

Legal Finnish

Swedish law:

Oral law (going back to the viking age)

County laws (*landskapslagar*): approx. 1200-1350

For example: *Västgöotalagen*, *Gutalagen*, *Södermannalagen*

Chapter on Church law from *Upplandslagen* appears in Kollanius' City Law (1648)

Magnus Erikssons land and city law (1350)

City law translated by Ljungo (1609)

City law translated by Abraham Kollanius (1648)

King Christopher's land law (1440)

Land law translated by Martti (approx. 1580)

Land law translated by Ljungo (1601)

Land law translated by Abraham Kollanius (1648)

New Swedish law (1734)

Ruotzin Waldacunnan Laki (1759)

Martti's Land Law

- Likely translated by Martti, chaplain of the Finnish congregation in Stockholm, around 1580. Martti (1510-1585) came from the northern part of Southwest Finland (between Rauma and Turku).
- Eight manuscript versions survive. One of these, Stockholm codex B96, was published by Setälä and Nyholm in 1905 (and digitally at KOTUS), six other manuscripts have been printed in a concordance 1930 by Airila and Harmas. Recently, Harri Uusitalo conclusively proved that an eight manuscript (the *Aitolahti codex*) is also a version of Martti's translation.

Ljungo's Land and City laws

- Written in 1601 and 1609 respectively, published by Wilhelm Lagus in 1852 and Matti Ulkuniemi in 1975 (the latter version in KOTUS).
- Ljungo sharply criticizes an earlier translation, suggesting he was familiar with Martti's translation.

Abraham Kollanius' Land and City Laws

- Written in 1648, Kollanius strongly denied having seen any earlier translation but he probably had Martti's translation at his avail.
- Printing was initiated but stopped after a control committee expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of the translation. Published in 1926 by Martti Rapola.
- Much more consistent in lexicon and orthography than predecessors, though occasionally idiosyncratic.

Other legal translations:

- *Krigs Articlar aff Konungh Gustavo Adolpho, then Andre* translated by Hartikka Speitz in 1642
- *Kircko-Laki ja Ordningi*, translation by Florinus (1688) of the 1686 Swedish Church law
- *Ruotzin Waldacunnan Laki*, translation by Samuel Forseen (1759) of the finally reformed 1734 Swedish law.

Specific features of legal Finnish:

- Strange asynchrony. The source texts of 17th century Finnish translations are medieval Swedish texts, the oldest from 1296 (the Church chapter translated by Kollanius in 1648).
- The texts are virtually completely written in the 3rd person, so they provide very little material about for example verb inflection.
- Modal verbs and modal constructions are very frequent (*pitää, tulla, mahtaa*). Occurrences of *pitää* furthermore mostly deontic rather than future-tense.
- Relation between translation and source language/text is unambiguous (as opposed to for example religious language). But note the asynchrony: the source language may be medieval Old Swedish, rather than the Swedish that was spoken at the time of the translations!

Older tradition?

- Occurrence of *k-* in front of back vowel archaic orthography in Old Finnish. Occurs specifically in the words *kuningas* and *kunta* which may point to a tradition of written legal Finnish (which must have been available to Agricola). See: Esko Koivusalo: *Mikael Agricola ja suomalainen lakikieli*, Sananjalka 26 1984.
- Legal vocabulary appears to be pretty consolidated already at the time of Martti's translation.
- Medieval Swedish law includes performative moments (swearing of oaths and the like) that must have been done in Finnish in medieval times.