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The Ignominious Police

The Contest for the Townscape among Watchmen, Guardsmen and Rabble in 18th Century Copenhagen

It is generally supposed that violence in the European cities decreased steadily from the beginning of the early modern period and until the middle of the 20th Century. The state monopoly of force was consolidated and ensured both stability and a decline in crime. But development has been much less unambiguous than one might be tempted to believe, and far into the 18th Century the administration and exercise of the monopoly of force was still a subject for debate. Taking as its point of departure a serious case of disturbance in 1781, the present article uncovers unsettled territorial feuds and old grudges in the Copenhagen townscape. The article takes a close look at the actors who fought for both justice and legitimacy in the maintenance of social order in Copenhagen, and particular attention is paid to the inconsistent work of the watchmen.

Kathrine Kjærgaard

Between Secularized Modernism and Biblical Piety

Pious Images and Modern Ecclesiastical Art in Greenland 1945-2008

Greenland was granted religious freedom with the Constitution of 1953. For the Church of Greenland, which had previously led a protected existence, this meant a threat to ecclesiastical unity - a threat that it endeavoured to counter by artistic rearmament. Church interiors were to be made more attractive, so that the population was less easily led astray by siren notes from the Roman Catholic Church, the Pentecostal Movement and other foreign churches and religious communities. It proved, however, to be the equivalent of the opening of Pandora's Box. Modern ecclesiastical art was not edifying, but bore the stamp of a theology, demythologized by doubt; this conflicted with the biblical piety which had characterized the people of Greenland since the 18th Century. The conflict reached a climax in the first half of the 1970's, in an argument about the decoration of Hans Egede Church in Godthaab (Nuuk). Ever since, the Church of Greenland has been closed to modern art behind the mask of Greenlandization.