Dear colleagues,

Technical museum in Brno together with the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague and Archaia Brno o.p.s. organise Historic and Prehistoric Iron Smelting and Processing workshop from 19th to 21st of May 2010 in the location of the Old Ironworks near Adamov in Josefské údolí 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 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 or possibly in an underground furnace Želechovice type. The furnaces are reconstructed on the basis of archeological findings in the area of Moravsky kras. Also some paleometallurgists 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. A possibility for participant to take part by contributions to their own experiments.

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

Iron metallurgy: smelting and processing.

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

In case of good weather some areas of the nearby furnaces from the early Middle Ages, metallurgic 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 (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°18'23.656"N, 16°40'42.606"E

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 „Tenth meeting in Josefské údolí“ 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 melting, forging, lathe-turning, textile work, charcoal burning, pottery burning etc.)

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