

NEWSLETTER

THE PALACE IN THE CASTLE

Egeskov Castle invites you to experience some new, exciting exhibits this year, plus we have extended our opening hours in July and August. We have a number of evening events lined up and, once you have bought your ticket, you can enjoy the benefits of a season ticket free of charge.

Titania's Palace, a dolls' house of unique dimensions, has been installed in our truly fairytale castle in Funen. A separate exhibition in the Banqueting Hall will include an impressive display of dolls dressed as the Queens of Denmark through history – from Margrethe I, who lived during the 14th century, to the present queen, Margrethe II. This year, the Dolls' House Museum will contain a large, new dolls' house and a number of amusing "Peep Shows" courtesy of an 87 year old former magician and trick cyclist.

These are just a few of the splendid new exhibits that await you at Egeskov Castle when the season opens on 28 April.

IRREPLACEABLE COLLECTION

Titania's Palace has come to Egeskov as a result of an exclusive agreement with the LEGO Fund. Both the Chairman of the Fund, Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, Billund, and Count Michael Ahlefeldt, Egeskov, are delighted with this arrangement.

The Palace, which contains 18 rooms, was opened by the English Queen Mary on 6 July in 1922 on the occasion of the Queen's wedding day.

In the rooms of Titania's Palace you will find a collection of tiny art treasures, collected by English painter and officer Sir Nevile Wilkinson over a period of 35 years on his travels to all four corners of the world.

When she opened the Palace, Queen Mary wondered why the Fairy Queen did not have a washstand in her bedroom and was told that Titania did not have a washstand worthy of a queen. A few days later, a package containing a washstand for the Fairy Queen was sent by the Queen of England.

In this way, the rooms of the Palace were filled with antique artefacts and stories. In fact, one of the drawers contains a piece of the English Queen Mary's wedding cake. The chapel in Titania's Palace contains the world's smallest organ – and, what is more, it works. All in all, you can immerse yourself in this fantastic fairytale world by visiting Titania's Palace in the Jomfru Rigborg room in the Funen fairytale castle at Egeskov.

ROYAL DOLLS

Bente Willadsen from Nødebo in North Zealand is the creative force behind the exhibition of "Denmark's Queens" in the Banqueting Hall. Housed in exhibition cases, the Danish queens' costumes are authentic down to the smallest detail. Willadsen has chosen to recreate dresses worn on state and festive occasions in which Danish queens have been portrayed down the ages. For example, Bente Willadsen has created Queen Margrethe in the dress she wore at her official silver wedding anniversary celebrations in Kronborg Castle in 1992, and Queen Ingrid in the dress she wore during the visit of the King and Queen of Belgium in 1966.

Bente Willadsen sewed all the clothes by hand and cast the porcelain dolls' heads herself.

HISTORY OF THE LEGO CAR

This year the Veteran Car Museum plays host to an exhibition of the history of the LEGO car – from the first wooden car created in the 1930s up to the present day. Before the Depression hit in 1933, total car production in the world amounted to nearly two million vehicles a year. Of the approximately 117,000 cars in use on Danish roads, the American marques Chevrolet and Ford predominated and, indeed, the US manufacturers had assembly plants in operation in Copenhagen.

These developments were reflected in the wooden toy cars produced in the 1930s. Although the LEGO cars are not slavish imitations of the real motor vehicles, the American influence on their design was significant, a fact that is clearly evident in the exhibition currently on display in Egeskov's Veteran Car Museum.

SUN & SAND – CULTURE & CASTLE

As it looks as though we are in for a warm and sunny summer again this year – here at Egeskov we have come up with a solution that will spare our guests the dilemma of choosing between one thing or the other. In other words, you can enjoy a day on the beach and a visit to the castle as, from 1 July to 12 August we will be extending our opening hours to 9pm. Apart from staying open until 11pm on Wednesdays in July, we will also be open late on the first two Wednesdays in August with a special salute of guns and fireworks display.

As always, with its extensive and impressive gardens, the castle park at Egeskov is a sight worth repeated visits.

Yours sincerely
Michael Ahlefeldt