



July 2012 nr. 2

Second newsletter for members of the Ring

Here is the second newsletter of the Ring of the European Cities of Iron Works. In this newsletter you can read information about the latest news and new activities in the cities of the Ring. This time we have received a number of messages from various members. I would like to thank you for that. The general assembly will be in the beautiful city of Donezk in two months from now. You will receive the agenda at short notice. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all again in Donezk.

Hans Alberse
president

Meeting of the board in Düsseldorf

DUSSELDORF – The board of the Ring has had its yearly meeting at the airport in Dusseldorf on April 5th 2012. It was a good meeting with topics such as preparation general assembly in Donezk, the newsletter, the website and new members. Two candidate members, Ulyanovsk Russia and Campdevanol Spain, will present their selves at the general assembly in September. Important during the assembly will be meeting each other, discussion and exchange of knowledge.



Learn the skill



STIA - From the desire to promote the profession of blacksmith, aiming to pass on the knowledge gained during important professional experiences, a project for training and specialization on wrought iron took place in Stia. Under the direction of Maestro Claudio Bottero basic and advanced courses were organized and attended by many blacksmiths from all over Italy. They were interesting opportunities for learning and updating, focussed on various topics such as drawing, warm forging, embossing. The teachers were Claudio Bottero, Jadran Stenico and Roberto Magni.

More information about the next courses, which will be held from September 2012, you can read on our website www.ironcities.net For information and applications +39-338-1579968 or +39-338-4079255.



Metal in the town and at the castle

LIPNIK NAD BEČVOU – The 8th volume of the exterior exhibition METAL IN THE TOWN will take place in the town of Lipník nad Bečvou from 16th June to 30th September 2012. Selected works of Czech art blacksmiths will be exhibited in the beautiful historical centre of the town.

Memories of the blacksmith master Alfred Habermann are the main point of the exhibition that is held in the Mansion house Gallery in Lipník nad Bečvou (the same place, where the Conference of the Ring took place in August 2011). The exhibition „Alfred Habermann – Sculptor in Metal“ will end on Saturday 13th July.

Visitors of the Helfštýn castle will have the opportunity to see the exhibition dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the international blacksmith meeting Hefaiston that takes place at the castle annually in August. The exhibition will last until the end of October.



This year the 31st volume of the blacksmith meeting Hefaiston will take place at the castle on 25th and 26th August. Visitors will see demonstration of blacksmith art, exhibition, blacksmith competition and presentation.

Everyone is cordially invited to the town of Lipník nad Bečvou and to the Helfštýn castle.

European flower of XIV Festival

Along with the XIV International Forged Figures Park™ Blacksmiths Art Festival the Conference of the Ring of European Cities of Iron Works will take place in September 2012 in Donetsk. It was this event that initiated the organizers to create a sculpture in the centre of the Forged Figures Park™ that will include works of blacksmiths art by masters from different countries. The creative theme of the Festival was called the European Bunch. The central flowerbed has been chosen for the sculpture in the middle of which there will be a figure of a blacksmith by Donetsk masters installed and metal flowers forged by Festival and Conference participants will be placed around it.

The sketches by Viktor Burduk got approval of the Donetsk City Council as far back as last year and at present there is the first plastic image of the central figure created. It is about 30 cm in size. The blacksmith in traditional working cloths with a hammer in his left hand is standing in front of the anvil. There is a rose in the right hand of the master as this flower has been a symbol of Donetsk for many years. The organizers of the Forged Figures Park – 2012 Festival are inviting you to participate in the work on the European Bunch. General technical requirements for the flowers:

the height – 800 mm;

the diameter of the base – 18 mm.





Kolbermoor Schäffler visited Stia.

KOLBERMOOR/ STIA - At the ending of their sixteenth dancing season the Schäffler dancing group of the Trachtenverein Kolbermoor visited their partner city Stia in Italy. The history of the Schäfflertanz goes back to the 17th century when the guild of coopers in Munich tried to bring back the joy and courage for life with their dancing, after the decrease of the plague. They promised to bring this dance every seven years.

The dance was brought for the first time in Kolbermoor in 1886 and ever since then the coopers from Kolbermoor follow the example of Munich every seven years, usually during the Lent.

During 2012 the dancing group completed 225 performances in Kolbermoor and surrounding cities.

On Saturday February 18th 2012 the coopers dancing group got ready for their trip to Stia. About 26 dancers and 17 musicians left early in the morning for participation in the carnival in Stia. Due to traffic problems the group arrived in Stia late in the evening. Mr. Paolo Caleri, the vice mayor, warmly welcomed them.



On Sunday the group visited the historical city of Arezzo and had an interesting guiding tour. In Arezzo they kindly enjoyed people with their dancing in the street. In the afternoon they went back to Stia where they participated in the colourful carnival party in the Teatro Communale. Together with mayor Mr. Luca Santini the beer keg was tapped and they toasted for the partnership between Stia and Kolbermoor.

On Monday the group visited the castle of Poppi and performed their dance once again. After that they went back to Stia and celebrated together with the carnival association and representatives of the community of Stia into the night. On Tuesday morning they said goodbye and went back home to Kolbermoor again after two wonderful days. This visit has deepened and strengthened the partnership and the joint efforts of the Ring of European Cities of Iron Works. The dancing group from Kolbermoor is really looking forward to the return visit of their Italian friends in August at the beer festival in Rosenheim |

Forging with children

OUDE IJSELSTREEK – About 600 pupils (11-12 years old) of elementary schools in Oude IJsselstreek have learned about forging and working with metal. Cees Pronk has made a good week out of it together with blacksmiths, students of the Anton Tjidschool and volunteers of the historical archaeological association. The pupils could forge, form, cast, bend, weld, mark and drill iron. They were very enthusiastic about it. The teachers would like this project to return in DRU Industriepark during every school year.

Facebook page is ready

On Facebook we have a new page for *the Ring of the European Cities of Iron Works*. On this page you can read about the latest news, events and invitations. The intention is that every member will register personally. The secretary Melinda Meijer will manage this page.

Make connections

Meeting each other, connecting and exchange of knowledge and experiences are essential elements for the Ring. These topics have been discussed at the board meeting on April 5th 2012 in Dusseldorf and will be important at the next general assembly. The agenda of the general meeting will be sent to you at short notice.



Meeting of the competent council was successful

BIENNO – During the general assembly in Lipnik nad Bécvou in August 2011 was decided that the competent council of blacksmiths of the Ring should have their own meeting. This was organised at May 25th and 26th 2012 in Bienno Italy. The city of Bienno was host for this meeting and welcomed the eight blacksmiths together with some translators in her beautiful medieval town. The agenda was completed under the management of Peter Elgass. There was special attention for the project of the Iron Academy. This topic will also be discussed during the general assembly in Donezk. In particular the conduct of the meeting in English was a very good idea for all present members. It certainly is recommendable for other meetings of the Ring.



(On this picture we miss Viktor and Lina Burduk)

The blacksmiths also participated in the Biennale. On Saturday- and Sunday afternoon they worked very hard to forge various art objects.



During the meeting in Bienno a working group was founded which will be responsible for the

application of the project Iron Academy to the EU. Peter Elgass, Michael Ertlmeier, Cees Pronk and Teo Mero with administrative support of Melinda Meijer, will take care of that.



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), Bienno (I), Stia (I) en Acireale (I). Website information www.ironcities.net



Ring of the European Cities of Iron Works