Kun Isällä on Hammassärky

(translation unknown; UK = “When Father Has Toothache”)
Finland : 1923 : dir. Erkki Karu : Suomi-Filmi Silent : ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
……
Aku Käyhkö; Naimi Kari

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∉ Z ☠	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Why hallucinate imps when you can have one living with you? *Source: Finnish Cinema*

Finnish Cinema comment:

“Two of the partners in Suomi-Filmi were forceful film-makers. Teuvo Poro had co-directed **"THE MOONSHINERS"** and was responsible for **"SYLVÍ"** in 1913... Erkki Karu was at first more of a businessman, piloting Suomi-Filmi through the economic crises of the Twenties into the more favourable Thirties. As a director, he was definitely talented, as **"THE VILLAGE SHOE-MAKERS"** confirms. In 1969, to celebrate the golden jubilee of Suomi-Filmi, Kari Uusitalo resurrected Karu’s comedy, **"WHEN FATHER HAS TOOTHACHE"** ("Kun Isällä on Hammassärky", 1923).

The film pokes delicious fun at the prohibition laws then in force in Scandinavia. The hero is afflicted with raging toothache, and dances round his parlour in agony, making things worse by touching a scalding kettle. But in his safe he has the salve for all wounds: a ten-litre bottle of spirits. As he consumes the alcohol with relentless vigour, he envisions a devil, smashing him into oblivion with a monstrous hammer. Finally the tooth is extracted by two cheerful nurses, and our hero departs in peace. Tinted in red, blue and gold, and brightened up by Uusitalo with a honky-tonky piano accompaniment and amusing sound effects, this short offers a tantalising glimpse into the early Finnish cinema."

[**no listing** in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "The Moving Picture Boy", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The pictured boy is not identified (nor mentioned), but we can safely say he's the earliest Finnish child actor known to the archive thus far. The plot as set out conforms pretty much to the conventions of silent film comedy, but like all films of that vintage it has added interest as a time capsule.

See subject index under **COMEDY, SCANDINAVIA** and **SILENT CINEMA**.