

Eirik Granqvist



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CV:

Granqvist, Eirik Karl Östen,
born the 7th of April 1944 in Jakobstad, Finland.

Nationality: Finnish, French.

Wife: Danielle Jeanne Julie, born Massay the 28th of June 1945 in St Lizaigne, Indre, France.

Children:

Son, born in Châteauroux, France in 1966.

Daughter, born in Bergen, Norway 1970.

Primary studies:

Kyrkoby folkskola, Nykarleby 1951 – 56. Nykarleby Samskola 1956 – 61. Jakobstads Samlyceum 1961 – 62.

Professional studies:

- ☞ Taxidermy of birds at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm during summer 1961.
- ☞ Student in natural-history museum techniques and taxidermy at the Zoological Museum of the University of Helsinki 1962 – 65 with the following brakes:
- ☞ Studies of greater mammal taxidermy and diorama constructions at Übersee Museum in Bremen, Germany, during the spring 1964.

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- œ Military service from June 1964 to February 1965 (Medical corporal)
- œ Summer-holidays used for museum studies around Europe.

- **Natural History Museum-conservator exam taken in Bremen, Germany 29th of April 1964.**
- **Evening studies in sculpture at the Finnish academy of arts "Ateneum" in Helsinki 1963-64.**
- **Certificate of natural history museum-conservator studies given at the Zoological Museum of the University of Helsinki in March 1965.**

Knowledge of languages:

Mothers language: Swedish

Speak and write fluently: German, English, French, Norwegian and Finnish.

Read without problems texts in all Germanic and Latin languages as well as Finnish and Estonian.

Professional specialities:

- œ Exhibition techniques
- œ Reconstruction of extinct animals and humans
- œ Diorama-constructions
- œ Greater mammal taxidermy
- œ Conservation of natural history objects.

Other professional skills:

- œ Taxidermy of smaller mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians and most evertbrates.
- œ Paraffination techniques
- œ Castings
- œ Model-constructions
- œ Paleontological conservation
- œ Preparation of botanical material for the need of dioramas

Professional carrier:

- œ **Private taxidermist in France from April 1965 to November 1966.**
- **From the 1st of November 1966 to the first of February 1970 Taxidermist and Directors Assistant at Musée des Sciences Naturelles in Orléans, France.**

Main works done in Orléans:

- œ Created a new exhibition of birds using a completely new concept as well as four bird dioramas.
- œ Created an exhibition of French mammals in 36 dioramas containing 25 new-mounted greater mammals and many small ones.
- œ Trained one student in taxidermy.
- œ Given many evening demonstrations in museum-taxidermy for public.
- œ Given training-courses in how to take care of trophies and elementary taxidermy techniques at the game-warden school (Ecole de la Chasse) in Dry, France.
- œ Maintained the aquarium and terrarium of the museum.
- œ Done collecting expeditions to different parts of France, Sweden, Finland, Spain and Maroccan-Sahara.
- œ Conservation of paleontological material including a complete skull of a Deinotherium.
- œ Casting of paleontological and prehistorical objects.

Conservator technical at the Zoological Museum of the University of Bergen, Norway from the first of February 1970 to the 25 of September 1971.

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Main works done in Bergen:

- ☞ Taxidermy of five greater mammals.
- ☞ Created an exhibition about nature protection in Norway.
- ☞ Made the drawings and planned a new exhibition concept for the museum
- ☞ Made two ethnographical mannequins of New Guinea Papuans for the ethnographical museum of the university.
- ☞ Trained two taxidermists.
- ☞ Given lectures to the students at the university in collecting and conservation techniques for zoological objects.
- ☞ Leader for scientific expeditions to Stöhlshemen, Dovre and Hardangervidda.

Chief Conservator of the Zoological Museum of the University of Helsinki from the first of October 1971 to the first of November 1987.

Main works done in Helsinki:

- ☞ Designed and made a new exhibition for the mammals of Finland with 40 dioramas and new-mounted mammals.
- ☞ Designed and made an exhibition about the African fauna with 23 dioramas and 80 new-mounted mammals.
- ☞ Renewed the exhibitions of birds.
- ☞ Designed and made an exhibition of 30 dioramas with Finnish birds.
- ☞ Done collecting expeditions for the University of Helsinki to Kalahari and Okavango 1973. Transvaal 1975 and Alaska 1982.
- ☞ Designed and made an exhibition about human evolution.
- ☞ Worked as expert for the Criminal-police, the Institute of Wildlife Research, the Veterinary Institute, The National Museum and the University of Helsinki for identifying items of animal origins.
- ☞ Given teaching in elementary conservation and how to take care of zoological objects for the students in zoology at the university.
- ☞ Given lectures in comparative anatomy of mammals at the University of Helsinki and the Veterinary High-school.
- ☞ Created the education-system of conservators and museum taxidermists at the University of Helsinki as well as been its main teacher.
- ☞ Often heard as expert by the Parliament, Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in questions touching nature protecting and hunting.
- ☞ Designed exhibitions for the following museums: Seinäjoen Luontomuseo, Ilomantsin Luontomuseo, Rovaniemen Luonnonhistoriallinen Museo, Ålands Museum, Kuopion Luonnonhistoriallinen Museo, Borgå Naturhistoriska Museum, Åbo Landskapsmuseum and the department for ethnography of the National Museum.

Started the project for creating the "Préhistorama", Museum of the Evolution of Life and Man in Bidon, Ardèche, France in 1985 and resigned from Helsinki in 1987 after opening of the museum. In 1996 the museum was moved to Rousson, Gard, France. The activity was taken over by the community of the region of Alès Nord, Department of Gard and Region of Languedoc Roussillon in 2001.

2001 to 2005 director of the Museum of Natural History of Borgå, Finland.

Started the project for creating the Ice-Age Museum in Sibbo, Finland in 2005 to 2006 when resigned cause of age but stays as member of the museum board.

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Special works and activities done internationally:

- œ Given lectures about natural history museum techniques at more than 40 international congresses.
- œ Called upon as expert and consult for modernizing museum-exhibits in Germany, former DDR, France and Barbados.
- œ Chairman at the ICOM/NATHIST symposium for education of conservators and museum-taxidermists in Bochum, Germany in 1985.
- œ Member of ICOM since 1972.
- œ Elected adviser in taxidermy and museums by ICOM/NATHIST at the meeting in New York 1984.
- œ Elected chairman of the working-group for museums and exhibitions at ICOM/NATHIST 1996.
- œ Member of Verein Deutscher Präparatoren since 1964.
- œ Founding member of the Finnish section of Nordiska Konservatorförbundet (Nordic Conservators Association) and its vice president from 1972 – 1984.
- œ Founding member of the French association of taxidermists and board member in 1966. (Syndicat des Naturalistes de France)
- œ Founder of Suomen Eläintäyttäjät ry (Finnish Taxidermist Association) and its president from 1977 to 1985. Honorary member of this association.
- œ On request of the Alaska University, Fairbanks in 1984. Conservation and taxidermy of a 36 000 years old steppe-bison found deep-frozen in the permafrost in Alaska.
- œ Made a copy of the Beresovka mammoth at request of the Academy of Science of Russia in 1985.
- œ Done the reconstruction of a mammoth for Gjøvikhallen at the Olympic Winter games in Lillehammer, Norway. The mammoth is now situated in "Fjellmuseet" in Lom.
- œ Done the reconstruction of an adult mammoth and a calf for Skogbruksmuseet in Elverum, Norway. They are now in the Paleontological Museum of the University of Oslo.
- œ Reconstructed one mammoth and three Neanderthal men for the Museum of Natural History of Kuopio in Finland.
- œ Made 14 reconstructions of prehistoric man and animals for the "Musée Régional de Préhistoire" (Regional museum of prehistory) in Menton, France.
- œ Made two Australopithecine-reconstructions for the Swedish Museum of Natural History, in Stockholm.
- œ Designed the hall of dioramas at "Musée de Préhistoire", Tautavel, France.
- œ **Made the reconstruction and bronze statue of "Madame Pataud" following a 22 000 years old skeleton for Musée de l'Abri Pataud in Les Eyzies de Tayac, Dordogne, France.** The statue is situated at the place of the grave.
- œ Made the reconstruction of a Deningers bear for the Azé cave in France.
- œ Made the reconstructions of a cave bear, cave lion and a cave hyena for Musée Archéologique de Soyons, France.
- œ Made the reconstruction of a cave bear for the cave of Grand Canalette in the Pyrénées, France.
- œ Made three Neanderthal men reconstructions for the Wolf-cave exhibition in Kristinestad, Finland.
- œ Made the taxidermy of three Tianshan ibexes and one Marco Polo sheep for the Finnish Hunting Museum in Riihimäki, Finland.
- œ Made many important taxidermy works for this museum when it was situated in Borgå, Finland. They are all now also in Riihimäki.
- œ **Kept three separate exhibitions of art with bronze sculptures of Finnish animals.** The casts were made in the own foundry.
- œ **Worked as Unesco expert in Niamey, Niger in 1983.**
- œ **Represented UNESCO at the first ICOM AFRICA congress in Niamey, Niger 1983.**

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☞ **Teacher at ICCROM**

☞ Given many lectures in reconstruction techniques in different towns and institutes in Italy.

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☞ Published four books:

☞ **Botswana metsästämässä 1980.** (Book about the collecting trips to Kalahari and Okavango in 1973 and Transvaal in 1975)

☞ **Nos Ancêtres 1989.** (Book about evolution of man)

☞ **Äventyret Människan 2009.** (Popular science book about evolution of life and man).

☞ **My Zoological Museum – Eläinmuseoni - Mitt Zoologiska Museum 2012.** (The book tells about the constructions of the famous, now destroyed dioramas at the Zoological Museum of the University of Helsinki.)

☞

☞ **Under my chairmanship was developed an activity recommendation for the Natural History Museums of the world at the General Conference of ICOM in Stavanger, Norway 1995.**

☞ **Elected board member of ICOM/NATHIST at the General Conference of ICOM in Seoul, Korea 2004.** 3 years mandate.

☞ **Elected Chair of the Working Group on the Art of Taxidermy and its Cultural Heritage Importance in Seoul, Korea.** This duty does still continue.

☞ **Reelected to the same duties at the General Conference of ICOM in Vienna, Austria 2007.** 3 years mandate.

☞ **Upon request of ICOM/NATHIST I arranged the annual meeting of the committee 2005 at the Arctic Museum "Nanuk" in Jakobstad, with excursions to Nykarleby and Larsmo in Finland.**

Called upon by the ministry of culture of China for giving lectures in natural history museum techniques in Dalian and Shanghai in China on behalf of ICOM in 2006.

Negotiated successfully on behalf of ICOM/NATHIST with the minister in charge of museum questions in Peking 2006.

Called upon by the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum for creating a natural history museum taxidermist education school for China 2007 – 2008 and 2009 – 2010. This in quality of PROFESSOR.

Worked as professor teaching natural history museum techniques during the winter 2012-13 for students from all over China at the Natural History Museum of Chongqing, China.

Planned a proposition for dioramas about the nature of China for the new museum of natural history of Shanghai.

Participated 2009 in Directors Forum on the Future of the Worlds Natural History Museums. To this forum were invited only the directors of the worlds greatest Natural History Museums. I participated and gave a speech out of my duty as board member of ICOM/NATHIST and chair of the Working Group on the Art of Taxidermy and its Cultural Heritage Importance.

Called upon by the National Science Museum of Thailand in Bangkok for creating a school for taxidermists for the natural history museums of Thailand in 2011.

Called upon for giving advise to the museums of Natural History and Natural History

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museums projects in Wendzhou, Gandzhou, Qingdao and Chongqing in China 2012.

The director of Culture for the 31 million inhabitants agglomeration of Chongqing: *"You have created the education of taxidermists for the natural history museums of China but of still greater importance is that you have changed the view upon the necessity of natural history museums in China and your ideas and advices are now standing as the base for this new thinking."*

Permanent writer for Chinas Nature & Science review.

Awards:

Honorary member of the of the Terra Amata Institute of Prehistorical Research in Nice, France. (Centre d'Etudes Préhistoriques de Terra Amata)

Honorary member of The Arctic Museum Nanuk, Finland.

Given the Medal of the town of Orléans, France in 1970.

The diorama hall of the Musée des Sciences Naturelles in Orléans rescieved the name: Salle Eirik Granqvist the 30 of June 1970.

Given the medal of The Academy of Science of Russia 1977.

Given the Alpe Giulio medal in Trieste, Italy.

Given the medal of the town of Campomorone, Italy.

Given the medal of the town of Nykarleby, Finland 2011 for a long and successful activity as conservator, artist and museumdirector.

Given the Silver Cross Award "Mérite et Dévouement Francaise" 1997.

Given the Vermeil Cross Award "Mérite et Dévouement Francaise" 2002.

Given the Thorlét price of the French Academy "Arts-Sciences-Lettres" 1998.

Given the "Laborum Pro Patria" medal by "Museum Historicum" Åbo, Finland 1998.

Given the Information Price of the University of Helsinki 1986.

Given the "Björn Kurtén Price" 2000 for "Long-term and internationally visible work for on a high scientific level popularization of the mammalian fauna of the Ice-Age and the evolution of man."

Named PROFESSOR and registered as staff-member of the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum in China for lifetime 2007.

Given the Award of "French Citizen of Honor" by the French Parliament 2001.

Given the MAGNOLIA SILVER AWARD by Shanghai Municipal People's Government "in appreciation of your valuable support to Shanghai's development and outstanding contributions to our friendly cooperation."2010. This is the highest award that can be given to a non Chinese.

Borgå the 12:th of March 2013

Eirik Granqvist