

Jenny Aurora Emilia Florin (what was her profession?) (1854–1925) was daughter of doctor of medicine and surgery Pehr Ulrik Florin (1825-90) and Sofia Elisabeth Törnqvist (profession?) (1837-83). Jenny Florin lived in the so-called Florin's yard in the corner of Bulevardi and Yrjönkatu, and spent her summers in the Margreteberg mansion house in Espoo.

In the spring 1911 Jenny Florin fulfilled her father's wish by donating from his will 60 000 Finnish markkas to Finska Läkaresällskapet and 100 000 Finnish markkas to the Svenska Litteratursällskapet. The donation to Svenska Litteratursällskapet enabled the founding of the Florin Committee. In 1921 the Florin Committee transformed to Samfundet Folkhälsan i Svenska Finland, which is still active today.

*The Florin Committee united specialists from fields of statistics, hygiene, physiology and neuropathology with the shared concern of the biological decay and degeneration of the Swedish speaking population in Finland. The purpose of the committee was defined loosely as 'all kinds of scientific research of physical and psychic health of Finland's Swedish speaking population, and of the circumstances influencing it.'**

In the period 1913-16 the Florin Committee studied the anthropological characteristic of 23 000 Swedish speakers. The committee also had a close contact with Sweden's leading race hygienist (& outright racist) Herman Lundborg. This included the Florin Committee participating in the Swedish folktype - exhibition in Sweden in 1919 with photographing 'Eastern Swedes' in Finland. In Lundborg's exhibition population types were placed in hierarchical order with the highest of the 'Nordic master-race' consisting of notable members of the upper class.

**) For in-depth information, Markku Mattila, 'Kansamme Parhaaksi. Rotuhygienia Suomessa vuoden 1935 sterilointilakiin saakka', Bibliotheca historica 44, Helsinki: Suomen Historiallinen Seura, 1999.*

Members in the Florin Committee, Robert Ehrström (professor of internal medicine in Helsinki University 1920-41) and Harry Federley (secretary of the Florin committee, professor in Helsinki University 1923-49 and considered the father of generics in Finland) opened public media-debate on the 1st of May 1918 (during the Civil War, right after 'liberation' of Helsinki) about removal of general right of vote. Federley argued that factory workers are helpless and incapable mass, who reproduce without responsibility of their children and rely on the servicing and caretaking by the patrons of the factories.

Supporters of socialism, according to Federley, belong to the category of 'animalistic psyche' and are closer to apes than to cultured people. In his view, general right of vote and democracy are against nature, even endangering the society. Federley was also strong propagator of sterilisation laws in Finland and acted as the head of the committee preparing the Sterilisation Law in 1929.

Brothers Martti (parliamentary representative in the National Coalition Party) and Lauri 'Tahko' Pihkala (celebrated inventor of pesäpallo, the national sport in Finland) shared many of the views about population control with Federley and Ehrström. But they went even further with Mauri Pihkala publishing a book in the spring 1918 where he calls for elimination of all female factory workers and other immoral short haired women, so that the Finnish genotype would remain clean. The philosophy of the Pihkala-brothers was known among the White Guards, because the brothers were active recruiters to the ranks of the Whites in 1917.

*A recent study has revealed that 218 women and girls were executed in the Hennala prison camp. The victims were not selected randomly, but they were younger than other female prisoners, in average 20 years and the youngest were 14. Also they were not maids from the countryside or farmers, but from cities and factory workers. Those in charge of the prison camp were influenced by Pihkalas' as well as other race hygienic theories popular at the time.**

**) Marjo Liukkonen, 'Hennalan Naismurhat 1918', Licentiate dissertation in Sociology, University of Lapland 2016.*

In 1926 journal Suomen Kuvalehti held a competition searching for the most beautiful representative of the 'Finnish female type'. 1268 photographs of women were sent to the competition together with information about colour of their hair and eyes, and family origins of their parents. The selection jury consisted of professor of anatomy Yrjö Kajava, professor of folklore U. T. Sirelius, painter Vilho Sjöström, writer Jalmari Finne and sculptor Gunnar Finne. The jury unanimously selected Irma Carberg from Helsinki as the winner. The skull index measured of her on basis of the photograph was 83,8, which indicates she is of the 'Finnish short skulled (brachycephalic) race.'

Photograph of her and most other competitors ended up in the archives of the Helsinki University Anatomy Institute among the research documents of Yrjö Kajava.

Suomen Kuvalehti, 27/1926