UNCATEGORIZED

KARL DRAIS

12.06.2007

190 years ago, today on 12th June 1817, Karl Drais presented to the world his running machine ("Laufrad", "Velociped" – as he called it, "Draisine" – as others called it). As I believe it is the first bicycle (bi – cycle) and therefore one of the most advanced inventions ever made. It is an invention that I need 2 hours every day and an invention that could cure many of the problems discussed now at G8 conference in Heiligendamm.

Sure, I am biased as Drais was born in my hometown Karlsruhe (German Wikipedia has his CV). The Drais Grundschule in Karlsruhe was the first school that I attended. And for sure, I am impressed by the fact that Drais did not use his aristocratic title "Freiherr Drais von Sauerbronn". As a democrat he did not use his title although the Margraf von Baden was his grandfather. Here is a picture of an original draisine that I took in April 2006 at the Deutsche Museum München – it comes at a weight of 18 kg, length 196 cm, height 108 cm. The draisine has been built in 1817 and is owned by THE Germanische Nationalmuse-um Nürnberg.



Note the original tag at the handlebar



Drais Schule in Karlsruhe November 2004



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