

The museum

The Museum Appenzell is devoted to the rural, distinctly Catholic cultural history of the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden. It deals primarily with folklore and popular everyday culture. The permanent exhibition covers subjects ranging from the once famous Appenzell hand embroidery to peasant art and painted furniture, the history of tourism and popular religion. Special exhibitions examine these issues in greater depth and scope.

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours for groups of up to 20 people by prior arrangement:

Permanent exhibition
CHF 120 plus admission

Special exhibition
CHF 150 plus admission

On a specific topic
CHF 150 plus admission

The museum offers a free guided tour of the permanent exhibition every Friday at 2 p.m.

FILMS

The museum has an extensive collection of films which are screened in a small cinema in the vaulted cellar, with seating for around 30 people.

CRAFTSPEOPLE IN THE MUSEUM

Every Thursday and Friday afternoon from June to October, a craftsman can be seen at work in the museum.

PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

A range of activities for children and school groups are listed on the museum's website.

Information

OPENING HOURS

APRIL TO OCTOBER

Monday to Friday
10 a.m.–12 midday and
1.30 p.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
11 a.m.–5 p.m.

NOVEMBER TO MARCH

Tuesday to Sunday
2 p.m.–5 p.m.

The museum is closed on
1 January and 25 December.

LOCATION

The Museum Appenzell is located in the centre of the village of Appenzell, approximately five minutes' walk from the railway station.

BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

With the exception of a small exhibition gallery, the Museum Appenzell is wheelchair accessible.

ADMISSION

Adults CHF 7
Concessions CHF 4
Children CHF 3

Groups of 10 or more
CHF 5 (1 accompanying person
free of charge)

Children accompanied by an adult, School groups from the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden and members of religious orders free of charge

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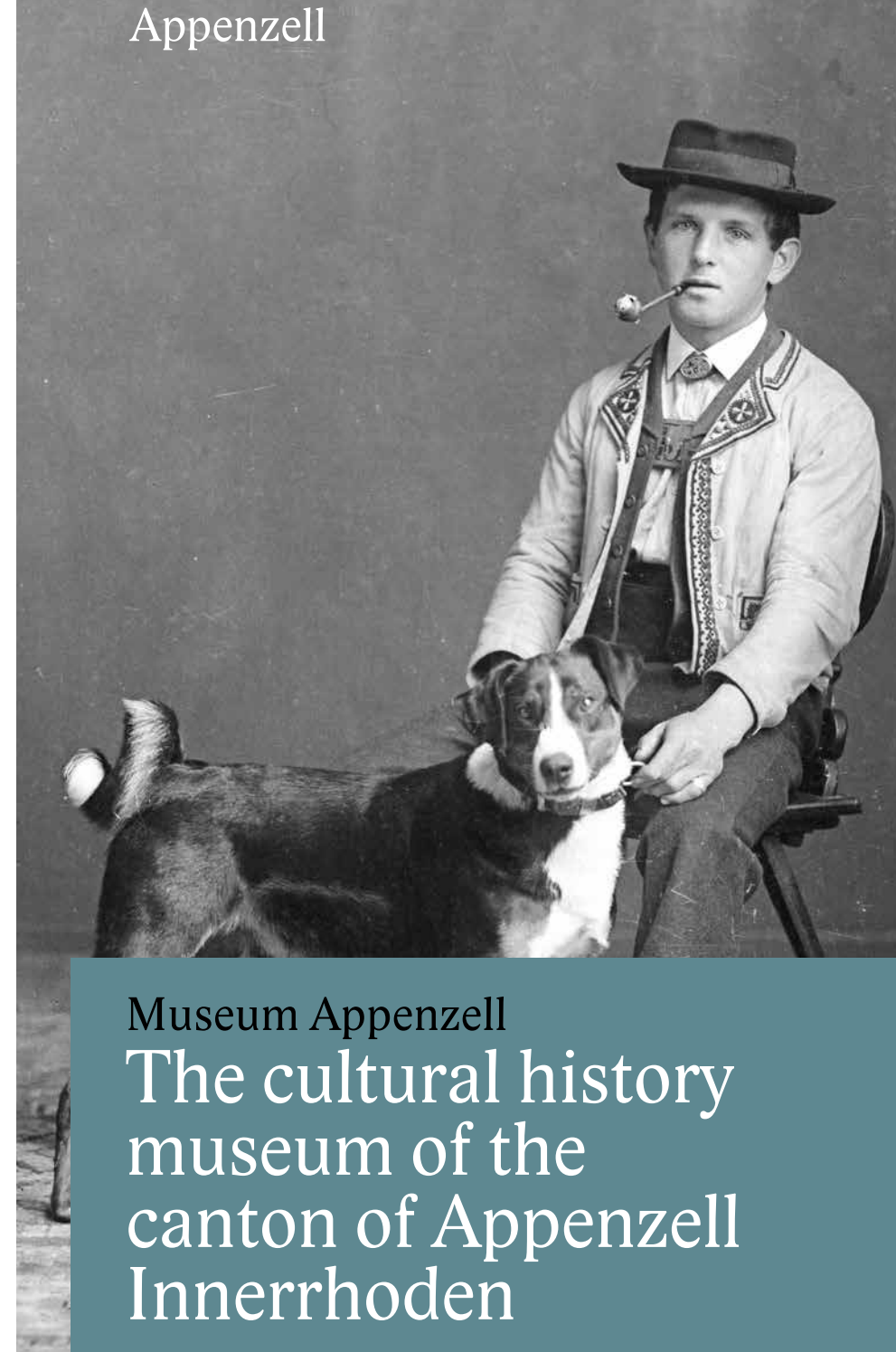
Front page: Man with Appenzell
cattle dog, around 1922



Appenzell cantonal assembly,
around 1780

Above: Boy with Appenzell kid,
around 1940

Museum Appenzell
The cultural history
museum of the
canton of Appenzell
Innerrhoden



A beautiful place to be



With the discovery of the Alps during the Enlightenment period, the first travellers began to explore the Alpstein region. The Äscher mountain guesthouse received its first visitors in around 1800; the first establishment on Mount Säntis was built in 1846. The development of whey cures from 1850 onwards led to a boom in guest numbers. Popular destinations included the village of Appenzell, Weissbad and Gontenbad, as well as the Wildkirchli, Ebenalp and the idyllic Alpine lakes. Among the visitors were many artists and, later, photographers who produced a wealth of pictures, postcards and travelogues that spread the area's fame far and wide.



Picture postcard of the Äscher mountain guesthouse, around 1910

Above: Waitresses on the terrace of the Alter Säntis mountain guesthouse, around 1955

Exquisite embroidery



Decorative handkerchief (section), 2nd half, 19th century

Hand embroidery was an enduring feature of life in Appenzell Innerrhoden. Up until the First World War, over 50% of women worked for money, most of them as embroiderers. This activity was an economic necessity and provided a living for countless Innerrhoden families. Working at home, women and girls embroidered handkerchiefs, collars, table and bed linen with exquisite stitching. Their beautiful creations soon acquired a global market, with the largest buyers being the fashion houses of Paris.

Fine handicrafts

Bell straps, dog collars and braces with finely engraved brass fittings as well as wooden milk vessels with artistic ornamental carvings expressed the strong sense of status among Alpine herdsmen in the 19th century. Traditional crafts also included jewellery made with human hair as well as intricate silverware and gold ware for traditional costumes.



Belt for cow bells (section), 1840

Colourful Appenzell

With its bright colours and fascinating motifs, peasant art and painted furniture from Appenzell is a unique manifestation of folk art from the Alpine regions. It reached its high point in the 19th century. “Sennenstreifen” (long, narrow paintings of Alpine cattle drives), hand-painted milk pail bottoms and panel paintings subsequently developed into instantly recognisable symbols of the region around Säntis. Artists such as Carl August Liner (1871–1946) and Johannes Hugentobler (1897–1955) also helped to shape the canton's colourful image.



Painting on cabinet (section), 1828

Striking traditional dress



Woman in traditional dress, around 1905

The traditional costumes of Innerrhoden are masterpieces of craftsmanship, perfect in every detail. Ceremonial attire features intricate decorative collars and cuffs, sumptuous “Brüechli” (a collar piece forming part of a woman's outfit) and dazzling silver jewellery. Women in their elegant Appenzell dress attracted the attention of the burgeoning tourist industry. They constantly adapted their outfits to match changing fashions.

Protection, salvation, blessing

Devotional objects and images occupy a special position in every society, making religious content both visible and tangible. In strongly Catholic Appenzell Innerrhoden they found a wide variety of uses in everyday life. Sacred objects offered protection, salvation and blessing. They recalled important life events, such as christenings, weddings and deaths. They were used for household devotions and edification and were material testimonies of everyday piety. Yet religious objects were also items of household decoration.



Rebretter (panels used to bear the dead), 19th century and box for sacramental objects, 20th century

Above: Burning incense on the Weissbadstrasse in Appenzell, around 1970

Appenzellerin

Museum
Appenzell



Appenzell woman in traditional dress, picture postcard, around 1910