

Dear colleagues,

Technical museum in Brno together with the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, v.v.i. and Archaia Brno o.p.s. organise **Historic and Prehistoric Iron Smelting and Processing workshop** from 4th to 6th of May 2011 in the location of the Old Ironworks near Adamov (Stará huť u Adamova) and you are warmly invited to come. The event is a follow-up to previous smeltings, which have taken place here, in the area of the ironworks from the era before the Industrial revolution (a cultural heritage and one of the locations of the Central European Iron Trail) for more than ten years.

There are plans to make smeltings in the reconstructed bloomery furnaces which were used in a traditional metalurgic area of the middle part of Moravian Karst (Moravský kras) in the early Middle Ages (8th–11th Century). Smeltings will take place in an embanked shaft furnace with thin wall and a freestanding shaft furnace. The furnaces are reconstructed on the basis of archaeological finds in the area of Moravský kras. Also some archaeometallurgists from abroad agreed to attend the workshop and carry out smeltings in traditional furnaces.

Experiments will take place over the three days and subsequently their results will be carried out by blacksmiths. This will coincide with a charcoal firing in a charcoal pile.

There will be an introduction of the history of local metallurgic industry, the history of research and experiments within the scope of the workshop. There is limited possibility for participants of the workshop to build their own furnaces and make iron smelting.

Charcoal burning: charcoal pile construction, charcoal pile burning, charcoal pile disassembly.

Iron metallurgy: smelting and bloom processing

Time schedule is bound by the conducted processing and technological procedures and we can only set it approximately.

In case of good weather some areas of the nearby furnaces from the early Middle Ages, metalurgic exhibition of the Museum in Blansko or Býčí skála Cave (where a smith's workshop was found from the Hallstatt period) will be visited.

You can book the accomodation in Švýcárna guesthouse (modry.kamen@centrum.cz, 340 CZK per night), in the premises of the exposition in your own sleeping bags (shower and toilet are in the building) or in the Technical Museum in Brno (240 CZK per night). Please let us know in advance.





Stará huť u Adamova – GPS 49.306728, 16.678357

Up-to-date information about the “Workshop“ will be available on the website of the Technical Museum in Brno – www.technicalmuseum.cz

More on the experimental smeltings held by TMB can be found on the website of our long-time collaborator Martin Barák: www.starahut.com

The workshop is followed by the „Eleventh meeting in the central part of Moravian Karst“ at 7th of May, organised by Technical museum, Moravian Karst PLA, Archaia Brno o.p.s and others with the demonstration of technology in the early Middle Ages in the programme (iron smelting, forging, textile work, charcoal burning, pottery burning etc.)

Contact: Jiří Merta / Technical Museum in Brno / e-mail: mertaj@technicalmuseum.cz

