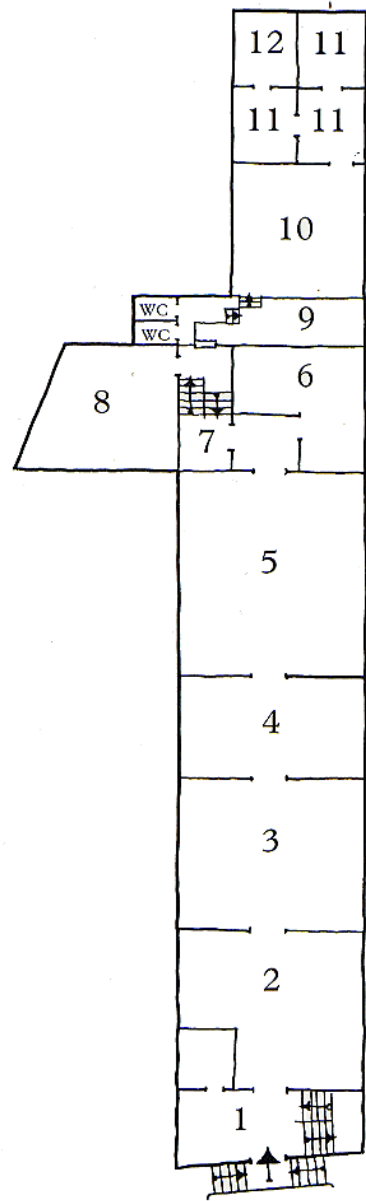


## Guide to exhibitions in the Museum of Bornholm

### Ground floor, rooms 1-7:



#### 1. Shop and museum attendant office

**2. Early Stone Age - 3900 BC** The oldest vestiges of settlements date back to c.9500 BC. It is not until the Maglemosian age, 8000-6800 BC, however that we have enough finds to shed light on hunters' settlement patterns and folk culture in the Stone Age. During this period, Bornholm was connected with the mainland and culturally affiliated with regions in Germany and Poland. From 6800 to 4500 BC, Bornholm was again separated from the continent, and we know of no settlement remains from this period. In the late Ertebølle age, after 4500 BC, coastal settlements reappear and demonstrate a cultural affiliation with South East Scania. A kitchen midden at Grisby, south of Svaneke, reveals a diet based on fishing and seal hunting, as well as hunting for red and roe deer and wild boar.

**2. Late Stone Age - 3900-1800 BC.** In the Neolithic age, large amounts of flint were imported, in addition to grain and domestic animals. Local flint stones were too small for making large tools, and the sharp-edged flint axes that were used for felling trees and building houses were sailed to the island. Since agriculture resulted in more permanent settlements and in the need to protect crops and animals, large sturdy long houses were built. An unusually large number of Stone Age houses have been found on Bornholm. The model house on display is a reconstruction of a long house from the Dagger Period (2400-1800 BC), excavated at Limensgård near Aakirkeby. Later, agriculture also meant increased reliance on natural forces. Sacrificial offerings of objects like flint tools were widespread in marshes and near springs and boulders, and large, ritual gathering sites and burial chambers made of boulders (dolmens and passage graves) were built for a chosen few. Around 2800 BC, a cultural change set in that in the course of a few generations changed the historical culture of Stone Age farmers: Individual graves and graves covered by mounds became common.

**3. Bronze Age 1800-500 BC.** The Bronze Age is characterised by individual entombment under large mounds, often containing graves of both men and women with abundant burial deposits of bronze. Around 1000 BC, cremation and the use of sepulchral urns became common and burial deposits were more modest. Many graves were still placed in mounds, but increasing numbers were placed at the foot of mounds or in flatland burial sites. The erection of monoliths and the art of rock engravings also prevailed.

**3. Early Iron Age 500 BC - 400 AD.** More than 300 registered burial sites with several thousand graves are attributed to the early Iron Age, making it one of the most thoroughly studied prehistoric periods. Around the year 0, the tradition of earth graves once again prevailed, but was not entirely dominant until the introduction of Christianity c.1050. As a rule, the burial deposits in the oldest graves are meagre, but the Roman period, 0-400 AD, shows signs of increasing prosperity and greater social disparity.

**3. Late Iron Age 400-800 AD.** This period is attributed with some of Denmark's most abundant archaeological sites which are found within a limited area near Østerlars and Gudhjem. The most plentiful burial site was found in 1986 near Nr. Sandegård Farm in Østerlars where abundantly equipped warrior graves and women graves containing colourful glass beads and elegant jewellery settings were unearthed.

**4. Gold figurines, the Germanic Iron Age, 550-600 AD.** More than 2,300 gold figurines, small sheet-gold figurines, were found at Sorte Muld in Ibsker. The figurines were probably used as sacred offerings or "temple money". The most frequently used figure is of a man dressed in an elegant costume, though a few figurines depicting women and animals were also found.

**Viking Age, 800-1050 AD.** The museum has only a few artefacts from this period. Bornholm is noted for its pre-Christian burial sites containing more than 500 graves from the 11th century.

**5. Church requisites and furniture** At the end of the 1800s the medieval churches on Bornholm were rebuilt. A few were torn down to make room for larger, more modern churches. Many of the artefacts ended up at the museum. The medieval requisites include a Romanesque baptismal font from Klemens Church and a chancel arch crucifix and saint's figure from Pouls Church dating from

the 1400s. Three fine 17th century altarpieces from Nyker Church and Klemensker and Vestermarie churches, pulpits from Vestermarie Church (1610), Østermarie Church (1820), and Nyker Church (1826). Other noteworthy pieces include the plague tablet from Rønne Church (the plague took the lives of almost 10,000 people in the 1600s) and the ceiling from the old Rønne Church, painted c.1750. The funeral candlesticks with black mourning crape were traditionally used at Bornholm funerals.

**Old furniture** The chapel contains a display of some of the oldest preserved furniture from Bornholm. Of particular interest is a Gothic sea-chest from c.15th or 16th century, two Renaissance chests from the mid-1500s, a Renaissance cupboard from the early 1600s and a stone table from the late 1500s.

**6. Middle Ages** The Middle Ages "ended" on Bornholm in 1576, the year the Lübeckians vacated Hammershus Castle after ruling Bornholm for fifty years as their district (the Lübeckians collected the taxes from Bornholm's inhabitants). The Middle Ages were typified by conflicts between royal power and the archiepiscopal see in Lund. The king built Lilleborg Castle in Almindingen c.1150, and the archbishop built Hammershus c.1200. The medieval churches, including the four unique round churches, and the two castles are the only remaining structures from the Middle Ages on Bornholm. The museum displays numerous church relics and various finds, especially from Lilleborg. The around forty Bornholm runic stones date from the early Middle Ages (1050-1150).

**Printzensköld** In 1658, Denmark lost the districts of Scania, Halland and Blekinge, as well as Bornholm to the Swedes. Bornholm was part of Sweden for a few months, but a conspiracy of Bornholm citizens, including Jens Pedersen Kofoed (1628-91) resulted in the killing of Printzensköld (1615-58), Sweden's lord lieutenant on the island. A pistol displayed in the museum was once thought to be the weapon used to kill Printzensköld, but it is 100 years too young. A contemporary note in the bible of king Frederik II from 1589 describes the event itself.

**7. Maps of Bornholm and silversmiths** A little selection of the museum's fine map collection is displayed along the stairway. Many fine, detailed maps have survived, particularly from the 1700s and 1800s. A special gem is the large "Hammer's Map", a precise record of Bornholm from 1746-50.

**Silver** The collection of silver work from Bornholm demonstrates how this noble craft was expressed in the provinces: Goblets, vinaigrettes, cutlery, dress jewellery and the like. Note the two generations of the Sonne family in the 1700s, particularly their fine vinaigrettes and jewellery. Note also the three generations of the Kolling family in the 1800-1900s, who were the only local silversmiths to make large hollowware.

#### Side buildings, rooms 8-12:

**8. Ethnography** The ethnographic collection is a cabinet of curiosities from most of the world. The artefacts were collected by Bornholm citizens who were active around the world. A particularly large collection originates from the Belgian Congo through commander Knud Jespersen. Plantation manager Thorvald Nielsen sent back objects from Malaysia, Peder Nygård from places like Australia, and James Oisen who was a minister and customs superintendent in China, sent a large collection of Chinese objects. The collection is especially interesting due to the personal histories of adventuresome Bornholm citizens.

#### 9. Lounge and WC's

#### 10. Second World War on Bornholm

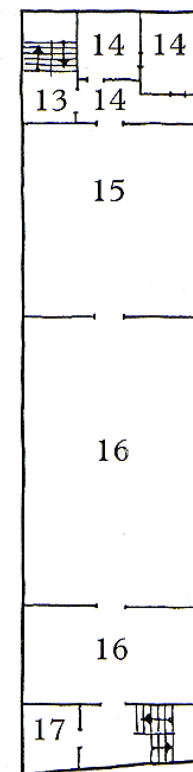
**11. Court singer Vilhelm Herold** Tenor Vilhelm Herold, 1865-1937, was born in Hasle. He sang on the major stages of Europe and recorded almost 150 arias on wax cylinders, one of the first to do so in Denmark. A large part of this repertoire was later recorded on lacquer discs. In his last years, he was a voice teacher and leader of the Royal Theatre's school of opera.

**12. Carl Ulrich Boesen's surgery** The room shows how a Bornholm medical practice might have looked from 1895 to around 1940. Dr. Carl Ulrich Boesen, 1870-1953, could mend broken bones, treat arthritis and discuss politics, culture and literature.

### First floor, rooms 13-17

**13. Kristian Zahrtmann's tapestries** After the death of famous painter Kristian Zahrtmann in 1917, two unique tapestries embroidered in 1709 were bequeathed to the Museum. The tapestries were frequent motifs in Zahrtmann's paintings. They originated from his mother's family in Rønne where they were said to have been embroidered by two elderly women after German oil paintings owned by the museum. The tapestries are a set and were originally intended as chair covers; they depict the Passion. The painted originals are reproductions of engravings made by Flemish copper engraver Henrich Goltzius in 1596-98.

**14. Christiansø Island** The Ertholmene archipelago, the location of Christian V's old "Christiansø" fortress, is Denmark's easternmost outpost. The fortifications were started in 1684, at the same time that the military abandoned Hammershus as a fortress and started tearing down the old castle. In 1855, a royal decree closed down Christiansø as a fortress but a small military garrison remained on the islands until 1863. Ever since, the islands, which are still owned by the Ministry of Defence, have been inhabited by pilots, fishermen, and persons employed at the lighthouse - as well as artists. The museum's tiny apartment belonged to Christiansø's former "postmistress", Agnes Due. She came from a family of ten children and was one of the last people on the island whose lineage could be traced through generations of pilots, mariners, fishermen and soldiers



**15. Bornholmerure (grandfather clocks), furniture and textiles** The saga of the Bornholm clockmaking industry began like a real fairy tale: In 1744, a Dutch ship with a cargo of English grandfather clocks stranded between Rønne and Hasle. A few "competent" turners were put to work cleaning and repairing the clocks before the clocks were sent to a wreckage auction. The artisans got the urge to become clockmakers themselves, and within a few years, the production and export of clocks was in full swing. Eight artisans were the first self-taught clockmakers, of whom the two brothers, Otto and Peter Arboe are well-known. The most proficient clockmaker was Jørgen Peter Arboe, son of Peter Arboe. He took part in founding a sort of clockmakers' guild, *Rønne Uhrmagerinteressenskab*, which functioned from 1821 to 1894. The clocks were exported by shipmasters to Copenhagen and the rest of Denmark. Clock sales peaked around 1830 to 1870, which at that time consisted of late Empire grandfather, grandmother and maiden clocks. Competition from machine-made clocks gradually caused the clockmaking tradition to die out. Around 240 clockmakers were active on Bornholm from around 1750 to 1900. The museum has two clockmaker workshops, one of which belonged to Hans Peter Dam (1836-1911), the last functioning clockmaker in *Rønne Uhrmagerinteressenskab*. The newer repair workshop belonged to Ludvig Hermansen who established a clockmaking business in Årsballe in the 1880s.

**Costumes** Bornholm apparel during the last two hundred years was influenced by Danish, middle-class, market-town fashion. A regional Bornholm costume does not exist, but women have always worn unique Bornholm headgear, *Hatt å Houa*, *Nølla*, and *Påsighbundet*. Bornholm has a rich textile tradition. A special feature of this tradition was that women, instead of professional artisans, were normally responsible for weaving and dyeing both for household purposes and for sale. More information about this old textile tradition is available at Melstedgård Agriculture Museum.

**Furniture** The Museum has a large collection of furniture, part of which is on display at Melstedgård and Erichsen's Gård. Bornholm furniture differs only in detail from other Danish furniture. The general style trends can be traced from Baroque to Classicism, Empire, Biedermeier and Victorianism. The tableaux in the clock exhibition show the development on Bornholm of clocks, furniture and apparel from 1750 to 1900.

#### 16. Changing exhibitions 17. Office for the maritime section

### Upper floor, rooms 18-20

**18. Shipping** Bornholm has always been greatly dependent on shipping. In the 1700s, a growing class of shipmasters ensured potential markets for farming and trade. This enabled various trades to flourish, such as clockmaking and the ceramics industry (described at Hjorths Fabrik, Bornholm's ceramics museum). Mariners brought back prosperity, invested in ships, sailed even further, and over time brought the rest of the world and new impressions back with them. The museum displays a large collection of ship portraits, i.e. paintings of ships registered on Bornholm, and naturally many other maritime artefacts: Navigation instruments, figureheads, customs articles and much more. The indispensable passenger and mail transport to and from the island is depicted up to the present.

**Cabin** The ship timber's cabin offers special insight into the life of a sailor. Herluf Pedersen, 1905-87, sailed from Svaneke at the age of 17 and returned home 52 years later. He managed to sail to all the continents, travelling around the world and crossing the equator many times. He was one of the last on board when the journey to Australia still rounded Cape Horn. Many of the articles made by this dextrous seaman on his watches below are now exhibited in the small cabin.

**19. Classroom, toys and nursery** The old classroom tells a lot about school in days gone by providing a clue to what a classroom looked like where children spent many hours and what they might have learned. Play is another aspect of childhood. The museum has an abundant toy collection, including girls' toys such as dolls, dollhouses and dinner and tea sets and scraps, while boys' favourite pastimes included items like tin soldiers, cars and building blocks. Home-made and shared toys are also exhibited. Naturally the Museum has set aside a play corner for children.

**General store** This is an exhibition of a general store with counter, coffee grinder, goods and old inventory. It consists of parts from various general stores, many of which were closed down in the 1970s. The time depicted here is between the wars, c.1920-40, when grocers still weighed most of the goods, at the same time that modern, packaged goods were starting to gain ground.

Drawing: Bent Kaas, 1998

## MUSEUM OF BORNHOLM

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