

◆ NIGHT WITH ANDERSEN

In 2000, librarians Hana Hanáčková a Miroslava Čápková from Uherské Hradiště started the *Night with Andersen* with the aim to stimulate children's interest in reading. It quickly became an international event with 1.399 different places in many states around the world this year. The event consists of an attractive evening and night programme for children with reading of fairy tales, competitions, adventures and a lot of fun. In 2013, the founders of the *Night with Andersen* received the H. C. Andersen Award of Honour in Odense for arranging the event. Also the Embassy is involved!



Every year, we read H. C. Andersen's fairy tales to kids. Together, we have a lot of fun!

LEARN MORE ABOUT H.C. ANDERSEN

www.denmark.dk - the official website of Denmark

www.denstoredanske.dk - most comprehensive encyclopaedia of Danish history

www.museum.odense.dk/museer/hc-andersens-hus - The H.C. Andersen Museum

<http://nocsandersenem.cz/> - official page of the Night with Andersen

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EMBASSY OF DENMARK

Maltézské náměstí 5
118 00 Prague 1

LEARN MORE ABOUT DENMARK

www.denmark.dk – The official website of Denmark
www.visitdenmark.com – The official guide to Denmark



H.C. ANDERSEN

A FAIRY TALE STORY



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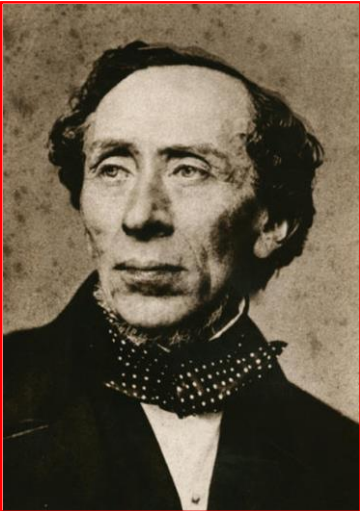
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◆ DANISH AUTHOR

H. C. Andersen was born on April 2 1805 in Odense, the third biggest town in Denmark. He was a prolific writer of plays, travelogues, novels, fairy tales and poems. Andersen was born in a small one-bedroom house in one of the old poor quarters of Odense. He grew up in dire straits as a son of a poor shoemaker. Andersen only spent a short period in this house located on Hans Jensensstræde. Since 1908, it is the home of the H. C. Andersen Museum, *H. C. Andersens Hus*. In 1807, Andersen's family moved into a tiny house in Munkemøllerstræde in Odense. They lived together with two other families and the house was crowded with altogether 12 people. It is believed that this complete lack of privacy helped Andersen to develop his unique imagination and passion for stories.

◆ H.C. ANDERSEN AND QUEEN MARGRETHE II

HM The Queen of Denmark Margrethe II spent years illustrating and designing costumes, decoupages and settings for H.C. Andersen books and movies. In 2004, she received the H.C. Andersen Award for her way of presenting his fairy tales.



◆ TRAVELS TO PRAGUE

When he was only 14 years old, he went penniless to Copenhagen to seek his fortune at the theatre. He tried to become a singer, dancer, actor and playwright, but without any success. Nevertheless, the director of the theater noticed his talent, became his patron and enabled him an education. Andersen spent 9 years of his life travelling around the world, mostly in Europe. He visited the Czech lands eight times. The first time was in 1831.



◆ THE UGLY DUCKLING

The Ugly Duckling is one of Andersen's most famous fairy tales. The story tells of a little duck born in a barnyard that gets mocked by the others around it until, much to its delight, it matures into a beautiful swan, the most beautiful bird of all. The story is beloved around the world as a fairy tale about personal transformation for the better. It was first published with three other fairy tales on November 11 1843 to a great critical acclaim. The fairy tale has been adapted to various media including opera, musical and animated film. The fairy tale is completely Andersen's invention and owes no debt to fairy tales or folklore.



"It does not matter that one is born in a duck yard if you've lain in a swan's egg"
H.C. Andersen

◆ AUTOBIOGRAPHY?

A lot of people have interpreted *The Ugly Duckling* as being the story of H. C. Andersen himself and some would call it an autobiography. He lived in an environment which some people had contempt for but ended up being a very talented, respected and rich author.

◆ FAIRY TALES

Andersen's fairy tales are known by people all over the world and have been translated into 159 languages. A fairy tale by Andersen was for the first time translated into Czech in 1863. *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Match Girl*, *The Princess on the Pea*, *The Swineherd*, *The Snow Queen*, *The Tinderbox*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Clumsy Hans & Thumbelina* belong to his most famous fairy tales.

◆ THE LITTLE MERMAID

The Little Mermaid by Sculptor Edvard Eriksen bears the name of one of H. C. Andersen's most famous fairy tales. It was a gift to Copenhagen from the founder of Carlsberg brewery, Carl Jacobsen, in 1913.

Since then, she has become an icon for Denmark and is visited by more than 1 million people every year.

