

Nationalmuseet

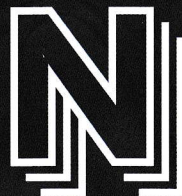
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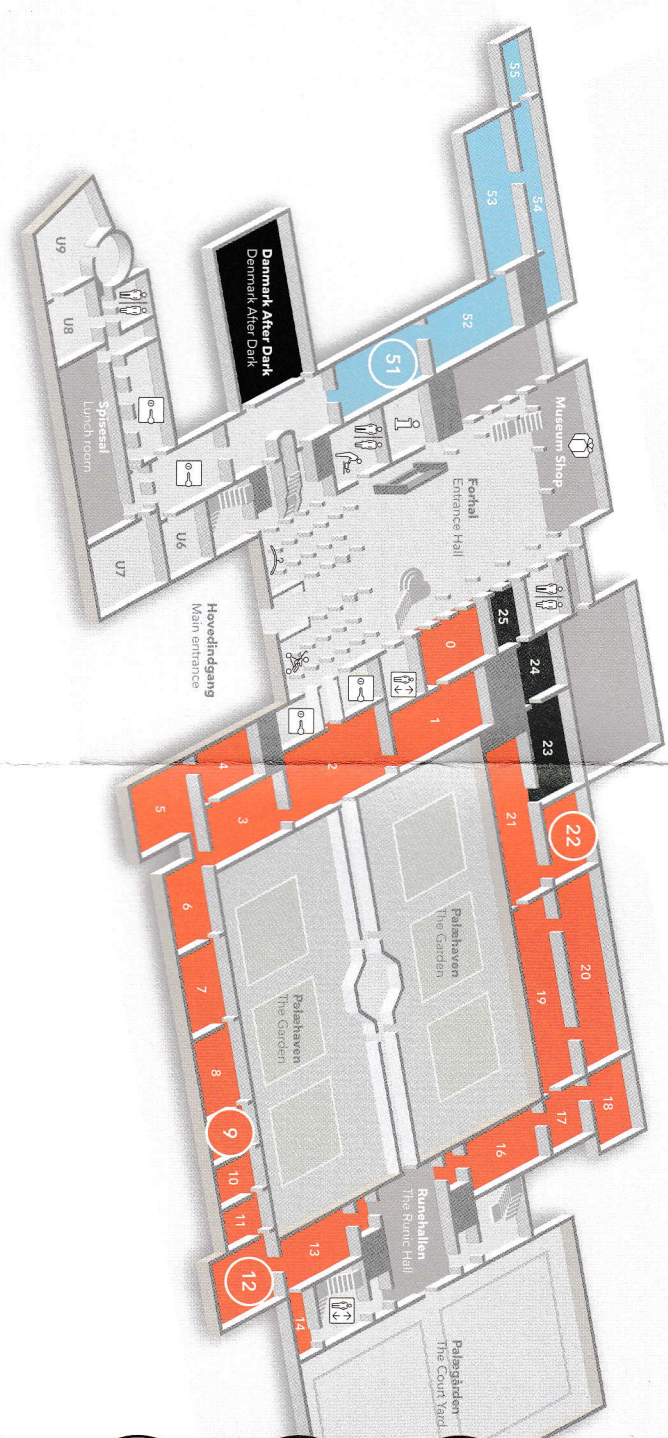
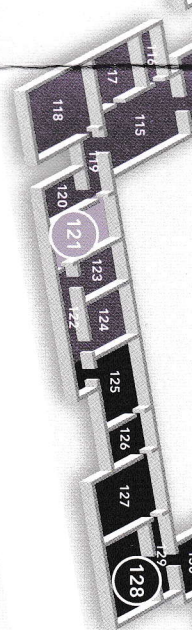
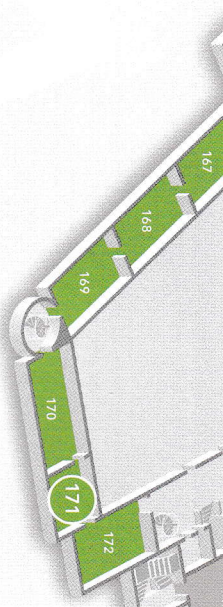
Guide til museet

A guide to your visit



National Museum of Denmark





Kongens Kunstkammer
The King's Curiosities



Arktisk folk
People of the Arctic



Guldhornene
The Golden Horns



Solvognen
The Sun Chariot



Egtvedpigen
The Egtved Girl



Børnenes museum
The Children's Museum

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Børnenes Museum
The Children's Museum

Danmarks Oldtid
Danish Prehistory

Jagten på danmarkshistorien
Searching for the
History of Denmark

Danmark After Dark
Denmark After Dark

1

Jordens Folk
Peoples of the Earth

**Danmarks Middelalder
og Renaissance**
Danish Middle Ages
and Renaissance

Kongens Kunstkammer
The King's Curiosities

Stemmer fra kolonierne
Voices from the Colonies

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Etnografiske Skatkamre
Ethnographical Treasures

Legetøj
Toys

Danmarkshistorier 1660-2000
Stories of Denmark 1660-2000

KA-CHING!

3

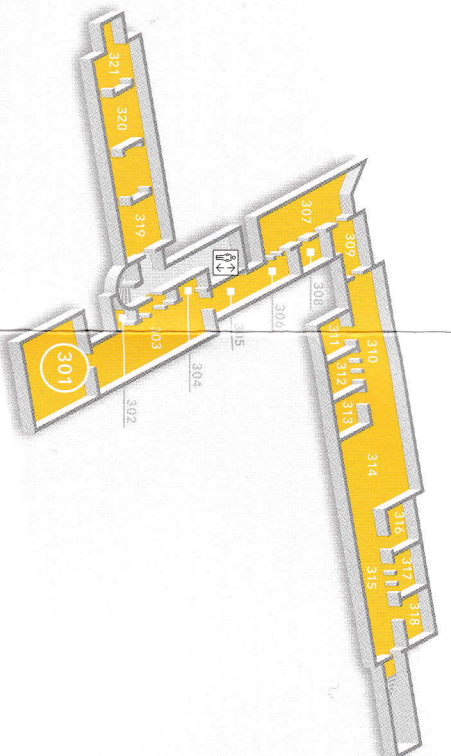
Antiksamlingen
Classical, Egyptian and
Near Eastern Antiquities

Udvalgte højdepunkter

Selected highlights



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Egyptian Mummy



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Dukkehus
Dolls Houses



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Visit the 1970s



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Bødlens økse
The Executioner's Axe



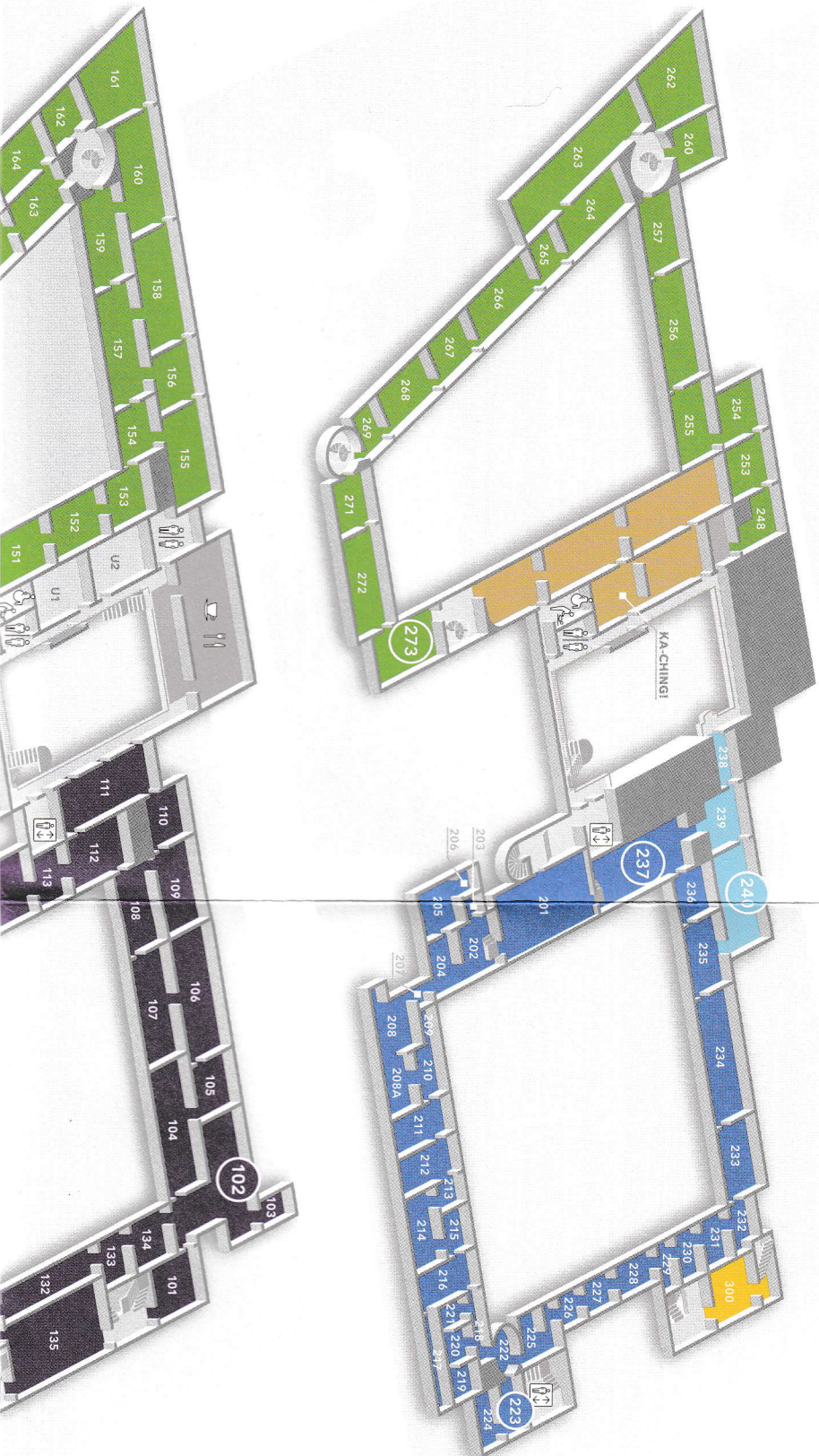
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Arctic Treasures



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Semmer fra kolonierne
Voices from the Colonies



1



Room 106

Queen Margrete I ruler of the Nordic countries

The woman who gathered Scandinavia. Never before or since has the kingdom been as large as it was when Margrete I created the Kalmar Union in 1397. It covered Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands. Like Margrethe II, she was not born with the right to rule. Margrethe I instead came to power because the heir to the throne, her son, was too young to be king. Unlike other rulers of the time, she mainly expanded her realm by negotiation. Even her opponents described her as astute and clever. In instructions to her foster son, Erik, she wrote: "If someone asks for something, you shall wait with this for as long as you can. If they want to know your opinion, you must postpone this until I arrive, and tell them that you are expecting me soon, and as soon as I arrive, you may do this, if I allow it. But you cannot do anything until I arrive, because I know more about it than you". The legacy of this powerful Queen lives on. The gilded silver cup is incorrectly associated with Denmark's first ruling queen, despite the fact that she never held it in her hand. By the time the silversmith engraved her coat of arms in the year 1700, the Queen had mythological status.

2



Room 102

King Harald Bluetooth and Christianity

Denmark's first king was Gorm the Old, who ruled the land from Jelling in Jutland. He was succeeded by his son Harald Bluetooth, who became ruler in 958. The seven gilded copper plates from Tandrup Church near Horsens tell, almost in cartoon fashion, the story of how Harald Bluetooth was converted to Christianity. According to the German monk Widukin, the priest Poppo was sent to Denmark to tell him about this religion. King Harald was sceptical and presented Poppo with a challenge. He had to prove that his God was worth putting trust in through an 'ordeal by fire'. Poppo had to carry red-hot iron in his hands. If he was not burnt in the process, it was because his God protected him. When Poppo's hands were not injured, Harald Bluetooth was so impressed that he decided to change religion and adopt Christianity. Since then, all Danish monarchs have been Christian.



Riddersalen (the Great Hall) room 135

King Christian VI and the Crown Prince's residence

Christian VI was king during the years 1730-1746. He was passionately interested in architecture, and in 1740, together with his family, moved into the newly built Christiansborg Palace. The palace included the attractive riding ground and elegant marble bridge, which we can see from the windows in this room.

Architect Nicolai Eigtved was subsequently appointed to erect another palace here. This was to be a fitting and modern residence for the Crown Prince, who later became Frederik V, and his wife the English princess Louise. The palace was named the Princess's Palace and, with its buildings and the great hall here, is one of Denmark's finest Rococo buildings.



Room 121

King Frederik III and his collection

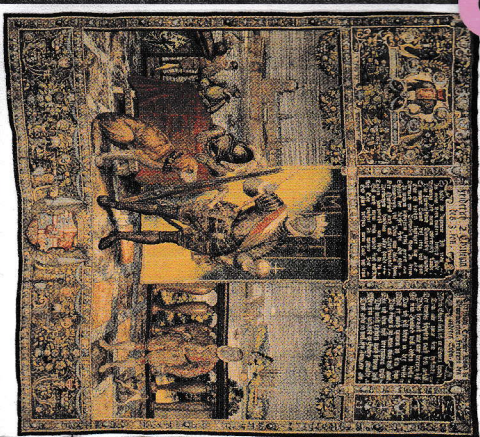
In the Renaissance, every self-respecting prince had a magnificent cabinet of curiosities ('Kunstkammer' in Danish). This, like a museum, was filled with valuable and exotic objects, which attracted the attention and admiration of the princes' guests. Frederik III was an avid collector of objects of both subtle and spectacular character from all over the world. Around 1650, all his objects were assembled in a special collection of curiosities (Kunstkammer), which the king proudly displayed when heads of state and princes visited Denmark. As well as art from all over the world, Frederik III's Kunstkammer also contained rare antiquities, stuffed animals, and exotic items, such as flies, and spiders preserved in amber.



Room 118

King Christian IV and the impressive buildings

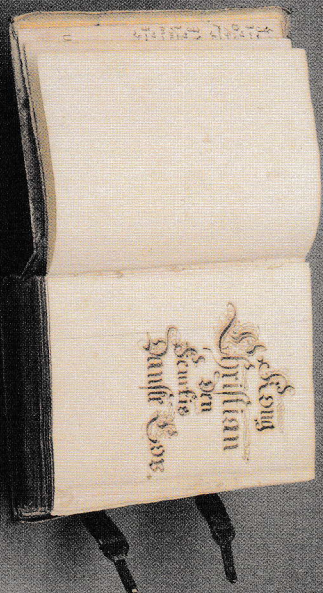
Christian IV is one of the most famous Danish kings. He reigned from 1588 until 1648 and was an enterprising ruler. One building after another was built in the kingdom. These included Rosenborg Castle, the Exchange and the Round Tower, as well as entire neighbourhoods, such as Nyboder and Christianshavn. Christian IV also had a large and pompous stone monument made, for when he eventually died. Until that event occurred, the monument was stored at the Royal Arsenal (Tøjhuset), but in 1647, the year before the king died, this building was ravaged by fire. Apart from this alabaster head, which is a good depiction of the king from his best years around 1614, the monument was destroyed in the fire.



Room 114

King Frederik II and the royal lineage

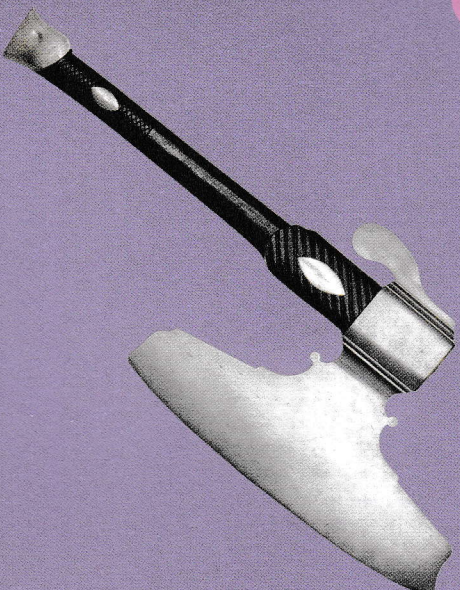
The royal tapestries in this room once hung in the magnificent Ballroom at Kronborg Castle, along with 42 other woven royal tapestries. The king, who had ordered them for his newly built castle, was Frederik II. The king himself is depicted in one of the tapestries here, together with his young son, Crown Prince Christian IV. The woven tapestries feature the long line of Danish monarchs, with a total of 100 kings. The series of kings was a highlight, which Frederik II used to show that his powerful lineage would also continue to occupy the throne in the future. Frederik II was the first Danish king to seriously use art, architecture, science and the writing of history to glorify royal power. With him the world opened and Denmark was reborn. New ideas became established and paved the way for the modern society.



Room 205

King Christian V and a common law in Denmark

In 1660, the absolute monarchy was introduced in Denmark. The absolute monarch was king by the grace of God and only God was above the king. In this room here you can see portraits of all the absolute Danish kings. One of these was Christian V. I reigned from 1670-1699 and was immensely popular amongst the population. Although it was said that he was not especially intelligent, during his reign he created order within and systematised the Danish kingdom. Up until 1683, Denmark was divided into jurisdictions made up of Jutland, Zealand, and Scania. 'Danish Law' was then introduced, which applied to the whole country, and in 1687 also formed the basis of a law for Norway.



Room 223

King Christian VII and the unfaithful queen

The axe here bears witness to a dramatic period under Christian VII who reigned from 1766-1808. The king was mentally ill and had difficulties fulfilling the role as ruler. This created a power vacuum, in which the king's physician, Johan Friedrich Struensee, began to have an affair with Queen Caroline Mathilde and became the real leader of Denmark. For around two years, Struensee steered the country towards reforms and laws that were to pave the way for, amongst other things, a free press and the abolition of torture. But he also attacked the church and the army, making many enemies along the way. One of these was the king's stepmother, Queen Dowager Juliane Marie. Together with a group of trusted men, she was the driving force behind a coup in 1772, which led to Queen Caroline Mathilde being exiled without her two children and Struensee's life ending under the axe here. Christian VII's son Frederik (VI) reclaimed power in another coup d'état in 1784, and ruled Denmark in his father's name until the sick king died in 1808. If you look out of the window you can see Christiansborg Palace, where Struensee and the queen were arrested on a freezing cold winter morning in January 1772.



Room 227

King Frederik VII and the Constitutional Act of 1849

In this lithograph, probably dating to 1874, Frederik VII can be seen signing the Constitutional Act of 5 June 1849. Frederik VII was not especially hardworking and had little sense of duty, but enjoyed archaeology and undertaking representative tasks. Even though Frederik VII gave power to the middle classes, he was not well respected by this social group. They frowned upon his debauched lifestyle, which involved drinking and several wives. The relationship with his third wife, the ballet dancer Louise Rasmussen (Countess Danner), was a source of particular outrage. He nevertheless became one of the more popular kings. In his many journeys around the country, Frederik came close to the ordinary Danish people, who respected and loved both him and the countess.



Room 234

King Christian X and the right for women to vote

On 5 June 1915, Danish women were given the right to vote. The plate here in the display cabinet hung in many Danish homes, as a thank you to the men who 'gave' women the right to participate in the Danish democracy. At this time, Christian X reigned in Denmark. It is him we see in the middle of the plate amongst all the other men. In 1915, women went to Amalienborg to thank him for their newly acquired right to vote. It was a right that most men had been granted in 1849, when Denmark was given its first Constitution. When a specially chosen delegation reached the king, one of the women exclaimed: "Your majesty, this is the happiest day of my life." She then held her breath, because she had not intended to say such a thing. The king looked at her in astonishment and answered, "Yes, I think you better go home now and make coffee for your husband."