

Press Release

Catan Sets World Record! "Biggest Board Game in the World!"



The biggest board game in the world was played on September 10, 2005, at the Tietz Hall in Chemnitz. 806 players sat on wooden benches in the Tietz Culture Hall at beer tables adding up to 378 meters in length and eagerly made their moves. They were playing "The Settlers of Catan." Never before had so many people played a board game together at the same time and in the same place. A young Monica Schmidt rolled an 8 to kick off the big game. The organizers, the German Game Museum in Chemnitz, the Felsenweg Institute of Dresden and the Kosmos Verlag marketing "The Settlers of Catan," organized the huge game in honor of the Chemnitz Game Museum's 10th anniversary and in hopes of finding a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Weeks beforehand, at the Kosmos publishing company, 3 landscape variations of "The Settlers of Catan" game were pasted onto 500 boards. Every board showed an island from which two players sitting opposite each other began the game with two settlements and a city. The boards came in three different versions that were joined together into one large board game.

All players were allowed to trade with their neighbors on either side and with the three players opposite them. If you'd like to learn more about the rules of this huge game, visit:

CATAN

Words from the designer:



Klaus Teuber and Moderator Willi Weber
(Photo by Fritz Gruber)

"I'll confess I didn't believe that more than eight hundred people would accept the invitation to take part in the attempt to set a world record for the largest boardgame in the world. But they came from all parts of Germany. And they brought a great attitude with them! Ahs and Ohs could be heard every time the dice were cast, and spread spontaneously over the 300 meters long island world of Catan. I was very impressed and thought this occasion was the best present I could get on the ten-year anniversary of "The Settlers of Catan."

For this I thank everyone who made this impressive event possible -- the many cheerful players, Udo Schmitz from Family Games and Peter Lemcke from the German Game Museum with all the men and women who assisted them, as well as Axel Meffert, managing director of the Kosmos Verlag, who not only financed the event, but also rolled up his sleeves at the end to help clean up."

- Klaus Teuber, game designer of "The Settlers of Catan"



Final preparations before the rush. For a length of more than 300 meters, 500 boards were laid side by side. On the right: Udo Schmitz from Family Games.



One of the 3 board arrangements.



A "6"! Hand over the raw materials!
More than 1600 hands exchanged and built at the same time.



816 "Settlers" set a World Record at the Tietz Hall of Culture

By Anke Schroeck

Peter Lemcke from Chemnitz had a really crazy idea. To celebrate the tenth birthday of his Game Museum, 1,000 people would be invited to play the boardgame "The Settlers of Catan" at the Tietz Hall. Yesterday it finally happened. Starting at 2 p.m., players were going at it for all they were worth, bargaining and building.

"Exactly 816 people accepted our invitation, said Peter Lemcke, obviously delighted. With this, Chemnitz took the world record for the longest boardgame in the world -- almost 300 meters long. "Now we'll apply for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records," Lemcke confided.

From all over Germany, fans of the game came to Chemnitz just for this occasion. Not even Hamburg, Düsseldorf or Munich were too far away. Ivonne Hoerschelmann (25) and Riccardo Kulawik (31) from Zwickau came to the Tietz:

Knapp 300 Meter war das Spielbrett insgesamt lang - Weltrekord (gr. Foto)! Organisator Peter Lemcke und Erfinder Klaus Teuber (53) überreichten allen Mitspielern ein „Saggsn-Gadan“ (unten).

Ivonne Hörschelmann (25) und Riccardo Kulawik (31) aus Zwickau waren ganz konzentriert bei der Sache. Fotos: Patzig

816 „Siedler“ im Tietz - Weltrekord

Von Anke Schröck

Da hatte der Chemnitzer Peter Lemcke wirklich eine verrückte Idee: Zum zehnten Geburtstag seines Spielemuseums sollten 1000 Leute im Tietz das Brettspiel „Die Siedler von Catan“ spielen. Gestern war es endlich so weit: Ab 14 Uhr wurde zwei Stunden lang gehandelt und gebaut, was das Zeug hielt.

„Genau 816 Leute sind unserem Aufruf gefolgt“, freut sich Peter Lemcke. Damit sicherte sich Chemnitz den Weltrekord für das längste Spielbrett der Welt - fast 300 Meter war es lang. Jetzt beantragen wir die Aufnahme in das Guinness Buch der Rekorde“, verrät Lemcke.

Aus ganz Deutschland reisten die Spielefans nur für das Catan-Spektakel nach Chemnitz an. Nicht einmal Hamburg, Düsseldorf oder München waren zu weit. Auch Ivonne Hörschelmann (25) und Riccardo Kulawik (31) aus Zwickau kamen ins Tietz: „Wir sind totale Catan-Fans und mussten bei dem Weltrekordversuch einfach dabei sein“, erzählten sie. Selbstverständlich ließ sich auch Spieleerfinder Klaus Teuber das Spektakel nicht entgehen. „Ich bin extra aus Darmstadt für das Spiel nach Chemnitz gekommen“, verrät der 53-Jährige. „Schließlich ist das eine riesige Ehre für meine Kreation. So etwas habe ich noch nie gesehen.“

Und so funktionierte das Siedler-Spiel: Genau 36 Mal ließ Glücksfee Annika (10) die Würfel rollen. Über Lautsprecher schallte das Ergebnis durch das Tietz. Und dann ging alles ganz schnell.

Die 816 Mitspieler bauten, handelten und tauschten gleichzeitig - eine hektische Atmosphäre.

Danach gab es für alle Mitspieler als Belohnung einen besonderen Leckerbissen: das limitierte Spielbrett „Saggsn Gadan“. Dort sind sächsische Städtenamen und Chemnitzer Sehenswürdigkeiten aufgedruckt - für das besondere Catan-Spiel zu Hause.

Übrigens: Zwar hatte eigentlich das Spielemuseum Geburtstag, doch die Geschenke bekamen gestern ganz nebenbei soziale Einrichtungen aus Chemnitz und Umgebung. Spielepakete im Gesamtwert von 25 000 Euro überreichte Peter Lemcke zum Beispiel an die Kinderkrebshilfe, an die Arbeiterwohlfahrt, an das Kinderhaus „Treff“ und an verschiedene Krankenhäuser.

"We are total fans of Catan and simply had to be here for the attempted world record," they said. The inventor of the game, Klaus Teuber, was of course also present for the occasion. "I made a special trip from Darmstadt to Chemnitz for the game," the fifty-three-year-old Teuber declared. "After all, it's a great honor for the game I've created. I've never seen anything like this before."

Here's how the "Settlers" game worked: Annika (10 years old) was Lady Luck and rolled the dice exactly 36 times. The results boomed through the Tietz over loudspeakers. And then everything went very quickly. The 816 players built and dealt and exchanged, all at the same time -- a busy atmosphere.

Afterwards, all the players received a special treat: a limited edition "Saxon" version of the Catan boardgame. Saxon city names and the sights of Chemnitz appeared on the board, a special version of the Catan game for the participants to play at home.

One more thing: though the Game Museum was actually celebrating its birthday, all presents yesterday were actually given to social organizations in and around Chemnitz. For example, Peter Lemcke donated game sets valued at 25,000 Euros to the Children's Cancer Society, the Workers Welfare Association, the "Treff" children's home, and various hospitals.