

ENGLISH



THEODOR  
**STORM**  
MUSEUM

*Theodor Storm*

# STORM HOUSE

## IN HUSUM



## Storm and his home

The Storm House in Wasserreihe 31 in Husum is one of Germany's most esteemed literature museums. The building is over 500 years old, and thus its history is inevitably tied to the eventful past of the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The old building, originally located in Wasserreihe 31 looked much plainer than today's Storm House. Historians assume it used to be a residential building. Supporting those claims is the current building's ancient cellar, which is only partly renovated. Some parts of the basement's cobblestone stood the test of time and appear to be the building's original substance.

The current building was constructed upon the old foundation as a merchants' house. Its architecture belongs to the early 18th century (precisely: 1730–50). The very well-preserved interior reflects the era's style: The artfully crafted doors with their massive brazen locks, rococo door panels or the neatly sawn ornaments of the wooden stairway.

In 1853 the house was owned by a gardener. 1857 he tore down the adjacent house, laid out a garden and created a new side entrance to the building.

With his seven children and his second wife Dorothea Jensen, the poet moved into the house in the autumn of 1866. His first wife Constanze had died the year before.

Following the Prussian annexation of Schleswig-Holstein, the office of bailiff was discontinued in 1868, thus leading to Storm becoming district judge.

He rented out the lower floor of his house, including his old office. However, the living room of the lower floor still served as the setting of his novella *Viola tricolor*, which deals with the family's intimate problems during the early years in Wasserreihe 31.

## Outside the museum

**Garden** with a small courtyard, a laundry house and an ancient water pump. The garden (existing since 1857) was restored according to Storm's letters.

## Rooms of the museum

*Ground floor:*

- **Viola Tricolor Room:** setting of Storm's novella of the same name; original doll's cradle "Dodo 1877"
- **Bailiff's Office** of the bailiff Theodor Storm (1866–67) (reproduction)
- **Permanent Exhibition** of Storm's **Life and Work**

*1st floor:*

- **Crockery Room:** porcelain dishes of the Storm-Woldsen family (imported from China 1760); gallery of Storm's famous friends, e.g. Theodor Fontane and Gottfried Keller
- **Living Room** with original furniture, e.g. a Biedermeier sofa with a deer hunting scene carved into its frame (as described in Storm's novella *Drüben am Markt*, 1861); mahogany chairs and oval coffee table where Storm read his work to friends and family. Storm's square piano, which he played almost every day (cf. *Ein stiller Musikant*, 1875); paintings by Nicolai Sunde (model for the humpbacked artist of *Eine Malerarbeit*, 1867)
- **Small Living Room:** coloured copper engravings of *Paul et Virginie* (cf. *Drüben am Markt*, 1861); Constanze's desk
- **The Schimmelreiter Exhibition:** desk by Sauermann's manufactory in Flensburg with four owls carved by the apprentice Emil Hansen, later known as the famous painter Emil Nolde
- Two rooms with changing **special exhibitions**
- **Study** ("**The Poet's Snuggery**"), designed by Storm himself, built when the lower floor was rented out, entirely preserved in its original state

In this originally preserved study Storm wrote the novellas:

- *Eine Halligfahrt* (1871)
  - *Draußen im Heidedorf* (1872)
  - *Beim Vetter Christian* (1874)
  - *Viola tricolor* (1874)
  - *Pole Poppenspärer* (1874)
  - *Waldwinkel* (1874)
  - *Ein stiller Musikant* (1875)
  - *Psyche* (1875)
  - *Im Nachbarhause links* (1875)
  - *Aquis submersus* (1876)
  - *Carsten Curator* (1878)
  - *Renate* (1878)
  - *Zur "Wald- und Wasserfreude"* (1879)
  - *Im Brauer-Hause* (1879)
  - *Eekenhof* (1879)
- and the beginning of *Die Söhne des Senators* (1880)





Storm also wrote other prose, important in their own right, which were later published as *Zerstreute Kapitel*, containing narrative portraits of people from Husum, childhood memories and local legends:

- *Der Amtschirurgus – Heimkehr* (1870/71)
- *Lena Wies* (1873)
- *Von heut' und ehemdem* (1873/74)
- *Zwei Kuchenesser der alten Zeit* (1871/72)
- *Von Kindern und Katzen* (1877)
- *Wie den alten Husumern der Teufel und der Henker zu schaffen gemacht* (1871/72)

Important poems written by Storm in his study are *Über die Heide* (1875) and *Geh nicht hinein* (1879). In 1869/70 Storm also wrote his poetic anthology *Hausbuch aus deutschen Dichtern seit Claudius* in his study. Young Ferdinand Tönnies, later the founder of sociology in Germany, helped Storm to proofread.

*F. Storm*

## The Theodor Storm Society

“He is a master, he remains.” The Storm Society feels obliged to follow this quote by Thomas Mann as its aim is to bear the poet’s work in remembrance and to foster and support the worldwide research about Storm. Furthermore, the Society preserves the Storm memorials and the several Storm houses. Additionally, the Society organizes and hosts the international Storm-Tagung (Storm Conference) in Husum that attracts broad attention every year. The Theodor Storm Society is based in the Storm Centre in Wasserreihe 31–35, Husum. It consists of the Storm Museum, Storm’s unique and authentic family home in Husum and the Storm Archive containing a research library as well as a collection of pictures and manuscripts. Both facilities are open to anyone interested and especially serve as a place of profound research to scholars, journalists, and directors (please give prior notice).

In addition to the annual conference in September, the Storm Society hosts a series of events during the first half of every year. Moreover, the Society publishes a series of correspondence (recently: The correspondence of Theodor Storm and his publisher Westermann). Around September, when the Storm Conference takes place, the Society releases the *Schriften der Theodor-Storm-Gesellschaft*, containing selected research papers. The Storm Society has more than 1,000 members in 20 countries within and outside of Europe.

### Membership

Become a member yourself or give a membership to somebody as a present. Doing so supports both the museum and the society’s work.

Members of the Theodor Storm Society receive free entry to the Storm House, free (or discounted) entry to all events of the Theodor Storm Society and a free copy of the yearbook *Schriften der Theodor-Storm-Gesellschaft* and the members’ magazine *Mitteilungen aus dem Storm-Haus*.



# Theodor Storm

1817–1888



- 1817** born on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Husum
- 1835–37** attended the Katharineum in Lübeck
- 1837–42** studied law in Kiel and Berlin
- 1843–52** lawyer in Husum  
(*Oktoberlied, Immensee, Die Stadt*)
- 1853–64** in exile: assessor to court in Potsdam (until 1856; *Meeresstrand*) and circuit judge in Heiligenstadt (*Auf dem Staatshof, Im Schloß, Auf der Universität*)
- 1864–80** bailiff and district judge in Husum  
(*Pole Poppenspäler, Aquis submersus, Carsten Curator, Über die Heide*)
- 1880–88** retirement in Hademarschen  
(*Hans und Heinz Kirch, Ein Doppelgänger, Der Schimmelreiter*)
- 1888** died on July 4<sup>th</sup>, laid to rest under great sympathy on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the St. Jürgen's graveyard in Husum

## Literature:

David A. Jackson: *Theodor Storm. The Life and Works of a Democratic Humanitarian*. New York/Oxford 1992.

## Opening hours

### April–October

MON closed

TUE 2:00–5:00 p.m.

WED 2:00–5:00 p.m.

THU 2:00–5:00 p.m.

FRI 2:00–5:00 p.m.

SAT 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

SUN 2:00–5:00 p.m.

### November–March

MON closed

TUE 2:00–5:00 p.m.

WED closed

THU 2:00–5:00 p.m.

FRI closed

SAT 2:00–5:00 p.m.

SUN closed

### English guided tour

Experience his life and work in this English guided tour through the Storm House in Husum, including translations of his most famous texts and tales from his life.

A tour through Storm's hometown of Husum can be booked additionally, if desired. This tour takes you through the "grey town beside the sea", along many Storm-related landmarks.

## Entry

Adults: ..... 5 €

Children / pupils / students: ..... 3 €

Family ticket: ..... 12 €

Groups of 10 people or more: ..... 3 € pp

Members of the Storm Society receive free entry.

## Membership

Annual: ..... 30 €

Annual (couples): ..... 45 €

Annual (students, apprentices): ..... 16 €

### Theodor-Storm-Gesellschaft

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THEODOR  
**STORM**  
GESELLSCHAFT