

175 YEARS OF MANUFACTURE BOARD'S HERITAGE



In May 1835 a decree was issued in Helsinki to establish a Manufacture Board and an Institute of Technology in Finland.

The Manufacture Board was ordered to *arrange the teaching of technology for the needs of industrial traders, to closely monitor the operation of manufacturers, factories and craftsmen in the country, and to actively promote such operations and their development...*

The Manufacture Board carried out its duty as the organizer of education in technology in Finland by establishing a Technical Elementary School in Helsinki. This school evolved over the years into what after a succession of different types of polytechnic schools is today's Aalto University School of Science and Technology.

As part of its work for the promotion and development of industry in Finland, the Manufacture Board provided the Senate with expertise in matters related to granting exclusive rights and privileges. These rights also included innovation privileges, and the statements of the Manufacture Board's technical experts were essential for the processing of these matters in the Senate.

In the summer of 1842, the Economic Division of the Imperial Senate of Finland – the predecessor of our present Government – granted, in the name of the Emperor, to *Bergs-Mechanicus* Lars Ståhle an exclusive right to manufacture a new, in Finland unknown, type of blowing machine. This *Patent Resolution* was entered as No.1 in the Diary of the Manufacture Board, and marks the beginning of the timeline of Finnish patents—a timeline which continues without break to this day. The statement on the matter given by the Manufacture Board to the Senate said: *The invention is important and useful for manufacturers and craftsmen, who need blowing machines and blowing machines of this construction are not previously known in Finland.*

For five decades, the Manufacture Board administered the running of all factories in Finland. During the Board's administration, manufacturing progressed to comprise machine-driven factories. New industries sprang up and flourished, in particular the metal and textiles industries, and paper and woodworking industries. After the Finnish language gained equal status to the Swedish language in the 1860's, the Swedish name *manufakturdirektionen* was translated into *tehtaaston johtokunta* in Finnish. In 1876, the Decree on Patents Rights in Finland was issued, as proposed by the Manufacture Board.



In parallel with the Manufacture Board, the State Mining and Metallurgy Board administered the iron industry, which was considered the main source of Finland's wealth and her national industry.

At the end of 1884, a declaration was read aloud from all pulpits that a new office would be established in Helsinki to ensure more effective promotion of the interests of the industries in the Grand Duchy. The Manufacture Board and the State Mining and Metallurgy Board were closed down and their duties were transferred to the Board of Industry, which was due to start operations at the turn of the year.

In 1888, a Department of Trade and Industry was established in the Economic Division of the Imperial Senate of Finland, with the Board of Industry subordinate to it. One of its duties within the Grand Duchy was to be responsible for matters concerning *the patent system and the announcement of limited ownership companies of all kinds*.

During its existence, the Board of Industry issued a *Decree on the Protection of Trade Marks* in Finland in 1889; a *Decree on the Trade Register, Company Names and Procuration* in 1895; and a *Decree on Patent Rights and Litigation in Patent Matters* in 1898.

In 1918 the duties of the Board of Industry were transferred to a new office: Finland, now independent, established a Board of Trade and Industry, which was responsible for trade and various kinds of businesses in the new state.

The Economic Division of the Imperial Senate of Finland became the Government of Finland and its departments were renamed Ministries. The Trade and Industry Board was, for a couple of years, the central administrative office under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, until it was merged with the Ministry in 1926.

In 1921, Finland became party to the Paris Convention. Soon after gaining independence, Finland had started to prepare for signing the 1883 Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The young republic considered it important to be part of an international community in the field of industrial property and it was felt that a well-functioning industrial property system would promote industrial progress, develop and stabilize the state economy, and bring income to the state.

The units handling patents, trademarks and trade register matters within the organization of the Ministry of Trade and Industry had operated in a fairly independent manner vis-à-vis the ministry and in co-operation with one another. In 1939 they formed the Ministry's Department for Patent Matters and the Trade Register. As of 1942, the department has operated as an independent administrative office under the name of the National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR).

For its part, the NBPR continues the work initiated by the Manufacture Board 175 years ago; to honour this, we have compiled an exhibition which illustrates the landmarks in this history. The exhibition will be on show at the Auditorium of the Innohouse until December 2010.

175 YEARS OF HERITAGE

– The Manufacture Board and its successors

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