

THREE METRE HIGH DRAGONFLY STATUE IN FINLAND

In December 1966 a statue showing a group of dragonflies was unveiled on the occasion of the opening of a bank office in the city of Lahti (address: Lahden Säästöpankki, Rautatiekatu 20 A, SF-15110 Lahti-11). The three metre high piece of art repre-

sents a pair of an anisopterous dragonfly ovipositing in a reed stalk, accompanied by a third individual above the pair (Fig. 1). The fountain beneath the dragonflies makes the composition very natural and enjoyable.

The statue was made by the well known Finnish sculptor Heikki Nieminen from embossed steel using the welding method.

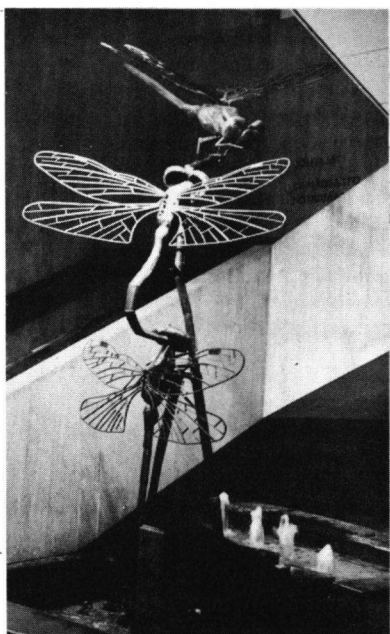


Fig. 1. "Dragonflies", a steel statue by Heikki Nieminen.

The steel was polished, blued by heating and finally varnished. The artist also made two miniature copies of the statue by the same method. The smaller one (0.5 m high) is in the possession of the bank mentioned above, and the other (1 m high) is placed in the city hall of Espoo. The latter statue shows the ovipositing pair only.

A keen interest in nature and in dragonflies gave the sculptor the inspiration to use dragonflies as models for his art production. To obtain a lifelike resemblance he photographed dragonflies in nature. A *Sympetrum* species has most obviously served as the model. Creating the drafts and the monument took the sculptor more than one year.

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