

Salt Pepper

Saltholmen

On Saltholm lived a man named Niels Albertsen in the end of the 15th century. He was an islet watchman and also watched all cattle which the people of Amager had grazing here, and he and his family were the only permanent residents of the islet.

When the Dutch farmers came to Amager around 1521, Christian II conveyed all of Saltholm to them for grazing, but in the mid-14th century also the Danish farmers in the parish of Tårnby were given part of the grazing rights on the islet.

In the 1680s the allocation was such that the Dutch were entitled to let 450 heads of cattle graze while the Danish farmers were entitled to let 1030 heads of cattle graze. If these rights were fully used, this would add up to a great lot of cattle on the islet. In the summer months, this required quite some manning. Apart from the watchman, there were milking girls who would partly milk and partly process the milk to cheese, butter, buttermilk and cream. These products were shipped over and sent to market in the capital twice a week. The transport was carried out with minor vessels – the so-called scuits - via Dragør or Kastrup.

Together with the grazing right, the people of Amager also had the right to lime quarrying at Saltholm, but as they did not utilise it, the Crown itself took over this quarrying right. Through the 14th century, large amounts of limestone were quarried to various castle constructions, but in the 15th century, the quarrying wore off after the manufacture of tiles had gained ground. After the fire of Copenhagen in 1728, however, the quarrying was resumed to help in the reconstruction of the capital.

Peberholmen

Peberholmen is an artificial island created as a part of the Øresund bridge between Denmark and Sweden. Peberholmen is the island you reach when you see daylight again. The 4,055 meter long island between tunnel and bridge, which was completed in 1998, is no less than a biological miracle.

In 2003, 279 plant species were registered which have appeared naturally. Further to this, the island is the breeding location of 8-12 bird species and accommodates Denmark's largest breeding colony of little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) with 40-50 couples. The island is therefore kept free of work driving in the birds' breeding season.

Peberholmen is true evidence that quick reestablishment of natural areas is possible, as long as you make sure to create the proper conditions. Another proof of this is seen when you drive from the island to the bridge where you see a flour of blue and yellow flowers, so as to make you think they were sowed by the Swedish tourist authorities. But not at all, the Swedish colours have sowed themselves right there on the border!