150 years since the publication of the first Hungarian-language travel book on the Baltic Sea region (Research-historical excerpts from the travelogue of Fenno-Ugric pioneer Pál Hunfalvy (1810–1891) in 1869)

In the summer of 1869, Pál Hunfalvy paid a visit to Russia in the Baltics and the Grand Duchy of Finland. The purpose of his trip was to introduce the linguistically related Estonians and Finns to the Hungarian readers. Hunfalvy's two-volume travel report was published in Hungarian 150 years ago, in 1871, and in 1874 a shorter version of the two volumes was published in German. The Estonian translation of the first volume was published in 2007, but only short details and references have been published in Finnish so far.

This presentation aims at giving the Finnish readers an idea of the image Hunfalvy wanted to convey of the Finnish society, which found itself in the process of building a new identity based on the Finnish language – a process the evolution of which Hunfalvy compared with the Estonian national awakening.

Keywords: travel literature, national awakening, national language, language policy, language identity.

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