



OUR VISIT TO BOCHUM



9 -12.04.2013



The first day (9 April)

On 9 April 2013 a group of eight students and two teachers from our Ursuline schools went on a school exchange to Bochum. We started our journey at 2.45 a.m. - a mini bus was waiting for us at the bus stop next to our school. It took us to Pyrzowice airport where at 6.30 a.m. we had a flight to Dortmund. After one and half an hour we arrived in Germany. Two German teachers met us at the airport and drove us to school in Bochum in their cars. At school we were welcomed by our German friends and had breakfast together with a group of Italian students from Lecco, who came to Bochum the previous day. After breakfast we visited the school which consists of several buildings where over 1000 students learn. Then we attended classes with our German friends. We had a chance to see what the lessons looked like in a foreign country. Later we went to our host families for dinner.



Breakfast at Erich Kästner school

In the afternoon we all met again at the Bochum railway station (built in 1957), which has eight ground and underground railways, from where we started our guided tour of the town. **John**, one of the German students, was **our guide** and he knew almost everything about his hometown, and made the sightseeing really interesting.



We saw among others:



Terminal – made of steel produced in Bochum and situated on a traffic island next to the railway station;



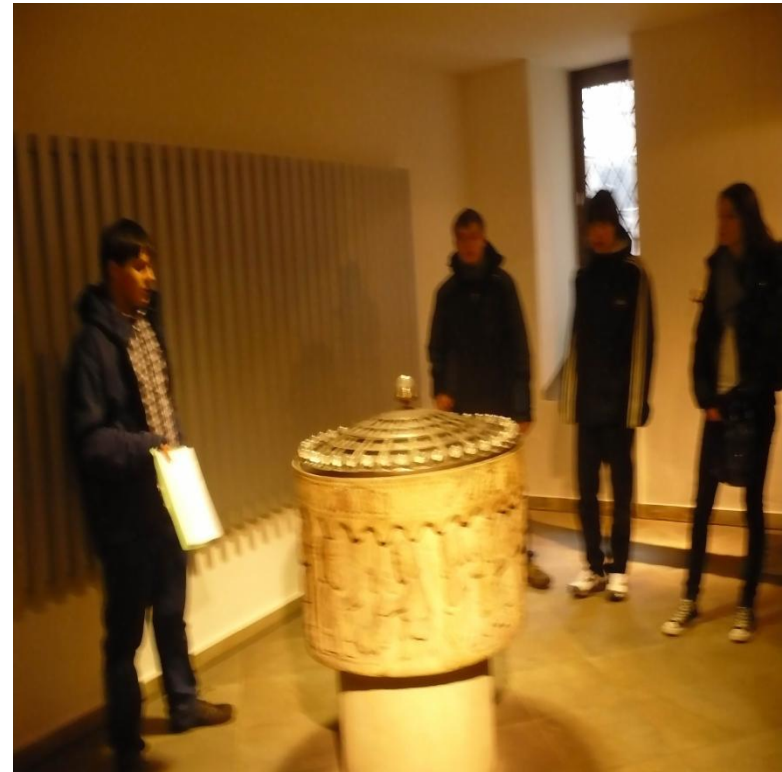
Stadtplastik – a city sculpture made by K. H. Seemann in 1996, which shows the history of the town with its positive things e.g. mining industry on one side, and negative sides e.g. the war on the other side;

Kuhhirte – the monument of the Bochum's last cowboy, which recalls the times when Bochum was a little rural town with only 3000 inhabitants (1850).



St. Peter and Paul's Church considered to be the oldest church in the city with the **relics of St.**

Perpetua and her slave Felicitas from around 1200 and the cylindrical **baptismal font** dating from the 12th century;

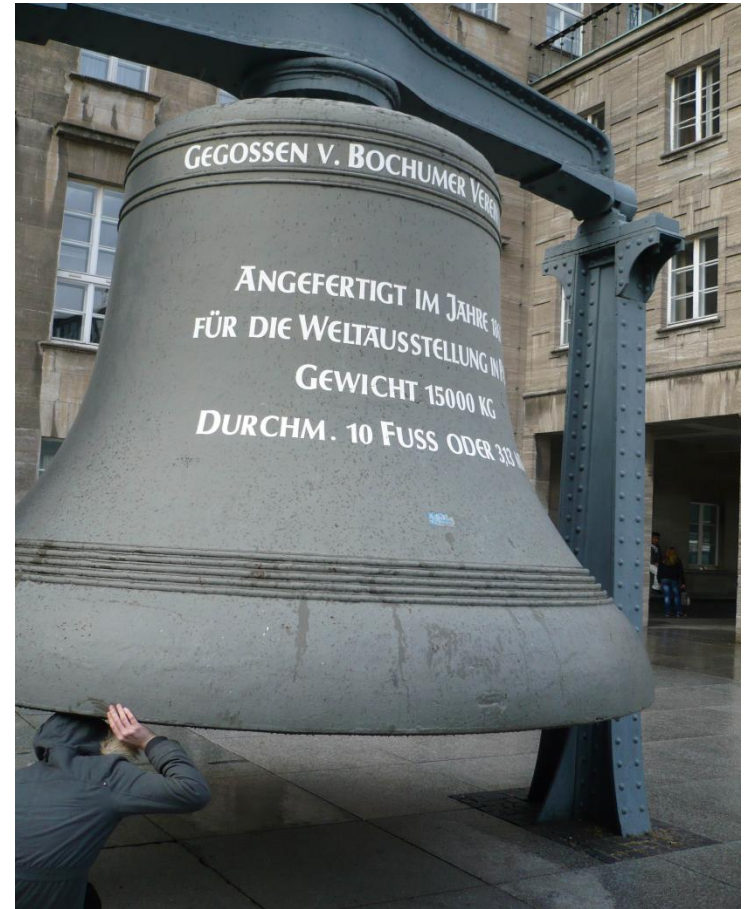


The old pub Rietkötter
- the only half-timbered house in the town that was not destroyed during the World War II





Rathaus – the Town Hall
(1926-1931),
located in the heart of the city
with...



...the **Big Bell** - the entrance
bell of the Paris exhibition in
1867, and many other equally
interesting landmarks.

In the evening we all had a delicious pizza with our German partners, their teachers and parents in one of the town's pizzerias.
The first day was very exciting although long and tiring.



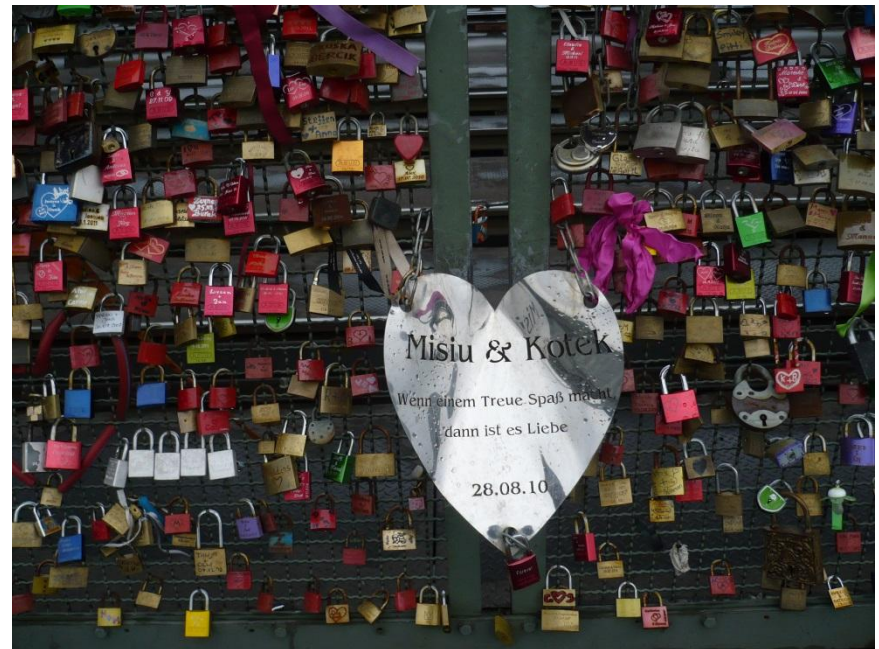
The Second Day (10 April 2013)

- a trip to Cologne (Köln)

On the second day in Germany we went on a trip to **Cologne**. We came to school to attend the first lesson and after it we went to Cologne. We got there by train - the journey was very comfortable and it didn't last long - after one hour we started to sightsee the city.



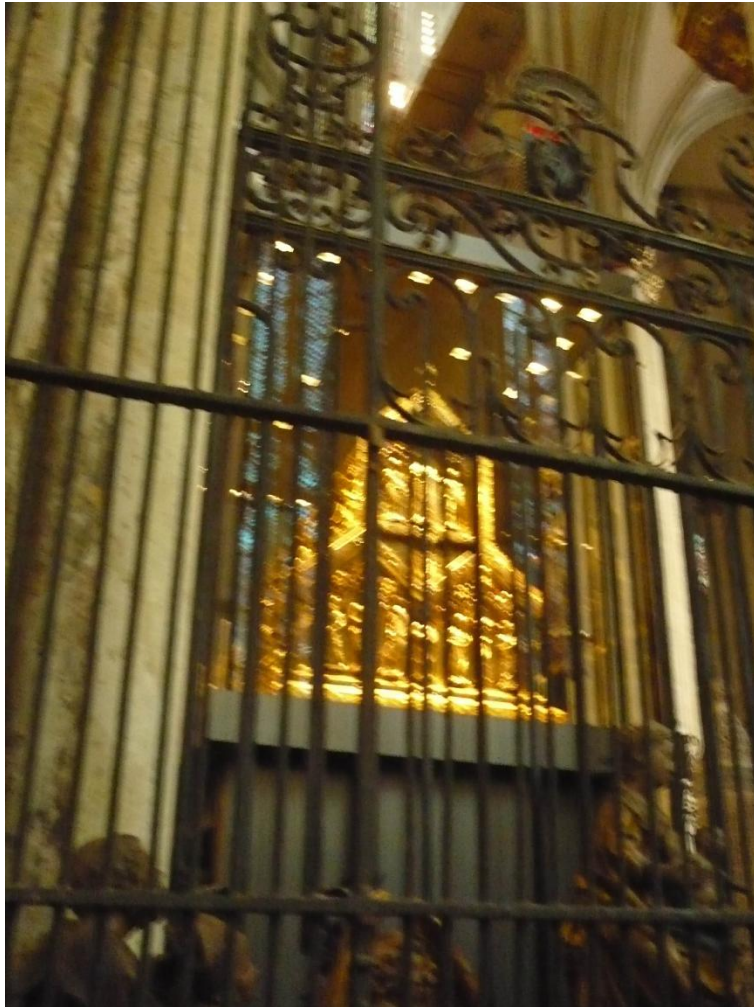
At first we walked towards the **river Rhein** and across a long steel bridge with lots of padlocks. The German teacher told us that one padlock meant two people who fell in love. It was a very colourful place.



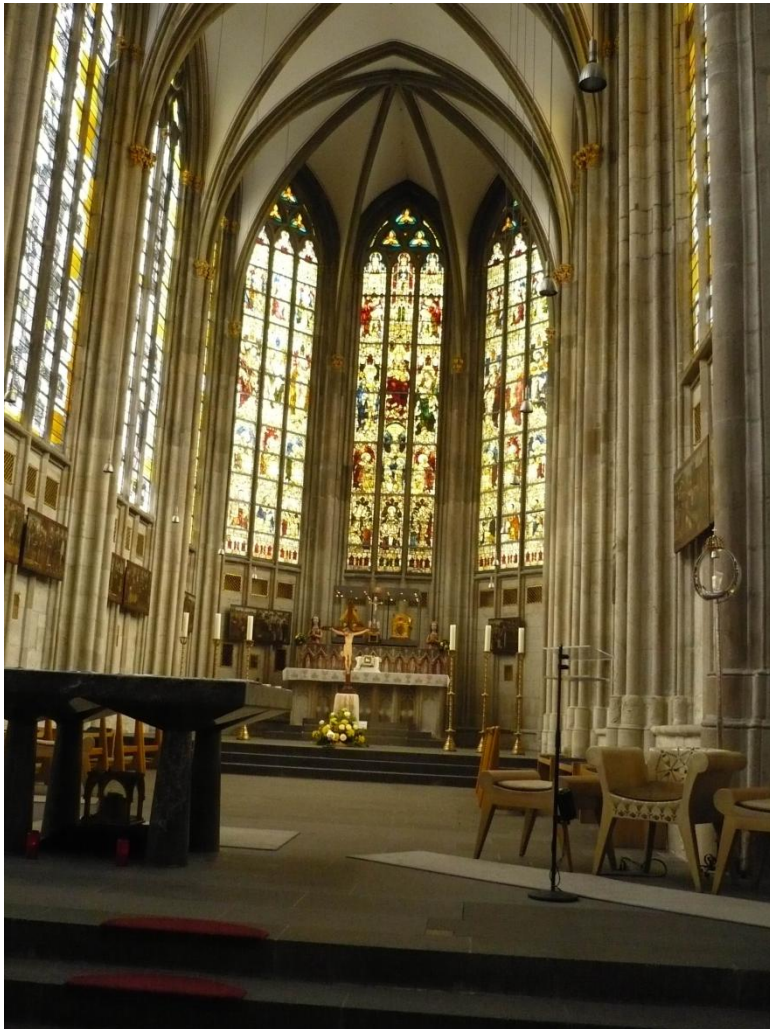
Then we went to see the **High Cathedral** of St. Peter – the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe. It was so huge that when we were standing in front of it, we felt like ants.



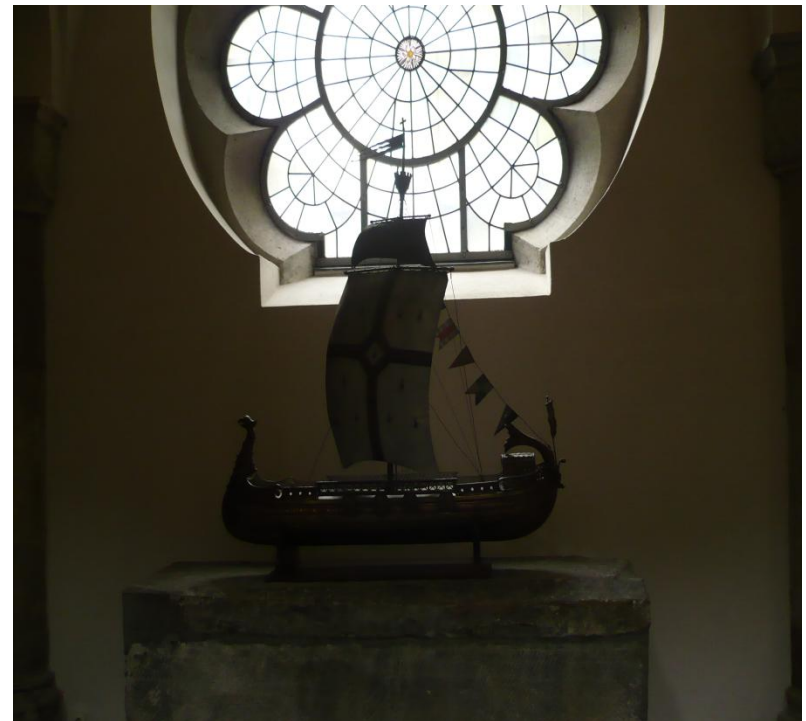
Inside the cathedral
there are the relics of
the **Three Wise Men**
- the Biblical Magi.



Next we went to the **Basilica church of Saint Ursula**. She is the patron of our school and the city of Cologne, too.

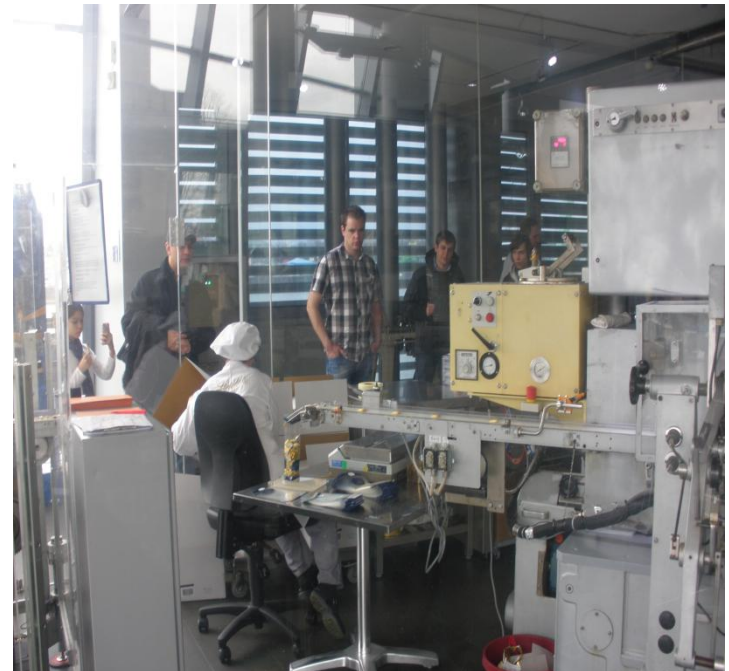


There are not only St. Ursula's remains but also a statue of her and other things connected with her life such as a miniature model of the ship on board of which she sailed on the Rhein.



In the afternoon we visited the **Museum of Chocolate**.

When we entered it, we could smell the chocolate immediately. We saw the machines which produce chocolate, found some interesting recipes for different kinds of chocolate and learned something more about this sweet product. We also tasted the **chocolate** from the **fountain** and bought some souvenirs in the local shop.



Everything was made from chocolate there, for example, we saw a chocolate phone, mouse, hamburger, CDs. It was an excellent place to visit.





We had a great time in Cologne but it was time to go back to Bochum. When we arrived at the Bochum Railway Station, our partners were waiting for us. We were a little bit tired but the whole day was brilliant. We recommend a visit to this city. There are lots of attractions for both kids, teenagers as well as adults. Everyone will find something for themselves. Cologne has got a long and interesting history and there are many places to visit there. It is a town where you can have a rest, too. We were very pleased with our visit and if we could, we would go there again.

The third day

We started the day with a few lessons with our German partners. We attended German, Latin, Biology and Maths classes.



After the lessons at about 10 o'clock we all gathered in an art classroom for the workshop. Our task was to make a **board game on the European Union**.

First, we were divided into three groups and each group was given a different topic:

1. Human Rights,
2. Comenius in general,
3. Comenius exchanges between Bochum and Rybnik.

We were supposed to prepare multiple choice questions to each of the above topic.



Next we wrote the questions on so called “knowledge cards” and invented the rules of the game, which were noted down on “activity cards”.

We also prepared “occasion cards” - these were difficult situations we could face while staying in a foreign country. Our teachers were monitoring our work and helping us solve any problems we had.



The final step was **to create the game** itself. After the lunch break at about 2 p.m. we started making the board, the pawns and the cards – every type of cards was in a different colour. We needed a lot of cardboard, paints, coloured paper, glue and plasticine. We were working hard to get everything ready for the next morning when the game was to be tried out. There was a lot of fun and laughter while working together.



In the afternoon we
had a rest we
deserved - we spent
our free time with the
German partners and
their families. Some
of us went shopping
and some others
sightseeing.



The last day (12 April)



In the morning we had a **workshop** - we were playing the game we had created the day before.

We had a lot of fun because of the special tasks we did according to the rules of the game e.g. we sang songs in foreign languages, did physical exercises, pretended to be pop stars, made the plasticine models of animals, and so on.



After the workshop we went to the school hall where we **presented our game** on the stage to the German and Italian students. We also watched their impressive presentations: funny songs in different languages and colourful paintings.



Later we went to the **University of Bochum** to visit the Museum of Ancient Rome and Greece. What impressed us most was “**the speaking heads**”.



Afterwards we had a delicious **farewell lunch** in the university canteen. While walking back to school, we saw a beautiful Chinese house with an exotic and mysterious garden, which we liked a lot.



After returning to school we collected our luggage, said goodbye to our German partners and set off to the airport in the German teachers' cars. During our journey to Dortmund, the rain was pouring down in torrents but when we arrived at the airport, the sun was shining and a rainbow appeared in the sky.

