

The Town Museum – Synagogue

The building was built in the plain classicist style in the 2nd half of the 19th century. The premises of the former synagogue, which have been used by the museum since 1959, have been adapted to the exhibition area without regard to its original decoration and purpose. From the 1st May until the end of September



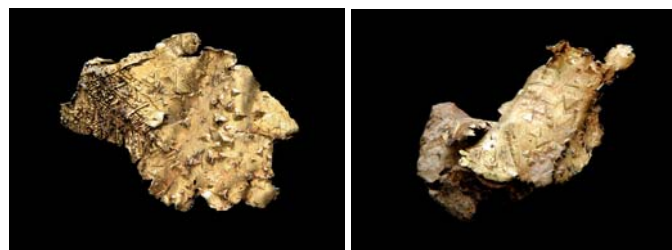
there is possible to visit the exposition called The Fishing Tradition in Vodňany about the local fish farming, fishing and miller's trade on the ground floor. There are exhibited the models of water buildings, fishing equipment, dry and alcohol fish preparations from the collection of The Secondary Fisheries School in Vodňany. You can be brought closer to the atmosphere of the fishing out the pond by a short museum film, children can try to catch fish in a small museum pond and women visitors can look into the „kitchen of a fisherwoman“. The exhibition room on the 1st floor of the synagogue serves seasonal exhibitions.



The Gold of Vodňany

In 1927 the Vodňany and the general public were excited by the strike of gold nearby the village Křepice. It happened under the strange circumstances on the road nearby the village Stožice. On the 25th March a local postman noticed some small golden strips among the stones on the road which were then declared as the most beautiful Czech gold. The strike was carried away by the local people so today we can only estimate its weight of about 1-2 kg. Nevertheless the most beautiful samples were saved for the National museum in Prague and the Town Museum in Vodňany. According to the analysis of one sample it is an alloy of 530 parts of gold and 470 parts of silver. Another strike of gold was reported in 1965 from the street under construction at the Vodňany church. This gold may have been the part of the strike in 1927.

Fröhlich, Jiří. GOLD IN THE PRACHEŇ REGION. Písek 2006.



The Town Museum and Gallery
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telephone: 383 382 057,
e-mail: mag@vodnany.net www.vodnany.net

Opening hours:
April-September: Tue-Sun 9-12, 13-17
October-December: Tue-Thu 9-12, 13-16, Fri 9-12, Sun 13-16

Information:
Information office Vodňany
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Museum (the former synagogue)
telephone: 383 382 051
Opening hours:
May-September: Tue-Thu 9-12, 13-16

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The Town Museum and Gallery Vodňany

The Vodňany Museum has served the public for incredible 100 years and for all that time it has been considered the inseparable part of the town culture. In 1895, supported especially by the writers J. Zeyer, F. Herites and O. Mokřý, there was organized the ethnographic exhibition collecting the first items of the future museum collection. Its installation was realized 10 years later in the Town Hall. The first custodian of the new museum was a teacher Haštal Mostecký, who took the main credit for development of the museum between two wars. The premises of the museum served as a classroom for the students of a newly-established Fishing school from 1920 to 1923 and between 1938-1940 for the students of Grammar school of Prachatice. In 1944 museum restored its work by a large exhibition of drawings by Mikoláš Aleš which have been an honour of the museum collection up to the present.

Enter our museum and enjoy your visit.



The Town Gallery

All the year round in the Town Hall there is opened the Town Gallery, founded by dr. B. Žahour in 1967. He gave to his native town 157 paintings by 95 Czech painters of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (O. Blažíček, V. Brožík, O. Bubeníček, A. Kalvoda, Fr. Kaván, K. V. Mašek, J. Panuška, Jos. Ulman, J. Uprka, Fr. Ženíšek...).

His act inspired a lot of other donors and thanks to them there came to being the valuable collection of works of art, which has been supported by the goal-directed purchases since 1992 made by the Foundation



of Zdeněk Novák and his wife Marie. It provides also the seasonal and anniversary exhibitions, permanent exposition of the picture gallery and of the memorial halls. In the Lecture Hall there are shown the portraits and objects of the famous personalities of Vodňany (of a gallery founder B. Žahour and his wife, of painters R. Bém, V. Hlava, J. Jakší, V. Štětka, A. Waldhauser and J. Zrzavý, of writers and of historical and geographical fans F. Fencl, O. Mokřý, V. Kopista, V. Písař and so on).

Paintings from the collection



The Memorial Hall of Mikoláš Aleš

The Decanal Church of the Birth of Our Lady was thoroughly re-Gothicized in 1894-1897 by R. Stech according to the designs of J. Mocker. At the same time the interior was decorated by the mural frescos, the Renaissance gables on the west front were decorated with graffitos and the windows in presbytery with window paintings by the designs of Mikoláš Aleš (1852-1913). The drafts of the decoration of the church and of the basic school in Protivín belong to the largest collections of drawings in the collection of the gallery. The collection of baroque sculptures probably made by a Plzeň wood-carver Lazar Widman comes from the turn of the 18th century.



The Memorial Hall of František Herites

František Herites (1851-1929) – a Vodňany native, a pharmacist, a writer of the novels set in the small town, a literary editor, for the certain time also a mayor of the town and especially a leader of the cultural events in Vodňany, whose achievements were highly regarded by unveiling his plaque and giving the street his name when he was still alive. To show the respect the native town also gave him the building plot to build his new house. The furniture and the things from the Herites family estate create the atmosphere of the town household of the end of the 19th century in the same way Herites described in his book called “Vodňany impressions”. Remarkable is also the large writer’s library, where are hidden lots of foreign-language publications, but especially the presents from his literary friends with the personal dedications (A. Hejduk, Z. Winter, K. V. Rais, A. Jirásek...).



The Memorial Hall of Julius Zeyer

This hall introduces a very important personality of the Czech literature of the 19th century. This writer Julius Zeyer (1841-1901) – lived in Vodňany in 1887-1889 predominantly in the baroque house “U čápi” and he was a friend of F. Herites and O. Mokřý (1857-1899). Enchanted by this small town and his surroundings he made a lot of his friends visit it (Z. Braunerová, A. Chittussi, F. Bílek, A. Hejduk) and he wrote here many of his books. Exhibited collection of ceramics, china, glass and textile introduces Zeyer as a passionate collector and traveller and into the museum it was brought from the collection of the Náprstek museum in Prague in 1960. Neo-renaissance furniture from the 80s of the 19th century tells us not only about the taste of the owner but also about the need of the men’s household of that time. Zeyer as an inspiring personality made a lot of readers of his books (f.e. a painter Jan Zrzavý) visit the town and places where the writer spent a part of his life.

