



December 2011 nr. 1

## First newsletter for members of the Ring

During the last general assembly in Lipnik nad Bécvou in August 2011 we have decided to publish a newsletter. In this newsletter you can read information about the latest news, new activities, the situation in the working groups and questions and comments from the members. We would like to publish the newsletter several times every year. I hope you will send copy for the next newsletters. That can be anything, but has to be news for members of the Ring. You can send it to [m.meijer@oude-ijsselstreek.nl](mailto:m.meijer@oude-ijsselstreek.nl) I wish you much pleasure reading the newsletter.

**Hans Alberse**  
president

## Josef Hofmarcher as honorary president

Former president of the Ring Mr. Josef Hofmarcher is honoured as honorary president of our association on Saturday morning August 27th. Current president Hans Alberse gave him a piece of art and vice-president Peter Kloo handed over a certificate. Josef Hofmarcher has been president of the Ring from 2001 until 2010. *"Intercultural exchange is important. It takes a lot of time to communicate with each other; we have to visit each other and put enough time into that. I have visited all the member cities except Øvre Eiker in Norway"*, he said. He appreciated his gifts and wishes the Ring lots of luck and success for the future.



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## Date general assembly 2012



Because of organisation of other activities, the date of the next general assembly is postponed in 2012. We would like to prevent that all kinds of activities take place in the same weekend. That is why the city of Donezk was willing to postpone the date for one week. The next general assembly will be held from *September 20<sup>th</sup> until September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 in Donezk.*

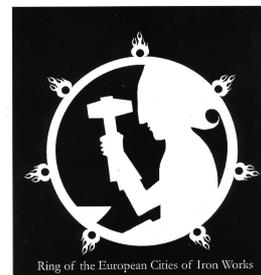


## Information website

The presentations which were shown at the general assembly in Lipnik cannot be presented on our website because of the big differences in sizes and data information. The member cities can show this presentation on their own website and mention a link on the website of the Ring.

The member cities should have the possibility to put data items on the Ring-website and take care of updating their selves. Experience with a computer is needed.

That is why Peter Kloo would like to make a manual instruction for this matter. A student of the academy in Salzburg helps him with that. It will take a few more weeks. Until then, the members can send the text information and photos to Peter and he will put it on our website. You can send this information to [pkloo@kolbermoor.de](mailto:pkloo@kolbermoor.de)



## General assembly

The general assembly was in Lipnik nad Bécvou (CZ) from August 25<sup>th</sup> until August 28<sup>th</sup> 2011. Everybody was satisfied about the organisation by the city of Lipnik. The conference had a good progression. The minutes of this meeting have been send to the members. The city of Lipnik has send a CD with pictures to all members.



## New members

The Ring has got two new members in 2011: Bienno from Italy and Øvre Eiker from Norway. Hans Alberse and Peter Kloo have kindly welcomed both municipalities.



## Meeting competent council in Finland

MYNAMAKI - Three blacksmiths have had a meeting in Mynämäki (FI) from November 25<sup>th</sup> until November 28<sup>th</sup> and have spoken about the Iron Academy, the new Standard EN-1090 and proposals EU Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). This was already decided in February of this year. They also made a first move for the agenda of the next meeting of the whole competent council. The financial support of this meeting in Mynämäki is proposed at the national agencies LLP in the Netherlands and in Germany. Only the Dutch delegation got a YES for financing their trip and overnight stays. Now we try to share the money we will get from LLP.



## Events

You can send information about events with relation to forging and iron preparations to our secretary [m.meijer@oude-ijsselstreek.nl](mailto:m.meijer@oude-ijsselstreek.nl) It is important to do this in time so that everybody can take it into account.

## New candidate member

There is a new candidate for becoming a member of the Ring: Ulyanovsk from Russia. The Blacksmith Union of Russia was at the Helfstyn Blacksmith festival in Czech Republic this year. The union has applied for membership, but only municipalities can become a member of the Ring. Meanwhile the city of Ulyanovsk is invited to present itself at the next general assembly in Donezk.

## Blacksmiths festival Helfstyn Castle

A visit to the blacksmith festival at Helfstyn castle was a good opportunity to meet the art of forging and to meet old acquaintances. The weather was very warm and thirsty....





## Iron Rose for Norway

The project Iron Rose for Norway is going very well. Blacksmiths from all over the world made roses for the victims of the terrible disaster which took place at July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in Oslo and Utoya. Carlo Pedretti from Bienno will make roses with friends and also Cees Pronk from Oude IJsselstreek has already been very busy. On November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> he made roses together with 10 other blacksmiths. There was a lot of promotion in the newspapers and on national television.

<http://www.omroep gelderland.nl/web/nieuwsartikel/1217571/Smeden-maken-rozen-voor-Oslo.htm>



## Iron Song on our website

The Iron Song which was presented in Oude IJsselstreek during the general assembly last year, is now posted on our website [www.ironcities.net](http://www.ironcities.net) Not only the text but also the sheet music. Now you can practise so we can sing it al together next year in Donezk.

refrain:

*Our iron blood runs through  
our iron blood runs through our bodies  
like  
like a laughing fireball  
makes us joyful friendships grow  
makes us joyful as we know  
Eisen, rauta, selez, ferro  
selazo, forge, ijzer, fer*



**We wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. We hope to meet you again at a sparkling event in 2012.**

This edition is initiated by the association Ring of the European Cities of Iron Works with the next members Mynämäki (FI), Øvre Eiker (N), Gniew (P), Friesoythe (D), Oude IJsselstreek (NL), Stolberg (D), Olbernhau (D), Kolbermoor (D), Lipnik nad Bécvou (CZ), Ivano Frankivsk (UK), Donezk (UK), Bad Hall (A), Ybbsitz (A), Arles-sur-Tech (F), Valbonne (F), Bienno (I), Stia (I) and Acireale (I). Website [www.ironcities.net](http://www.ironcities.net)