

Professor Janne Vilkuna (born 1954) has studied at Helsinki and Jyväskylä universities archaeology/prehistory, ethnology, Finnish history and art history. After his MA 1979 he worked 1980–1989 at the regional Museum of Central Finland as senior curator. When the studies of museology began in Finland and first at the Jyväskylä University in 1983 he was one of the teachers and when the office of lecturer was established 1989 he was nominated. He became PhD in 1992 (the dissertation was in ethnology; an "abstract article" of the book, in Finnish, see: *The Karsikko* and Cross-Tree Tradition of Finland - The Origins, Change and End of the Custom. *Ethnologia Europaea* 23:2 (1994), p. 135–152). When the office of lecturer was 1998 changed to (the first Nordic) professorship of museology Vilkuna was nominated 1999.

His definition of museology at Jyväskylä is not museum but heritage centred: "Museology (heritology) is a science that explores the way the individual and the community perceive and control the temporal and regional environment (including both tangible and intangible, i.e. spiritual environment) through taking into possession (by selecting and demarcating parts of reality and by incorporating them as cultural reality) pieces of evidence from the past and the present.

Vilkuna is beside his professorship also since 1993 the director of the Jyväskylä university museum. He has published about 450 scientific and popular articles with subjects of museology, prehistory, history and ethnology (list of publications <http://www.jyu.fi/hum/laitokset/taiku/opiskelu/museologia/henkilokunta/vilkuna/artikkelit/>).

His main interest in museological research is the history of Finnish museums. He has e.g. published (in Finnish) the history of Finnish Museums Association 1923-1998 ("abstract article": *The Finnish Museums Association - 75 years working for museums. Nordisk Museologi* 1999.1 p. 17–32).

Vilkuna has been and is a member of several museum boards and state committees. He became a member of the editorial board (and the Finnish editor) of *Nordic Museology* in 1993 and he is since 2003 a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Text to picture: The "stars" of the first Finnish museological dissertation, March 2006, left custodian, professor Janne Vilkuna.