

## Regular events organised by the Museum in 2020

Donors' Evening: January 10<sup>th</sup>

Easter Fair: April 4<sup>th</sup>

Museum Night: June 26<sup>th</sup>

Montmartre in Semily: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Fair: November 28<sup>th</sup>

Summer music evenings in the Museum garden:  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>



## Opening hours

### Museum

September – June: Tuesday to Sunday 9 – 12 am and 1 – 4 pm

July – August: daily from 9 am to 5 pm

### Red Timber House

May, June, September: on weekends at 10 am and 2 pm

July – August: daily at 10 am and 2 pm

*(Tickets can be purchased in the Museum)*

### Church tower

May, June, September: on weekends at 11:30 am and 3 pm

July – August: daily 11:30 am and 3 pm

*(Tickets can be purchased in the Museum)*

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# We look forward to your visit!

# Museum and Gallery of the upper Iser/Jizera river region in Semily, public-benefit corporation



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## History



Today's building of the Semily Museum formerly served as a shop and pub, and its first floor was inhabited by tenants. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was part of the manor buildings and belonged to the chateau. In 1882, the house was bought by a barrister and writer JUDr Antonin Zeman (he published his works under the name Antal Stašek). In the same year, his son Kamil – later communist journalist and writer Ivan Olbracht – was born here. The Zeman family owned the house until 1929 when it was bought by the confectioner Josef Hořák from Semily. In December 1957, the house was transferred to the town.

Although the town hall had initially considered demolishing the building, thanks to the chronicler and teacher Rudolf Hlava, the Museum of Semily was opened there on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1960. It housed two exhibitions: the Monument to Antal Stašek and Ivan Olbracht and the tendentious Museum of the Workers' Movement. Fortunately, the Museum focused not only on political agitation but also on the regional art scene. Painters such as Vladimír Komárek, Josef Jíra, Jaroslav Klápště and many others have their exhibitions there. In connection with the artistic activities of the Museum, an annexe called Pojizerská galerie / the Gallery of Upper Iser/Jizera River Region was added to the Museum in 1991, after 10 years after the beginning of its construction. Since 2017, the building has been decorated with a bust of the writer and politician Pavel Tigrid who has family ties to Semily; the bust was created by a sculptor Tereza Pecinová – Salabová.

## Present

Currently, the permanent exhibition, named Secrets of Our Ancestors' Crafts, is located in the attic space, which has been devoted to ethnographic exhibits since its opening to the public in the 1970s.



Other parts of the museum always house several current exhibitions focusing on the history of the region or art scene. We would also like to create a permanent interactive display called Iser/Jizera River and its story in Semily.

Thanks to the donors, we have been able to gradually build impressive collections covering fine arts, ethnography and other fields of human activities. Currently, the Museum collections count almost 37,000 items. There is a rich collection of children's toys from several local manufacturers such as Kovap, TOFA, Vista (Kovozávody). Just to mention a few unique exhibits: we have the rare pinball machine of the FORBES brand manufactured by the inventor and World War II resistance fighter of Josef Vaněk from Semily or a coffee grinder that belonged to the writer Božena Němcová. As part of the exhibition plan, the Museum commemorates prominent regional figures (2017: 100 years since the birth of the Czech writer, publisher and politician Pavel Tigrid or in 2018: 200 years since the birth of the Czech politician František Ladislav Rieger).

## The Madonna of Sytová

A rare gothic Madonna from the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries originated in the period of the so-called "beautiful style". It comes in a form of a unique polychromatic sculpture carved in lime wood. Unfortunately, we know little of its earliest history, but its last known location was the Chapel of Virgin Mary in Dolní Sytová near Semily. The statue is quite unparalleled in the wider region and belongs to the artistically most valuable artifacts in North Bohemia.



## Log houses managed by the Museum

In Jílovecká Street, there are three listed log houses, which were formerly inhabited by small craftsmen and factory workers. The Museum and Gallery of the Upper Iser/Jizera River Region in Semily, public-benefit corporation manages two of them. The green house is leased to the Seed of the Earth (Semínko země) Association that operates a naturally oriented kindergarten there.

The red log house is used by the Museum and currently houses an exhibition on filing or rasping. You can see the workshop and its equipment of the last Czech file/rasp maker Mr Drahomír Smejkal from Jihlava. In the main room, you can feel the atmosphere of the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The real peak of the exposition is the so-called Holy Corner with a restored painting of St. John of Nepomuk from 1759, which is the pride of the Museum collection. The attic houses an exhibition on medicinal herbs.



## Tours from the tower of the Church of St. Peter and Paul

Church of St. Peter and Paul was built in 1911 in the Neo-Romanesque style. Initially, there was a wooden church in its place, which was replaced in 1702 by a stone structure. There are several interesting statues near the church; however, not all of them were originally placed there. For example, the statue of St. Wenceslas, which F. L. Rieger had commissioned to commemorate his father, stood on today's Rieger's Square. Two life-sized statues of St. Peter and Paul from 1702 standing at the entrance came from the old church. When you climb 122 steps in the church tower to a height of 23.5 meters, you can admire the entire town of Semily from this historic monument.



## Exhibition and edition plan of the Museum in 2020

The Museum and Gallery of the Upper Iser/Jizera River Region in Semily, public-benefit corporation presents approximately twenty new exhibitions every year. Visitors can look forward to exhibitions of photographers (Pavla Bičíková, Pavel Trávníček, Vladimír Hanzl), painters (Jan Sehnal, Milada Plavčíč – Salabová), sculptors (Jakub Hanzl), artistic blacksmiths (David Szalay) or glassmakers (Martin Hlubuček). An exhibition of thirty contemporary artists linked to the region called Painters of the Upper Iser/Jizera region has already become the annual event. The Museum will also house several exhibitions focused on the regional history such as the History of Sport in Semily, White Places of the End of War 1944-45 or 100 years of Scouting in Semily. The last two exhibitions will be accompanied by publications of the same name that will be published in the Museum series Pamět Semilská / The Memory of the Semily Region.

