from 14 October to 31 December 2005.

Money and its issuer, the Bank of Finland, have tickled the imagination of political cartoonists for decades. The most frequently used themes relating to the central bank relate to monetary reforms, the nomination of new Governors as well as the occasional differences of opinion between the central bank and the Government as regards economic and monetary policy. Other common topics are cash, banking crises and banking subvention, inflation, the euro and the EMU

The exhibition includes cartoons from as early as the 1950s. On display are samples of images mainly by four of Finland's better-known and most productive cartoonists: **Kari Suomalainen, Terho Ovaska, Henrik Karlsson** and **Kaarlo A. Rissanen**. Kari Suomalainen was in-house cartoonist for the national quality newspaper Helsingin Sanomat 1966–91 and Terho Ovaska succeeded him, 1991–2005. Henrik Karlsson's penmanship has been published in Helsingin Sanomat since 1986, while Kaarlo A. Rissanen has been creating drawings illustrating the machinations of the economy in the journal Kauppalehti since 1969.

The Bank of Finland Museum opened its doors in August 2002 in the Kruununuhaka district of central Helsinki, at Snellmaninkatu 2, just down the road from the Bank of Finland itself. The Museum's main displays concern the history of money and monetary policy, the operations of the central bank and features of the monetary economy, in addition to displaying samples of Finnish banknote art. The Museum also exhibits some of its information using multimedia presentations, through which the visitor can familiarise themselves with the world of money using interactive displays.

For further information and pictures of the Bank of Finland Museum, visit the Museum's web site at www.rahamuseo.fi. Alternatively, contact Jaakko Koskentola, Curator of the Bank of Finland Museum, tel. +358 10 831 2981.