



Night Watchman's Round

neighborhood of H. C. Andersen

When: June 8, 2022 with start at 21:15

Where: in front of the city hall where the conference reception will take place

The guided tour is in english



Since the 16th century, there has been a night watchman in Odense. The earliest traces of the night watchman's song we recorded in our country dates from the beginning of the 16th century and refers to the 127th David's psalm: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain; unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen watch in vain"*.

From 1770 the guarding of the town became organized as follows: during the night there were 1 watchman-guard master, 15 street watchmen, 2 tower watchmen; and, for the dayshift, there were 4 policemen. The watchman should take oath that he would carry out his watch faithfully, diligently and without deception - and take care of the following:

- * To awaken and alert the citizens in case of a fire
- * To lighten, control and maintenance the train-oil-streetlamps
- * To control and maintenance of the city-wells
- * To control the garbagemen
- * To keep an eye on the "nightman", who empties the city cloos

- * To control the traffic in the streets and alleys
- * To put bottling line on open beer-, wine barrels at 'closing-for serving-alcohol-time' at 10 pm in every guesthouse, Inn, Pub
- * To guide people on the streets – after 10 pm - to their home or to set them in the dungeon at the Townhall
- * To remove drunk people from streets and alleys
- * To capture violent people, thieves, robbers and other criminals,
- * To - each hour - shout the hour and sing the hour-vers from The Nightwatchman-Hymn

In day-time:

- * To watch at the scaffold by executions and other punishments
- * To walk through the town with criminals wearing the Spanish Mantel
- * To wake sleeping people at the highmas in the churches on Sundays

In 1866 the Nightwatchmen were replaced by a real police force. Since 1993 nightwatchmen have again been carrying out their rounds in Odense.

Short review of the history of Odense

- * Artefacts show signs of human activity in the bronze-age and the early iron-age
- * 980 Viking-ring-fortres "Nonnebakken"
- * 988 Odense is mentioned for the first time in a written source – in a letter to The German-Roman Emperor Carl the 3'th Court in Aachen
- * 1086 The murder of King Canute the 4. (*King Canute the Sacred*) in The Sct. Alban Church
- * 1231 Odense is mentioned in The Will (Testament) of King Valdemar the 2.
- * 1247 The city was on fire because of war between two of the noble families.
- * 1477 The Rights as a Merchant-Town confirmed by King Christian the 1.
- * 1500th century (The first half) Queen Christine lived in Odense (Næsby-Hoved Castle)
- * 1534-36 Civil-war between royal- and noble-families and the introduction of *The Lutheran Reformation*.
- * 1549 The first pharmacist (Apothecary) in Odense
- * 1580 The County leaders ceremonial acknowledgement of King Frederik the 2.
- * **1639 King Christian the 4. established the regulations for The Nightwatchmen in Odense**
- * 1677 The priest, author, hymn-writer and poet Thomas Kingo (1634 - 1703)becomes Bishop of Odense. (He wrote the nightwatchman-hymn)
- * 1705 Author Ambrosius Stub is born (Odense 1741-47) – dies in Ribe 1758
- * 1720 Sct. John Monastery is rebuilt and converted to The Odense Castle
- * 1762 Train-Oil-streetlamps in Odense
- * 1795 Odense Theatre (Komediehuset) on Sortebrødretorv
- * 1805 H. C. Andersen is born (He leaves Odense in 1819)



- * 1807 Rasmus Rask (linguist) finished his apprenticeship at the latin-school
- * 1803 Opening of Odense Canal and Odense Harbour
- * 1829 C. F. Tietgen is born – he leaves the city in 1849
- * 1836 The first Iron-foundry in Odense
- * 1846 The first bank in Odense
- * 1853 Gas- and waterworks in Odense
- * 1859 Albani Breweries
- * 1860 The first provincial art-museum in Denmark in Jernbanegade
- * 1865 Odense Railway station / Railway across Funen: Middelfart-Odense-Nyborg
- * 1865 Carl Nielsen is born in Nr. Lyndelse south of Odense (He is in Odense 1879-1883)
- * **1866 Nightwatchman-guild (Corps) decommissioned**
- * 1867 H. C. Andersen becomes a “honorary citizen” and hailed by The cityzens torch-procession
- * 1883 New Town-Hall (Oldest part of the present townhall)
- * 1891 Public Electricity Supply
- * 1894 Thomas B. Thrige is founder of the industrialism in Odense

Odense Historiske Nattevægtere:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Vægterne-i-Odense-328958553890794/>

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