

Foreword

Finland is sometime referred to as the promised land of societies. People love to belong to clubs and associations founded by like-minded persons.

The shared factor joining them may be their profession or hobby.

The history of scientific societies in Finland is quite long. The first learned society, the *Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica*, was established as early as in 1821. During the 19th century 32 similar societies were founded. Today the number of actively operating learned societies in Finland is well over 200, with over 200,000 members.

The Geophysical Society of Finland was established 75 years ago, i.e. in 1926. Young scientists in meteorology (V. Väisälä, O.V. Johansson), oceanography (R. Jurva, R. Witting) and seismology (H. Renqvist) worked actively to promote co-operation amongst researchers in geophysics employed by the University of Helsinki and various research institutions. The founding of a learned society for the geophysical sciences was a natural solution to achieve this objective. During the first year of activity the membership of the Geophysical Society grew already to 44.

The present Volume of *Geophysica* is a special issue to honour the 75th anniversary of the Geophysical Society of Finland. It contains 9 articles summarising the history of the Society and the advancement of geophysical research in Finland during the past century. On behalf of the Society I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors for their most valuable contributions.

The future of the Society is in the hands of its members. Even though today's world is very different from what it used to be 75 years ago, the need for collaboration in research still exists. Modern research requires a multidisciplinary approach, and a smooth co-operation between scientists is therefore absolutely essential. Thus the Geophysical Society of Finland has still an important role to play. It is our duty to see that this Society will serve the needs of the future generations of geophysicists in Finland as efficiently as in the past.

Erkki Jatila

Chairman of the Geophysical Society of Finland

