

International peace project FERRO INSIGHT 2005 in Vechta

Final reflection

Bösel, 23.05.05

Blacksmiths against war – Blacksmiths for peace

A project, which already was planned for the EXPO 2000 in Hannover, has been taken out now. From the 04th until the 17th of May 2005 an international blacksmith meeting took place in Vechta

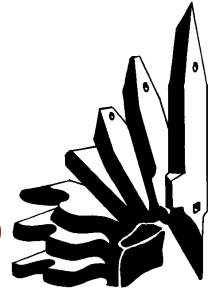
About 2 years after finishing the 4th blacksmith world congress FERRO INSIGHT 2000 in Cloppenburg, the idea of a further international meeting was born.

It was decided that in the year 2005, on the 9th of may, one day after the anniversary of the capitulation of Germany in the second world war or after 60 years of peace, an international project in cooperation with the German development service - DED, the ministry of economic cooperation and development - BMZ, the association of technical cooperation - GTZ, the Oldenburger Münsterland system - OM, UNICEF and blacksmiths from all over the world, would again take place.

In advance of the blacksmith world congress FERRO INSIGHT 2000, an international Workshop had taken place with blacksmiths from 18 nations. Back then, the blacksmiths carried out exercises which were based on different themes. This time, a retired tank offered the material for blacksmiths from all over the world to make peace symbols of it. This blacksmith demonstration showed, beside understanding among nations and a possibility for personal and professional exchange, most of all a token for peace and a token against war in the world.

The symbol for freedom after the falling of the inner-German border were those days the "wallpecker". We, the "tankpecker" wanted to make a similar memorable symbol for "freedom all over the world".

Blacksmiths from all over the world cut off the weapon of a tank and form a symbol of peace from it.



For this purpose 43 blacksmiths from Rwanda, Mali, Niger, Togo, USA, South-Africa, Japan, Finland, Sweden, England, Italy, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Poland, Luxemburg, Belgium and Germany came to Vechta to work together for 14 days.

The "Verbund Oldenburger Münsterland OM" again took over the organisation of the event in Vechta.

Hans Höffmann, organiser of journeys for young people, offered us the spacious complex of his company and there we had perfect premises, an outstanding infrastructure, excellent feeding and a qualified partner to realize this worldwide project.

Because it was too expensive and also because of considerable bureaucratic difficulties, we decided not to buy a demilitarised tank and to dismantle it in Vechta. We decided to witness the professional dismantling of a Leopard 1 tank by the authorised company Battle Tank Dismantling GmbH in Rockensußra.

The material that was parted there from the tank was taken to Vechta and worked on at the considerable area there.

The whole event had to be brought and documented to the public as much as possible.

The participating blacksmiths should learn much from each other.

They should use the joint time as effective as possible, communicate with each other and exchange themselves in personal and professional ways.

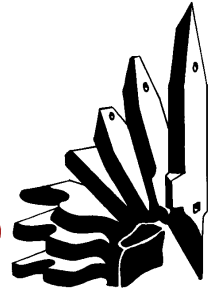
Already in the year 2000 the living and working together of people from different cultures and religions was very impressive for all participants. For each participant it became a very different personal experience.

To bring our common, international message

„Blacksmiths against war - blacksmiths for peace“

as much to the public as possible we needed the media.

We succeeded in drawing the attention of 4 different broadcasting stations.



The ZDF reported detailed in a today's issue from the demonstration
"Blacksmiths against war - blacksmiths for peace."

SAT1 accompanied the whole event for several days with a team and broadcasted a very detailed and atmospheric report.

RTL and NDR 3 also broadcasted detailed exciting and touching pictures of our event in their evening program.

Several radio stations as f. ex. Radio Antenne, NDR und FFN and many publications in the printed media helped in bringing the protest of blacksmiths against war to a broad public. We succeeded in reaching several millions of people.

"Blacksmiths against war - blacksmiths for peace" was the title of our demonstration.

Again we set an example for a very friendly working and living together of blacksmith colleagues from all over the world. Already existing friendships were borne out and new friendships were made.

Again it was demonstrated, that true collegiality is most obvious shown, when people have the same goal.

The way to reach this goal can be very different in artistic and craft skills. It is important to accept, tolerate and help each other.

As already happened with FERRO INSIGHT 2000 with FERRO INSIGHT 2005 it became clear for all participants how important it is to have respect for each other and to work friendly with each other.

Many very expressive works were made from the steel of the tank.

Very different motives were shaped because of very different motivations. The works that were made here are individual expressions of different cultures, referring to the theme "peace".

Finally a common work of art was made. The result is a about 3,5 m big sculpture, which was forged from all participants together.

This work of art with the title "gateway to peace" is a lasting memory of an unforgettable, meaningful, international blacksmith meeting.

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