THE 7TH FROM THE SOIL TO THE IRON PRODUCT – THE TECHNOLOGY OF MEDIEVAL IRON SMELTING CAMP IN HUNGARY IN 2015

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Nowadays, the development of technology rushes past the people of the machine-based technical civilisation, therefore we fail to understand the technological wonders that surround us. One of these is the ancient technology of iron smelting. Every summer, a five-day long international Iron Smelting Camp is organised in Somogyfajsz in which you can get to know the hard and laborious work through which we will get from the iron ore to the iron products.

General information
Place: Somogyfajsz (40km south from Lake Balaton in Hungary)
Time: 1-5th July 2015 (Wednesday-Sunday)
Fee: EUR 100, which contains five-day full board accommodation in the mansion of Somogyfajsz
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Organiser: Somogy Provincial Association for Nature Conservation and Green Corridor Public Foundation
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Detailed program
1st day: Visiting the Bloomery Museum of Somogyfajsz, constructing charcoal piles, building furnaces
2nd day: Mining and roasting bog iron ore, building furnaces, burning charcoal
3rd day: Iron smelting, forging the resulted blooms to bars
4th day: Opening the charcoal piles, iron smelting, forging the resulted blooms to bars
5th day: Forging iron products of the iron bars

For more information please visit to the website:
www.bucavasgyuro.net

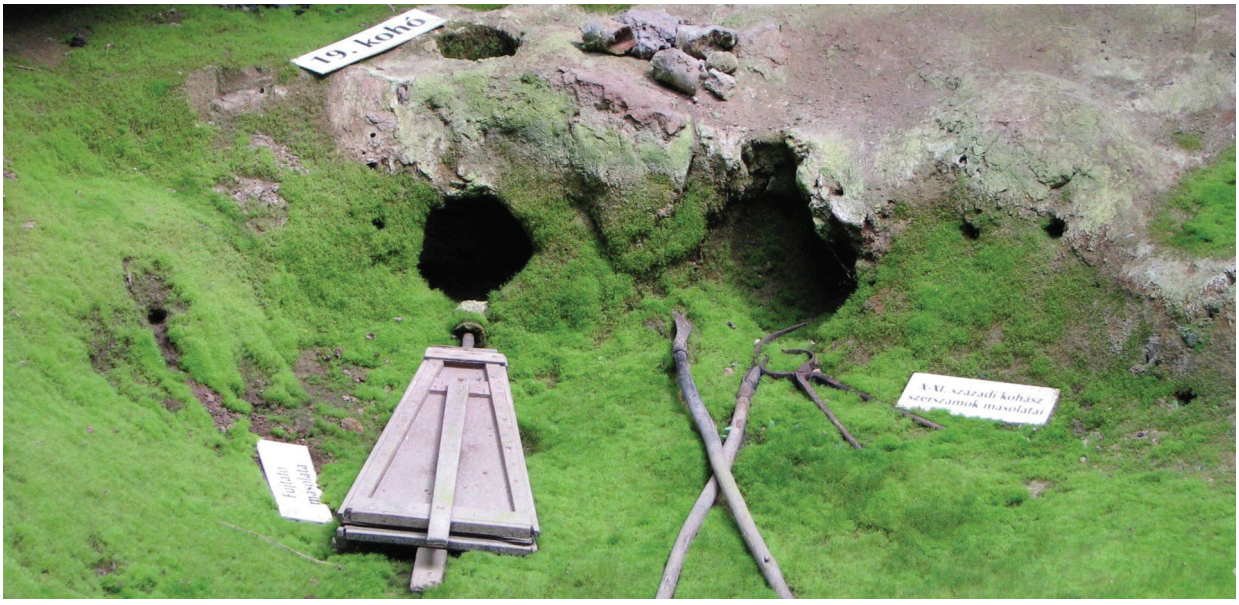

Fig. 1: Remains of excavated embedded furnaces in the Somogyfajsz Bloomery Museum dated to the second half of the 10th century

Fig. 2, 3: Mining bog iron ore which situated in bog iron ores form lenses close to the surface of the ground. These lenses can be found in the beds of brooks, where the brook has eroded one to two metres below ground level

Fig. 4: Iron smelting in reconstructed bloomery furnaces

Fig. 5: Burning charcoal in two charcoal piles of 1–2 m^2 volume. The place of the camp is in a forest near to a brook where a ca. 300m^2 free area is provided for the participants

Fig. 5: Forging the iron bloom to bar

Fig. 6: Forging the iron bloom to bar