

Night Watchman's Round



The Night Watchman's Round in the old neighbourhood of H. C. Andersen

Since the 16th century, there have 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: There were at night 1 watchman-guardmaster, 15 street watchmen, 2 tower watchmen; and there were 4 policemen for the dayshift. 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 loos
- * To control the traffic in the streets and allies
- * To put bottling line on open beer-, winebarrels at 'closing-forserving- alcohol-time' at 22.00 in every guesthouse, Inn, Pub
- * To guide people on the streets – after 22.00 - 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 highmass in the churches on sondays

The Nightwatchmen were in 1866 replaced by a real police force.





From **1. July – 31. august**
the watchman walks his round
every evening (*except Sundays*) at **9 pm.** (21.00 hr.)
starting from "**Den gamle Kro**" in **Overgade 23.**
The Watchman's round have a duration of approx. 1 Hour
and is *free of charge.*
It is normally *in Danish*, but if you ask the Night-Watchman,
he will make a brief translation of his stories.
Every Wednesday the Nightwatchman's round ends
with a small 20 min. Watchman's Service in Vor Frue Kirke..



Odense City
and
Odense Historic Nightwatchmen
is member of
The European Guild of Night- and Towerwatchmen



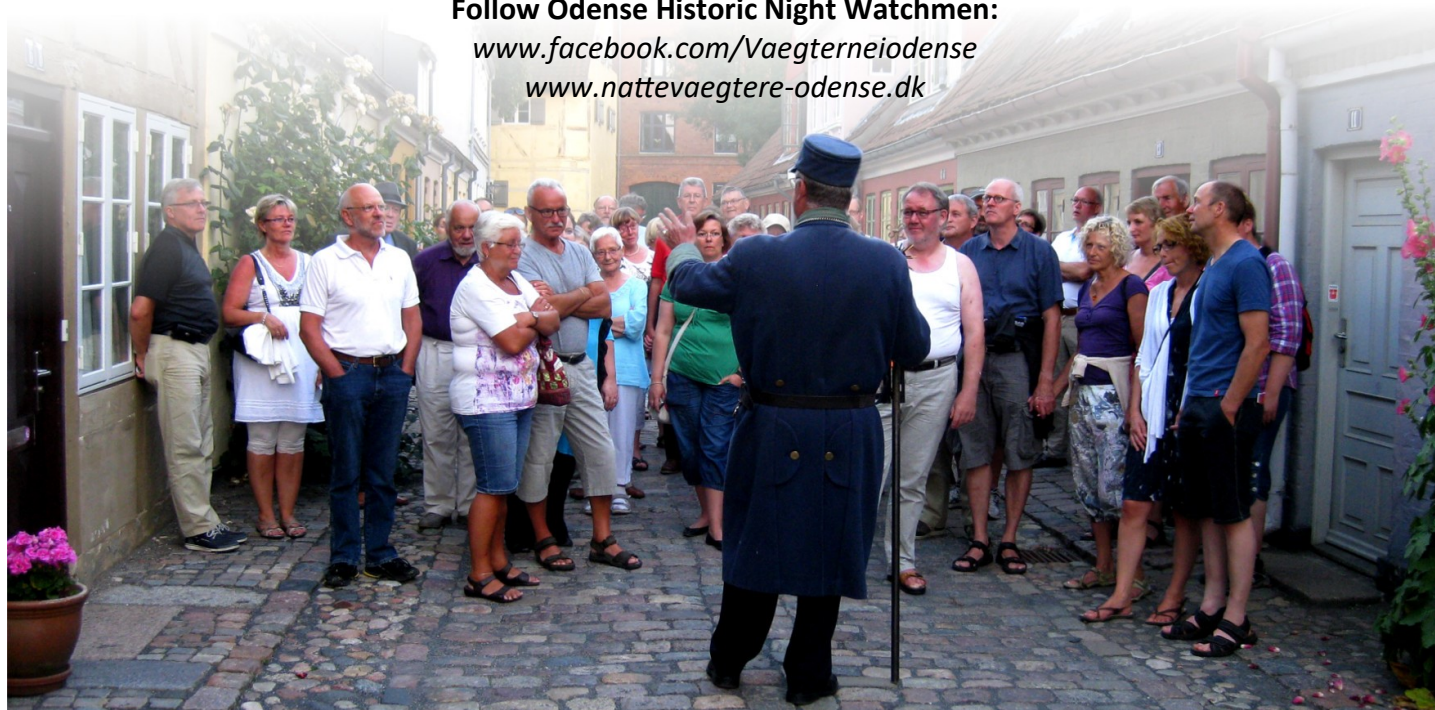
The nightwatchrounds are supported by "*The Nightwatchmans Friends*"
and sponsored by:

Odense kommune, Den Gamle Kro, Kramboden, Albani,
Casino Odense, Restaurant Grønttorvet, Kick Off Sportpub
and Lørups Vinstue.

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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

1657-58 Swedish troupes occupied 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 Railwaystation / 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

