

# Sigtuna Town Hall

When the mayor Eric Kihlman began his service in Sigtuna 1737, he found the town hall, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in a deplorable state. At the initiative of Kihlman, the construction of the present town hall was begun, on the same site as the old one. The tower was moved from the old building to the new one. In 1744 the hall was inaugurated and a general council could be held there.

The town hall has two rooms. The left one was until the thirties the guardroom of the police and had two cells. The use of these cells was prohibited for hygienic reasons at the end of the thirties and it was then changed into a service- and meeting room.

The room to the right is the council hall. Most of the furniture and other objects were brought there by mayor Kihlman in connection with the furnishing of the room around the years 1740 and 1750.

The table was brought to the town hall by Kihlman. His mother-in-law had painted it to look like curly-grained birch-wood.

The armchairs behind the table are made in baroque style. The big one, for the presiding officer, was bought from the house of a deceased count. The two smaller ones were brought from the home of the mayor.

The four chairs in late baroque style placed along the north wall were, according to Kihlman in his account over his period of office, bought from a forestry officer, who was a neighbour to the town hall.

The chairs by the wall towards the square are locally manufactured slat-backed chairs. When they were acquired is uncertain.

A crystal chandelier from the 17<sup>th</sup> century is hanging from the ceiling.

Of the eight royal portraits that hang in the town hall, five have been brought there by Kihlman.

From left to right:

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|-------|--|
| No. 1 | Karl X Gustav  |
| No. 2 | Karl XI, bought by Kihlman in a booth in Stockholm. The price paid was only 27 daler copper. In comparison the price paid for the red tablecloth was 60 daler copper!  |
| No. 3 | Karl XII, probably painted by David von Kraft.   |
| No. 5 | Fredrik I, given the place of honour since he was the ruling king when the town hall was inaugurated. This portrait was given by the brother-in-law of the mayor, Johan Henric Scheffel who also is believed to have painted it. |
| No. 7 | Queen Hedvig Eleonora came from the home of Kihlman's parents.   |

The three remaining smaller portraits of

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|-------|---|
| No. 4 | Gustav II Adolf   |
| No. 6 | Gustav Vasa and   |
| No. 8 | a second portrait of Karl X Gustav are of unknown origin. |

In the council hall are some weapons and other objects used by the police staff until not so long ago – a partisan (a spear-like weapon), axes, trapping forks, thumb-screws and a neck-iron.

In contrast to the furniture, the interior of the council hall has been changed over the years. The ceiling, however, is original. The edging at the ceiling dates from the 1820's and represents Justicia, the goddess of justice, with a pair of scales and a sword.

The stove, fabricated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was acquired from a manor house and put in the town hall in the 1920's.

Sigtuna town hall was until 1947 the seat of the town council and court of justice.

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*Sigtuna Rådhus*



**Sigtuna Museum**  
Stora Gatan 55, 193 30 Sigtuna  
[www.sigtunamuseum.se](http://www.sigtunamuseum.se)

