From the Editor

Desperta Ferro!

Awake iron! This was a battle cry of the Middle Ages employed by the Almogavars, soldiers from various Iberian kingdoms in Spain and Portugal. It was shouted on entering the fight, to frighten the enemy and invoke the presence of iron in the

lies in the ability for face-to-face interaction, networking and communication.

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Awake Iron!

battle. The cry was given as the Almogavars struck their lances and darts with flints, causing sparks to fly up from the stones. Just as this phrase was used to stoke the fires, it is also emblematic of the efforts taken to awaken and advance the knowledge, understanding, capabilities and uses for this important family of metals, cast iron. Thus, it was very fitting that leading practitioners, scientists, and researchers met for two days last fall in the northern Iberian city of Bilbao to participate in the Second Carl Loper Cast Iron Symposium.

Why did over 160 people attend this event and the presenters contribute the papers contained in this focus issue? *In this short interview* conducted during the recently held 2nd Carl Loper Cast Iron Symposium, I related what it means to attend a global event like The Carl Loper Symposium. It is more than just the technical presentations, the true value

Why a Carl Loper Cast Iron Symposium? Professor Carl Loper's name has become synonymous with cast iron for anybody that has followed the development of this material over the last half century. His tireless pursuit of excellence has mobilized many generations of would-be metalcasters both in industry and academia. Nobody else can claim to be "the professor" of as many professors worldwide as Prof. Loper, or to have trained as many successful industry experts. While he contributed in many different areas of metalcasting, his passion and love was always cast iron,

which explains the title of this symposium.

Thus, the first Cast Iron Symposium named for Carl Loper was organized by his former students, colleagues and proteges to focus on the fundamentals of cast iron solidification and highlight the latest research, technology and developments in metallurgy, production and applications of this remarkable material. Upon the 10th anniversary of that extraordinarily successful first symposium, this second conference was held. In this Carl Loper Symposium focus issue are published 27 invited papers from that event with the intention to disseminate the latest technological advances and applications of cast iron.

Thanks go out to the folks at Azterlan for all the hard work hosting this wonderful event and to my co-organizers, Dr. Doru Michael Stefanescu (Professor Emeritus—Univ. of Alabama and Ohio State Univ) and Jon Sertucha (R&D of Metallurgical Processes. Project leader—Azterlan). Hopefully after we have stirred the embers and stoked the fire to awaken the global interest in cast irons, we can continue this platform via future Carl Loper Cast Iron Symposiums.

In this short interview conducted during the recently held 2nd Carl Loper Cast Iron Symposium, Thomas E. Prucha (Editor-in-Chief of the

interaction, networking and communication.

International Journal of Metalcasting) relates what it means to attend a global event like The Carl Loper Symposium. It is more than just the technical presentations, the true value lies in the ability for face-to-face

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