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8252 Schlatt
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Annual Report 2016

Iron Library Foundation and
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

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Pauline Zade: pages 8, 10

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Foreword

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2016 which describes how we have preserved the historical and cultural heritage at GF. The main bodies involved in this task are the Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives. Located in the former Clarissan convent Klostergut Paradies, they report to the Corporate Secretary and are managed by Franziska Eggimann.

Discovering technical knowledge

The Iron Library's visual design was gently modernized in the year under review. Knowledge dissemination ("700 years of literature on science and technology") and the promotion of science in the field of technology history are given greater emphasis, underscoring the Library's projected image as a special library.

Personnel

The Conference on the History of Technology (see page 11) is arranged and organized by the Scientific Advisory Board. At last November's Conference, Kilian T. Elsasser stepped down from the Board after twelve years. We have been fortunate to engage Dr. Gisela Hürlimann, Co-Head of the Chair for the History of Technology at the ETH Zurich, as his successor. She threw herself energetically into organizing the last Conference. We

The Iron Library's oldest manuscript with a text by the Andalusian scholar Averroës, displayed in the "Europe in the Renaissance" exhibition marking the inauguration of the new wing of the Landesmuseum Zurich.

thank Kilian T. Elsasser for his dedication over many years and we welcome Gisela Hürlimann as a member of the Scientific Board.

Iron Library

In 2016 the Library continued to grow as we purchased 643 volumes (books) and received 116 volumes as bequests or exchanges. The Iron Library also systematically pursued the development of its new plastics focus. The acquisition of a significant part of the library of the long-standing Director of the German Plastics Institute (DKI) in Darmstadt was a very valuable addition to the purchases and bequests.

Activities

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives organized two successful public events in 2016 that enriched the diversity of the region's cultural life. The motto of the Open House Day was "Magic machines". About 100 visitors from the region attended and gained an impression of the broad spectrum of mechanical engineering from the Renaissance up to the 20th century. The Iron Library participated for the second time in the cross-border literature festival "Erzählzeit ohne Grenzen". The reading by Catalin Dorian Florescu drew a large crowd, and the Refectory at Klostergut Paradies was filled to capacity.

History of Technology Conference 2016

There can be no doubt that we live in the “age of plastic”. The 39th Conference on the History of Technology was devoted to the topic of “Synthetic Materials”, discussing questions such as the origin, manufacture and use of synthetic materials and how they differ from natural materials. About 70 participants from Germany, the UK, Austria, Czechia and Switzerland participated in the Conference. The papers read at the Conference on the History of Technology are usually published about six months later in the periodical FERRUM. The 88th issue, devoted to the topic “Just in time – Logistics in an Historical Perspective”, appeared in 2016. All issues of FERRUM are accessible electronically free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch).

Corporate Archives

The Corporate Archives can be used by employees of GF and by people outside the company. The archive records can be examined on the premises of the Iron Library. Since we also receive ‘combined’ inquiries that affect the holdings of both the Corporate Archives and the Iron Library, it is convenient for users to be able to work with all the source material at the same time.

In the reporting period, 79 archive inquiries (42 internal and 37 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the Corporate Archivist. 18 users (4 internal and 14 external) also used the Archive on site, five of them for extensive research over a period of several days.

Networking

The Scholar in Residence program launched two years ago has met with a very positive response. The program is geared to both es-

tablished researchers and up-and-coming academics. In 2016 the Iron Library approved three applications from the USA, Germany and Switzerland, enabling the scholars to spend several weeks doing research on the Library premises.

Networking also includes involvement in expert panels and book lending for the GF locations Schaffhausen (Switzerland), Singen and now Mettmann too (both in Germany). The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are also members of over 30 institutions and associations. These connections are very useful for the exchange of ideas and know-how.

Outlook for 2017

Preparations are already underway for the 40th Conference on the History of Technology in November 2017 which will be on the topic “Colors in Technology – Technology of Colors”.

This year again several scholars will engage intensively with the holdings of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives. Our doors are also wide open for young researchers or people doing research as a hobby, especially for the Wikipedia Workshop being held in the framework of the Swiss Archive Day (9 June 2017). Participants will be introduced to researching and writing Wikipedia articles by a representative from Wikipedia Switzerland.

In addition, the staff of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are involved in the ongoing updating, expansion and maintenance of the holdings. A focal point in the coming year is the indexing of the photo archive.

We will keep you informed about these projects and activities with announcements in due course either on our website www.ei-

senbibliothek.ch or at the latest in the next Annual Report.

We thank all of you for your interest in the Iron Library, the historical and cultural heritage of the Georg Fischer Corporation, and we look forward to being in contact with you in one way or another in the coming year.

A special word of thanks goes to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personnel and moral support it would be impossible to realize all these activities.

Schaffhausen / Schlatt, 28 February 2017



Dr. Roland Gröbli
Chairman of the Governing Board
of the Iron Library Foundation
and Corporate Secretary
of Georg Fischer Ltd



lic. phil. Franziska Eggimann
Managing Director
of the Iron Library Foundation
and Corporate Archivist
of Georg Fischer Ltd



Events

Magic machines and magic moments

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives organized two extremely successful public events in the spring that enriched the diversity of the region's cultural life.

Open House Day: "Magic machines"

The theme of the Open House Day was "Magic machines". This was a reference to the 'wondrous' machines that French engineer Salomon de Caus developed at the beginning of the 17th century. But it also called to mind the products of the Schaffhausen engineering company Rauschenbach, which was acquired by GF in 1929, and its potential uses as 'magic'. They are amply documented in the GF Corporate Archives. Open House visitors gained an impression of the broad spectrum of mechanical engineering from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

About 100 visitors from all over the region were able to take a close look at very different types of machines and their uses in the course of the tour, on which they were guided by a dozen quiz questions. They learned the details of the sophisticated book wheel developed by the Renaissance military engineer Agostino Ramelli, the automatic roaster from the Baroque period (a device that turned the roast on a spit when hot air rose), or the water-driven elevator system in the Eiffel Tower at the end of the 19th century.

Literature festival "Erzählzeit"

The reading at the "Erzählzeit" literature festival in early April proved to be a big attraction. About 150 people attended the event in which Catalin Dorian Florescu read from his new novel "Der Mann, der das Glück bringt", moderated by bookseller Georg Freivogel from the Bücherfass bookstore in Schaffhausen. The Refectory at Klostersgut Paradies was filled to capacity, which didn't lessen the listening pleasure at all. Florescu captivated his audience with a fascinating mixture of reading from his novel and free-wheeling narration, whisking them off in their minds to the scenes of his novel in New York and the Danube Delta. Before the reading, 50 guests had taken a brief tour of the Iron Library that gave them an insight into the Library's treasures.

Above: Magic machines without wizardry on the Open House Day.

Below: Catalin Dorian Florescu captivates the audience with his story.



Ersatz für die Naturvanille



Rezeption und rechtliche Behandlung der Aromastoffe
Vanillin und Ethylvanillin (1874 – 2016)



Events

History of Technology Conference “Synthetic Materials”

There can be no doubt that we live in the “age of plastic”. Plastic has become an essential component of all aspects of our life – but how long have plastics been around? How were they created, and how do synthetic materials differ from natural ones? These were some of the many topics discussed at the 39th Conference on the History of Technology entitled “Synthetic Materials. Synthetically Transforming the World”. The Conference has been held annually since 1978 and has become a fixture in the technology history community. Responsibility for the content of the conference is in the hands of a Scientific Advisory Board consisting of Dr. Gisela Hürlimann (ETH Zürich), Prof. Reinhold Reith (University of Salzburg) and Prof. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin).

About 70 participants from Germany, the UK, Austria, Czechia and Switzerland attended the event last November at its long-standing venue at Klostersgut Paradies. The 14 speakers showed impressively that the concept of “synthetic materials” is far broader than the term “plastics” implies. Here are some of the program’s highlights:

Ursula Klein (Berlin) spoke on the manufacture of porcelain around 1800, while Susan Mossman (London) provided an overview of “Early plastics: perspectives 1850-1950”. Just how difficult it can be to distinguish between ‘synthetic’ and ‘natural’ was apparent

from the paper read by Elisabeth Vaupel (Munich) on the synthetic flavorings vanillin and ethyl vanillin. Julia Lütolf (St. Gallen) not only read a paper on the material in the St. Gallen Sitterwerk but even brought sample materials to give the audience some ‘tactile perception’. Manfred Rasch (Duisburg) explained why Karl Ziegler invented low density polyethylene, for which he was ‘rewarded’ with a Nobel Prize and more than DM 1 billion in license revenues. In closing, Stefan Erzinger (Schaffhausen) described current environmental questions in the production, use and recycling of synthetic products from GF Piping Systems.

An impressive tour of production at Stamm AG in Hallau brought the participants from the history of synthetics back to the present. The injection molded parts, manufactured with utmost precision for the world market, are often smaller than a matchhead – from casein-based plastics to the present synthetic materials really have an impressive career.

The papers read at the Conference are usually published the next year in the periodical FERRUM. The 88th issue, devoted to the topic “Just in time – Logistics in an Historical Perspective”, appeared in 2016. All issues of FERRUM are accessible electronically free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch)

The palette of synthetic materials at the History of Technology Conference ranges from vanillin to porcelain. Participants experienced them with all five senses.



Education

Guided tours of the Iron Library

The guided tours of the Iron Library are equally popular among both in-house and external visitors. The preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of GF is impressively conveyed to a wide audience on such occasions. In 2016, the Iron Library welcomed about 1,100 guests from around the world on its tours. They included internal visitors (employees, customers and guests of GF) and external visitors, in approximately equal numbers.

The tours, held in German, English, French, and Czech, presented treasures from the Iron Library's holdings, including a first edition of Newton's magnum opus Principia Mathematica from 1686 or the legendary book of Gustave Eiffel with all the design and installation plans for his 300-meter high tower, which came to symbolize the 1889 "Exposition Universelle" in Paris. The visitors were also able to see the rooms with their original furnishings as they looked in 1952, when the Library first opened.

When the exhibits were changed owing to loans for exhibitions, the Library tour team used the occasion to hold a workshop at which the contents and the way they are conveyed were discussed and compared. At the same time, the history of GF and plastics was updated since they are especially interesting for internal groups. New acquisitions from Library's plastics collection focus are now a permanent feature of the guided tours:

A participant in the 'flower tour' organized by the Cultural Foundation of the Canton of Thurgau studies a manuscript among the Iron Library's treasures.

for instance, the 1946 volume "Plastics in the world of tomorrow", which accurately predicts and describes today's age of plastics under the impact of post-war euphoria.

Jottings in our guestbook

"Very exciting to see such a marvelous collection of books that shaped science and technology!"

"We're thrilled! Bookworms too can still learn something."

"Strong like iron, flexible like plastic. We're always here. GLT Gruppo di lavoro tecnico polietilene."

Nationalities of the Library visitors

Austria	Malaysia
Belgium	Morocco
Brazil	Netherlands
Canada	Norway
China	Portugal
Czechia	Singapore
Denmark	Slovenia
Germany	Spain
Finland	Sweden
France	Switzerland
India	Turkey
Indonesia	UK
Italy	USA
Japan	Vietnam
Korea	



View of Main Truss Members pin connected to the shoe

Research

Scholar in Residence Program

The Iron Library launched its Scholar in Residence program in 2015. The program is an invitation to research scientists to engage with the rich holdings of the Iron Library and the GF Corporate Archives.

The Scholar in Residence program is geared to both established researchers and up-and-coming academics in Switzerland and abroad. In keeping with the Iron Library's specialization, preference will be given to applications from scholars with research projects on the history of metallurgy and mining and the history of technology and materials science, which are the focal points of the Iron Library's collection. Research on the history of the Georg Fischer Corporation is also especially welcome because the program likewise gives support to projects that engage with the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd. The Iron Library will bear the accommodation expenses of the Scholar in Residence for a research visit of up to several weeks and will pay an allowance for the cost of meals and travel to and from Switzerland. Applications may be submitted at any time.

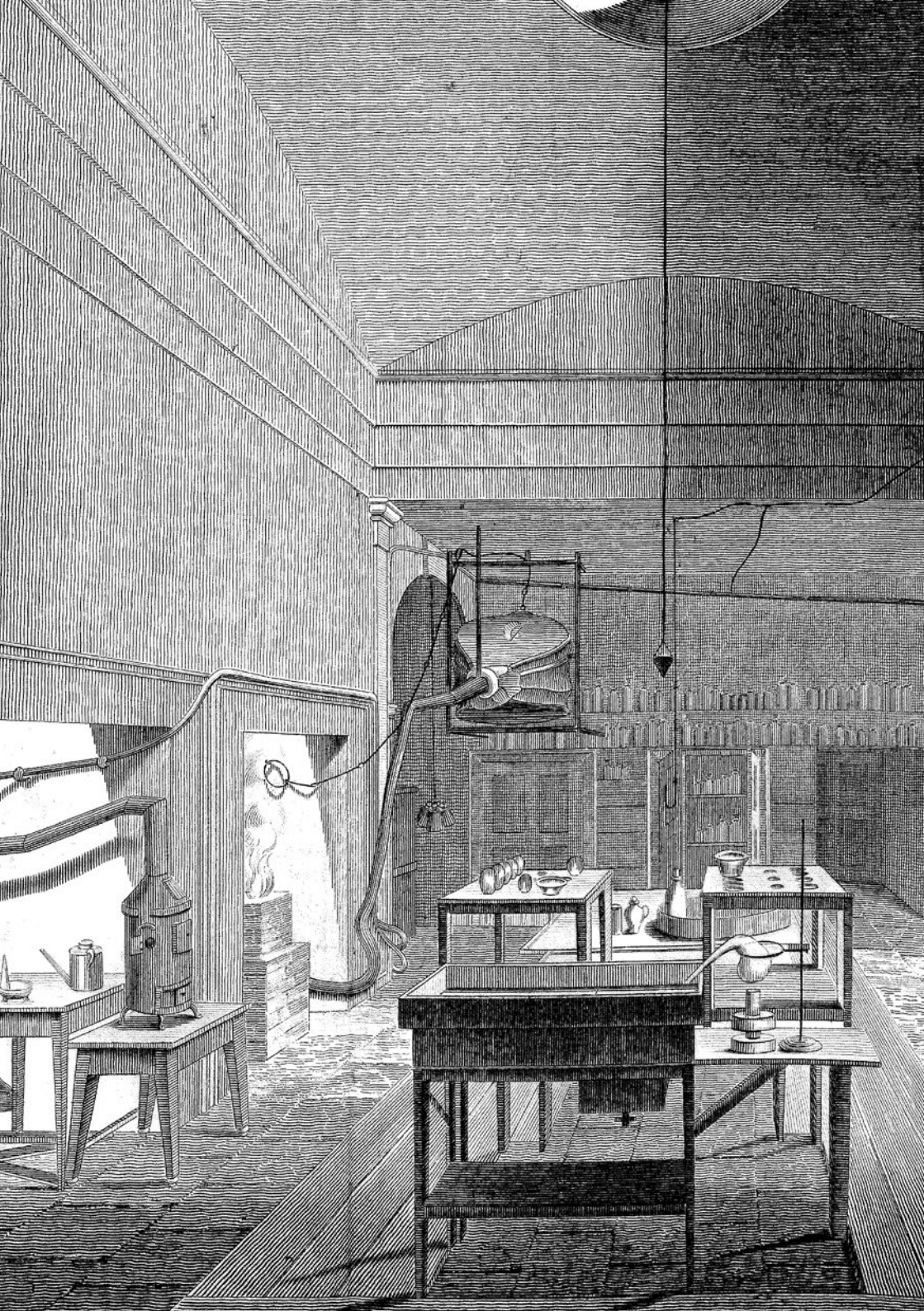
The Iron Library also possesses outstanding resources on the design and construction of bridges. They don't always have to be monuments that are as well-known and whose history is as dramatic as that of the Quebec Bridge (photo of the bridge in 1919).

In the year under review, the Iron Library welcomed three Scholars in Residence.

In March, Virginie Fracheboud analyzed the GF Corporate Archive's extensive documentation on the expansion of GF in the United States. She is writing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Lausanne on Swiss multinational corporations in the USA between 1946 and 1974, with case studies dedicated to GF and the chemical company Ciba.

In April, Thomas Boothby, Professor of Architectural Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, used the Iron Library's holdings for his research on the use of empirical methods in building iron bridges in the late 19th century. His special focus is on the question why the design of truss bridges developed differently in the USA and Europe at this time.

In June Franziska Neumann, a Ph.D. student at the Technical University Dresden, did research in the Iron Library's rich holdings in mining sciences for her doctoral dissertation, which will focus on specific aspects of mining in the early modern period. Its title is "Dem Gemeinen Bergbau zu Nutz. Untersuchungen zu einem Grundwert des Frühneuzeitlichen Bergbaus".



Research

Internal and external research projects

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives support research projects that are related to the holdings of these institutions and address their contents. In the year under review, the following projects were either completed as final papers or were published:

- Hanspeter Britt: *Giesser und Totengräber: Geschichte der Schweizer Giessereiindustrie*. Zürich 2016. [on the history of the foundry industry in Switzerland]
- Franziska Eggimann: *Die "Entrümpelung der Schweiz": Die Beschaffungslogistik der Eidgenössischen Schrottkommission im Zweiten Weltkrieg*. Aus dem Konzernarchiv der Georg Fischer AG, in: *Ferrum, Nachrichten aus der Eisenbibliothek*. Just in time – technikhistorische Perspektiven der Logistik, 88, 2016, S. 83–90. [on the Federal Scrap Metal Commission and its procurement logistics in World War Two]
- Franziska Eggimann: *Eine Glocke für den Papst und eine Handschrift für die Eisenbibliothek*. Giuseppe Valadier: *Disegni, e spiegazione della Fonderia, 1786*, in: *Librarium. Zeitschrift der schweizerischen Bibliophilen-Gesellschaft*, 2016, S. 24–38. [on the Papal bell cast by Giuseppe Valadier]
- Rudy Ernst: *Porträt eines Schweizer Industrie- und Bank-Pioniers*. Zum 150.

One man's library is another man's lab. A look at the Royal Institution from the article by Florian Ruhland. Engraving by James Basire after an original by William Tite.

Geburtstag von Dr. Rudolf J. Ernst. North Charleston 2016. [on Rudolf J. Ernst, Swiss industrial pioneer]

- Rémi Hess, Gabriele Weigand, Martin Herzhoff, Camille Rabinau: *Frédéric Le Play: ein Kämpfer für die Sozialreform*. Sainte Gemme 2016. [on Frédéric Le Play, French engineer and sociologist]
- Florian Ruhland: *Vormodernes Wasser-Wissen in der Eisenbibliothek (III). Das Wissen von der Wassergüte bei Pierre-Joseph Macquer und William Thomas Brande*, in: *Ferrum, Nachrichten aus der Eisenbibliothek*. Just in time – technikhistorische Perspektiven der Logistik, 88, 2016, S. 130–139. [on pre-modern knowledge about water in the Iron Library]
- Martin Schieder: *Fürstin und "femme savante" – Die Parisreise der Karoline Luise von Baden im Jahre 1771*. In: Christoph Frank (Hrsg.)/Università della Svizzera italiana/Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe: *Aufgeklärter Kunstdiskurs und höfische Sammelpraxis : Karoline Luise von Baden im europäischen Kontext*. Berlin/München 2015, S. 66–79. [on Karoline Luise von Baden, German princess]
- Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum (Hrsg.): *Europa in der Renaissance : Metamorphosen 1400–1600*. Berlin/Zürich 2016 [on Europe in the Renaissance]
- Eva Spinazzè: *La luce nell'architettura sacra: spazio e orientazione nelle chiese del X–XII secolo tra Romandio e Toscana*. Frankfurt am Main 2016. [on the use of light in sacred architecture]



Library

Use and services

It is standard practice that a reference library such as the Iron Library does not lend media, except for internal borrowing by GF employees at the Schaffhausen, Singen and Mettmann sites and interlibrary loan requests from other libraries. A total of 108 books were borrowed. The book table 'visited' the employees in Schaffhausen and Singen in July and late November/early December, offering them a selection of the new acquisitions for direct borrowing.

We try to acquire requested media that are not in the Library itself through the book trade or through second-hand bookshops. If this is not possible, the Iron Library obtains them through interlibrary loan, mainly via the NEBIS network in Switzerland or the SWB network in Germany. In the year under review the Iron Library made five such loans.

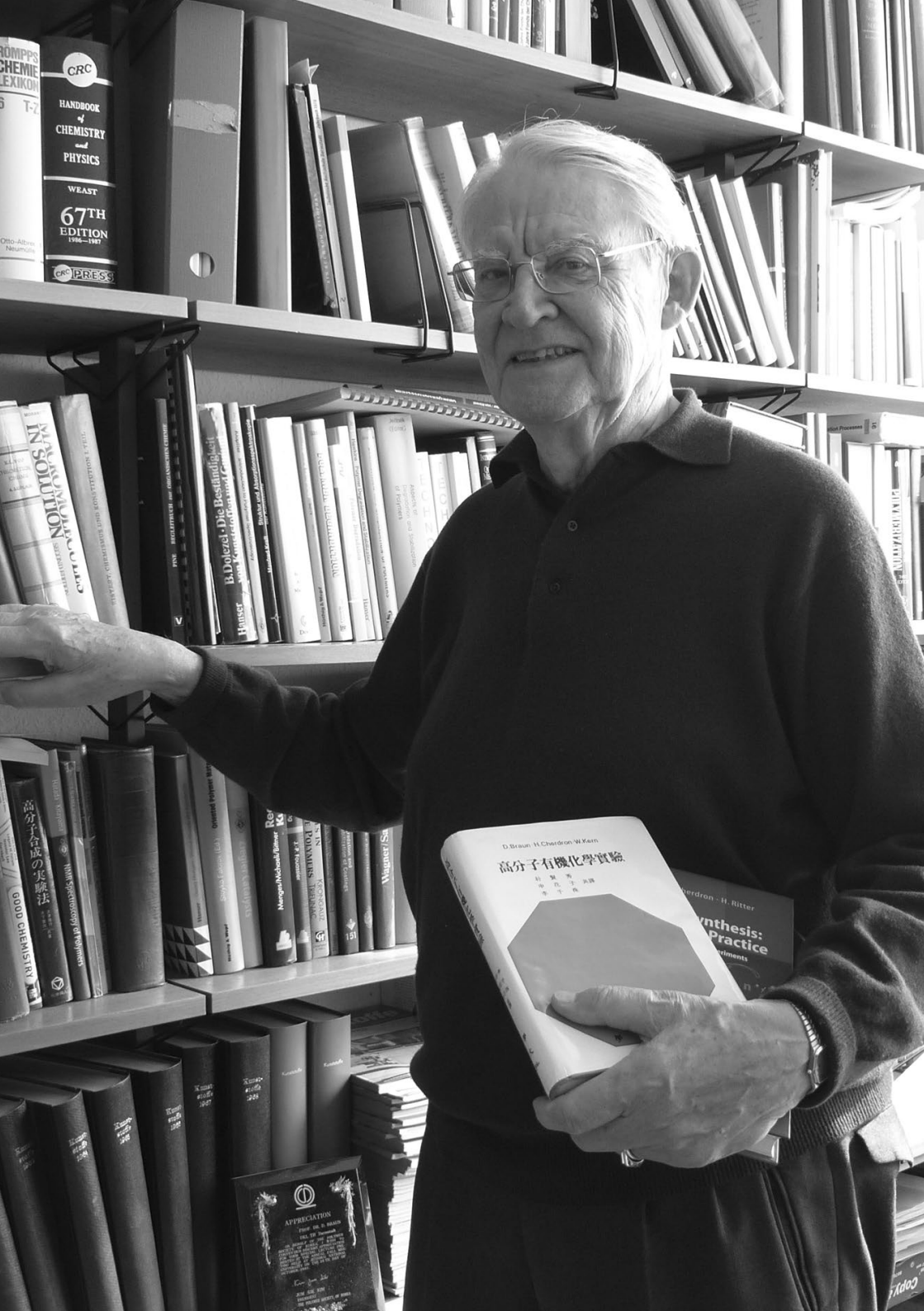
An outstanding event was the Iron Library's participation in the major exhibition "Europe in the Renaissance" which was shown in the newly completed wing of the Landesmuseum Zurich, part of the Swiss National Museum. The Iron Library contributed the oldest manuscript in its possession, which contains texts by Aristotle and Albertus Magnus and also one by Ibn Rušd – known in the West by the name Averroës (1126–1198). Ibn Rušd was a physician and philosopher born in Córdoba, Spain. With his commentaries on Aristotle's treatises he furthered the redis-

covery of the Greek philosopher's writings in Europe during the Middle Ages.

The Library received 56 inquiries in the past year. They ranged from concrete questions about literature to complex research on various topics. In 2016, 54 users worked in the Library's reading room on 59 days. As a rule, they used the facilities for a day, and in the case of the three Scholars in Residence they stayed for one or two weeks.

Through the initiative and contacts of Urs Werner, Board member of the Iron Library and Asia expert, the Iron Library was asked to provide its services for an intercontinental publication project. The Japanese city of Kitakyushu has requested that the former Imperial Steel Works, later the Yawata Iron and Steel Works, be included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Imperial Steel Works was built by the German engineering firm Gutehoffnungshütte between 1897 and 1901 and was Japan's first modern steel mill. In connection with the submission to UNESCO, Dietrich Soye, a professor of geography from Germany, prepared a report for Kitakyushu on the story of the technology transfer from Europe to Japan. Until then only copies of the not easily decipherable German archival documents were available in Japan; the Iron Library was able to assist in having these documents transcribed and translated into English, thereby making them understandable and accessible to a broader public.

From the world's third largest steel mill to World Heritage site? The photo, which comes from a time when steel was still milled in Yawata, was taken from the "Steel Products" catalog of Yawata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Tokyo, 1954.



Library

Collection development and cataloguing

In 2016 the Library continued to grow as we purchased 643 volumes (books) and received 116 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Library receives about 60 current journals and series either as a subscriber or as a member. The new acquisitions were geared to the Iron Library's existing acquisition profile. In purchases from second-hand bookshops, the emphasis was on books that further strengthen the Library's current collection interests. Here are some examples:

- Eisenbahnbrücke über die Aare bei Busswyl auf der Berner Staatsbahn zwischen Bern und Biel. Zurich 1863.
- F. C. Philippson: Der Freihandel in Eisen und seine Gegner. Berlin 1876.
- Raimund Hoffer: Kautschuk und Guttapercha: eine Darstellung der Eigenschaften und der Verarbeitung des Kautschuks und der Guttapercha auf fabriksmäßigem Wege [...]. 2nd ed., Vienna 1892.
- The Quebec Bridge over the St. Lawrence river: near the City of Quebec, on the line of the Canadian National Railways; 1908–1918; report of the Government Board of Engineers. Ottawa 1919.

As part of the development of the newly created plastics collection focus, which we reported on in previous years, part of the

private library of Prof. Dietrich Braun was acquired in 2016. Dietrich Braun was born in 1930 and studied chemistry in Leipzig and Mainz. After completing his doctorate in 1957 and his "Habilitation" in Mainz in 1960, Braun was the Director of the German Plastics Institute (DKI) in Darmstadt from 1969 to 1999 and also Professor of Macromolecular Chemistry at the Darmstadt Technical University from 1977 to 1999. Dietrich Braun was on the editorial board of the new edition of the plastics handbook and of the journals Macromolecular chemistry and physics and Applied macromolecular chemistry and physics. The former DKI now constitutes the Plastics Division of the Fraunhofer Institute for Structural Durability and System Reliability. Florian Ruhland, Academic Librarian at the Iron Library, traveled to Darmstadt to view the collection at the DKI's former premises and supervised the packing of 45 moving boxes for transport to the Iron Library. We'd like to thank Steve Kunzelmann from GF Piping Systems for his support in organizing the transport.

The Iron Library lists its holdings in the online catalog of the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund (SWB) and participates in the cooperative formal cataloguing and subject indexing. The switchover to the new standard, Resource Description & Access (RDA), took place on 1 January 2016 and has since become well established in everyday use. Efforts are still being made to correct catalog entries that do not conform with the standards. As at 31 December 2016, the catalog of the Iron Library listed 34,513 books, 970 periodicals, 9,751 articles and 69 online resources, which is about 1,300 catalogued items more than the year before.

From the office to the Library: Prof. Dietrich Braun takes leave of part of his private library, packed in moving boxes, in his office at the former German Plastics Institute. He knows the books are in good hands at the Iron Library.

Fig. 6.

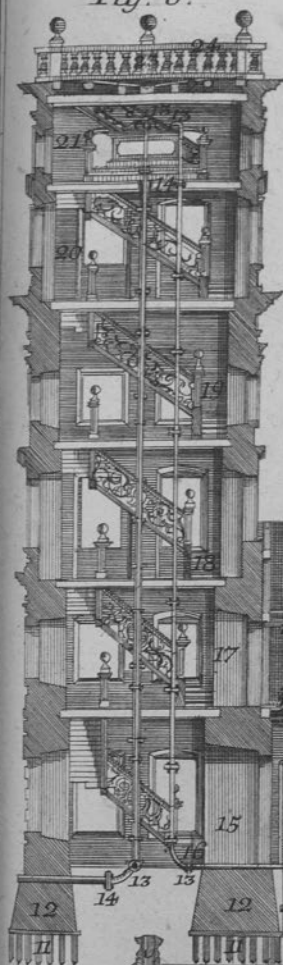
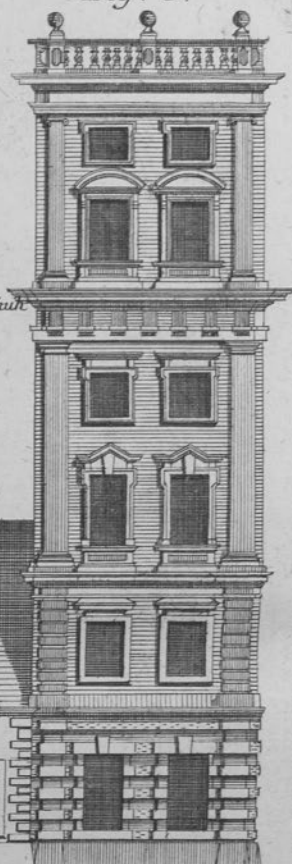


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.

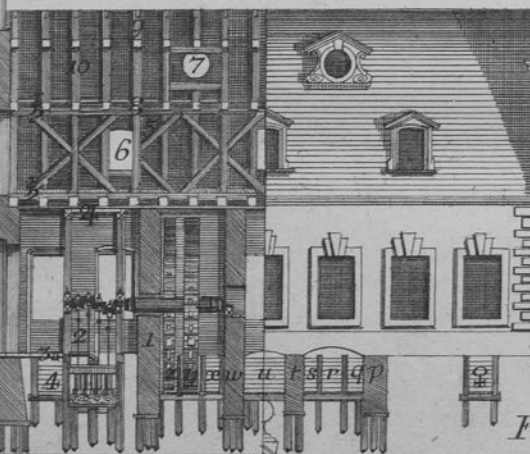
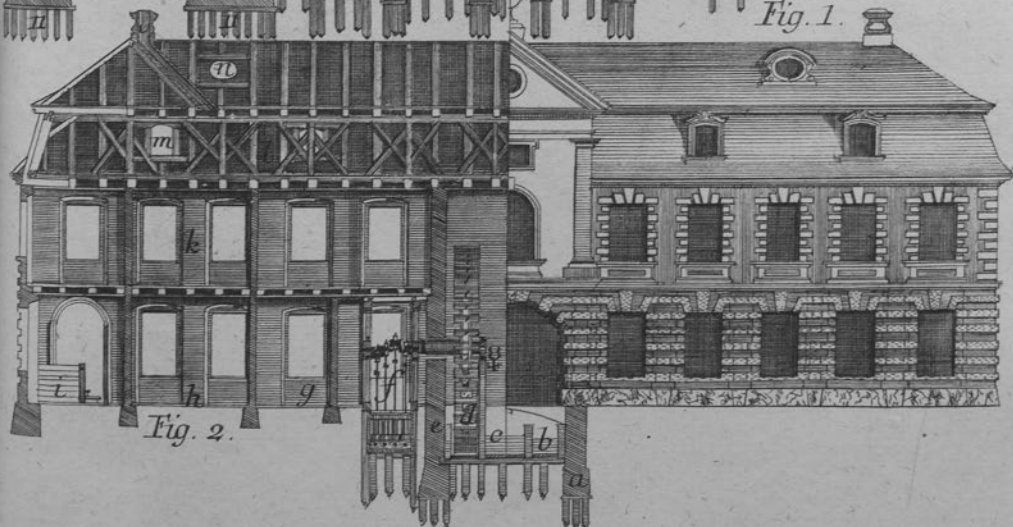


Fig. 1.



Library

A “pièce de résistance” among the new acquisitions

Caspar Walter's *Architectura Hydraulica* (1765)

The history of water supply in Europe is often thought to peak in the Roman era, typified by its magnificent aqueducts, with the next peak coming only in the 19th and 20th centuries, when modern infrastructures were introduced. Between these peaks, there is, allegedly, a long and dark valley. However, even in this 'dark age', sophisticated water supply facilities did exist that were planned with a high level of technical expertise, as exemplified in Caspar Walter's book *Architectura Hydraulica* or: *The Art of Water Movement*, published in Augsburg in 1765. The Iron Library has now acquired a copy of this book.

Following in his father's footsteps, Caspar Walter (1701–1769) first learned the trade of carpenter and became a master craftsman in 1736. He had entered the service of the city of Augsburg in 1728 and was initially responsible for operating a water tower. From 1741 to 1768 he was the city's 'fountain master' and as such responsible for the entire water supply infrastructure, which included everything from waterworks (including water features) to pipes and public fountains. His knowledge was not restricted to maintenance and expansion of the waterworks within Augsburg's city walls – Walter published numerous monographs on technical aspects of engineering and water supply

that made his name known well beyond the confines of Augsburg.

Owing to their ingenious construction and technical sophistication, the waterworks in Augsburg were a famous attraction – a real 'must see' for visitors to the city. Caspar Walter set himself the goal of further improving the machines. His *Architectura Hydraulica*, published in 1765, consists of two parts. In the first part he describes various machines designed to use watermills and windmills to drive machines for water features. In the second part Walter explains the different types of pumps, the construction of water towers, the making of pipes and the installation of fountains. The book is not fiction: he backs up his extensive explanations and descriptions with illustrative copper plates. In his introduction to the first part Walter wrote:

“It is an indisputable truth that the hydraulic art of causing water to move and elevating it to great heights for all manner of purposes constitutes a significant portion of human endeavors so that, through art and science, it may be raised to even a greater degree of perfection. Should this work, which represents the meagre talent given me by G-d based on 36 years of experience in theory and practice ... make some contribution and be beneficial to my fellow men, I shall be delighted ...”

The water towers of Augsburg were regarded as high-tech infrastructure when Caspar Walter published his book *Architectura hydraulica* in 1765. They remain an attraction for visitors even today.



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Corporate Archives

Inquiries and use

The Corporate Archives can be used both by employees of GF and by externals. The archive records can be examined on the premises of the Iron Library. Since we also receive 'combined' inquiries that affect the holdings of both the Corporate Archives and the Iron Library, it is convenient for users to be able to work with all the source material at the same time.

In the reporting period, 79 archive inquiries (42 internal and 37 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the Corporate Archivist. 18 users (4 internal and 14 external) also used the Archive on site, five of them for extensive research over a period of several days, for a total of 31 user days in the Archive. The most intensive use of the Archive holdings was by one of the three scholars in residence: Virginie Fracheboud from the University of Lausanne studied the early phase of GF's presence on the US market from its entry in 1946 until 1974 (see p. 15).

Many of the questions related to specific products such as semitrailer couplings, thread-cutting machines or building technology fittings. Of ongoing interest in the past year were topics such as the GF factory school and vocational training at GF, the works railway with the bogies developed at GF for moving Swiss Federal Railways freight cars on the narrow gauge tracks in the Mühlental. Several inquirers and users

addressed issues relating to various companies acquired by GF whose history is documented in the Corporate Archives, for instance the engineering firm Rauschenbach and Alfred J. Amsler & Co. in Schaffhausen or Oehler & Co. in Aarau.

For the first time, the Archive had more internal than external inquiries. This even resulted in a small correction in the company's history: owing to an inquiry from the Treasury Department, the year that GF was floated on the stock market was moved back by 28 years to 1903. GF was thus among the first five Swiss firms in the metal and engineering sector whose shares were traded on the stock market – the others were Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon, Lokomotivfabrik Winterthur, Aluminiumgesellschaft Neuhausen and Metallwarenfabrik Zug.

Employees from all over the world used the internal knowledge platform GF Brain to ask burning and curious questions on GF history. The Corporate Archives were pleased to answer such queries as the history of the company logo, which was introduced in 1903, and its current blue color, which was defined and standardized as Pantone 300 C in 1986.

Pupil and master: A GF apprentice is initiated into the wonders of technology in 1941.



Corporate Archives

New accessions and indexing

In the year under review, 17 deliveries of archive material comprising 23 linear meters were added as new accessions. The largest and most important accessions came from the General Secretariat and Office of the Board of Directors; they complete the series of minutes of various corporate and management bodies of the public limited company and the Corporation. The end of the microfilm era also brought about a reappraisal and reorganization of the workflow necessary to enhance the conservation of records of these provenances.

Two very different new accessions are worthy of special mention. One was a bequest that the Corporate Archives received from the estate of a former GF employee of 12 cast plates documenting the inauguration or closing of foundries in Switzerland and Germany between 1960 and 1992. The other was a gift to the Archive of a leather-bound, handwritten history of Klostersgut Paradies from the grandson of Ernst Homberger, Director, General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Directors of GF from 1902 to 1955. This magnificent book was the Christmas gift of the GF employees in 1920, two years after the company acquired the property on the Rhine. It is an invaluable document of the times in the run-up to the anniversary year 2018 when the former convent will have been in the possession of GF for a century.

In 2016, a start was made on working up the photo archive, a task that will keep the Corporate Archives busy in the coming year too. GF's own photographers documented development, production, materials testing and dispatch at GF from the 1930s until 1995. They produced photographic reports from the foundries and from trade fairs or exhibitions, they accompanied retirees on their outings, visited apprentices at the GF Factory School, and prepared photographs of products for what was known as the "Propaganda Department". Both work and leisure activities were inventoried on some 29,000 filing cards, which are now being indexed and in some cases digitized. By the end of the year a good two thirds or 20,000 filing cards had been indexed, corresponding to about 62,000 individual pictures. In 2017 the indexing work will be completed and the filing cards will be checked against the negatives. In addition, indexing will begin on the older photographic holdings, consisting of about 4,000 glass plates.

This is not mountain climbing! The GF photographer was portraying a mountain side being cut away in the Mühldental in 1923 for expansion of the foundries.

[Bearbeiten](#) [Verschieben](#) [Kopieren](#) [Neu](#) [Löschen](#)

Katalog >

GFA :: Georg Fischer Archiv >

Bestandsgruppe HFA :: Historisches Firmenarchiv >

GFA 1 :: Historisches Firmenarchiv (Altbestand) >

Gliessereien >

Tempergussfittings >

Kataloge, Preislisten >

[Liste](#) < 1 2 ... 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 ... 43 44 >

GFA 1/2717 :: Tempergussfittings Kataloge

Identifikation	
Signatur	GFA 1/2717
Altsignatur	HFA 1/02717; 48.03
Titel	Tempergussfittings Kataloge
Laufzeit	1908 – 1910
Autor	unbekannt
Verzeichnungsstufe	Dossier
Umfang (Stückzahl)	1
Objekttyp	Akte
Bilder	

gfa_1_2717-0001.TIF

Inhalt und innere Ordnung

Collection/Record Group	Fonds	Data Records new	Linear m new	Data Records old	Linear m old
Georg Fischer Archive (GFA)					
Historical Company Archive	1	3,243	27,650	2,977	38,000
Georg Fischer Ltd	8	1,399	8,021	1,338	11,050
Publications	1	193	590	29	700
Photos/Film	5	2,665	2,530	340	1,600
Objects	2	443	0	425	0
Divisions, Subsidiaries, Holdings	5	1,757	10,147	1,853	15,000
Iron Library Archive (EBA)	8	1,606	7,058	1,512	0
Total	30	11,306	55,996	8,474	66,350

Corporate Archives

Reorganization and development of database

The reporting year revolved around the reorganization of the archive holdings already indexed. The project, which was started in 2014, was completed by the end of 2016. The reorganization project does not include indexing of the photo archive, which was launched in 2016 and is described in greater detail on page 27.

The Corporation-wide IT switchover three years ago and the related compatibility problems made it imperative to create a new Archive database. The solution chosen for the new database was a web-based approach that is tailored to the specific needs of the Corporate Archives. Three aspects were prioritized in the design:

1. Implementation of the international archive standard ISAD(G)
2. Structuring by hierarchy level
3. Standardization across fonds boundaries and reduction in number of database fields.

The existing holdings (fonds) were corrected and revised before they were imported into the new database. The Archive team spent about 3,000 staff hours on the project in the period 2014–2016.

On 31 December 2016, the Archive database had 11,306 records. GFA 1/2721 contains the catalogs for malleable cast iron fittings in German, English, French, Polish and Russian for the period 1908–1910.

Data quality

For one thing, data quality was optimized by standardizing and completing the very heterogeneous data records according to ISAD(G). The reference code system was standardized, and the degree of detail increased from 8,474 units of description to 11,306. In addition to the existing hierarchy levels (collection, fonds and file), new levels were introduced: record group, class and item. The internal order of the fonds was retained as far as possible.

Repacking

For another, the physical files were checked for completeness and condition and repacked for reasons of conservation. We reduced the 26 fonds processed by more than 100 linear meters to 560 linear meters through repacking and storage and the elimination of duplicates.

Digitization

The next step is to digitize some of the holdings in order to enhance accessibility and retrieval. For instance, it is planned to digitize the annual reports and employee newspapers with OCR. Selective digitization of the photo archive began in the year under review.



The team from the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives (left to right): Florian Ruhland, Pauline Zade, Franziska Eggimann, Natalie Hubli, Lina Kuhn

Personnel

The team of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives comprises 2.5 FTEs, shared by three employees: Franziska Eggimann, Managing Director of the Iron Library Foundation, is at the same time responsible for the Corporate Archives of GF. Florian Ruhland, academic librarian, and Pauline Zade, administration, complete the team. They are supported by Lina Kuhn, a student helper, and Natalie Hubli, an intern.

Involvement in committees/working groups

- Board member Schaffhausen Museum Society (FE)
- Founding member and Board member Swiss Association of Industrial Culture and Technology History VINTES (FE)
- History committee of the Steel Institute VDEh (FE)
- OPL-Kreis (One Person Libraries) Bodensee (FR)

Involvement in events

- January, March, June, September and November 2016: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- April 2016: “Thematic development in practice: Creating a plastics section in the Iron Library”, VdW annual meeting, Zurich (talk FE)
- August 2016: VINTES annual meeting “Technical collection – from scrap to cultural asset”, Erstfeld (organization FE)

- October 2016: “From experimental lab to industrial steel mill: The history of GF and the development of steel milling in Schaffhausen”. Fall meeting of the Swiss Association of Cantonal Property Evaluators, Schaffhausen (talk FE)

Participation in events

- March 2016: Meeting of VdEh history committee, Luxembourg (FE)
- April 2016: ICA/SBA Conference “Sustainability in Business Archives”, Atlanta (FE)
- September 2016: Annual meeting of VSA, Appenzell (FE)

Ongoing training

- June 2016: Provenance research – Nazi loot in libraries, University Library, Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main (FR)
- June 2016: Franklin Covey Basic Training, Klostersgut Paradies (PZ)
- July 2016: Introduction to the study of incunabula, Institut d'Histoire du Livre, Lyon (FR)
- November 2016: People Management Training, Klostersgut Paradies (FE)
- December 2016: RDA Workshop, BSZ Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart (FR)



Board of Trustees and Governing Board at the last meeting at Klostergut Paradies.

Organization of the Foundation

The Board of Trustees consists of public figures from the world of business, science, research, culture and partner institutions, in particular universities, libraries and museums in Switzerland and elsewhere.

The supervisory obligation is entrusted to a five-person Governing Board made up of representatives of the GF divisions.

Finance

The operating expenses of the Iron Library, which come to about CHF 500,000 per annum, are covered by an annual contribution from Georg Fischer Ltd to the Iron Library Foundation and by compensation for services rendered to the Corporation. The Corporate Archives has a separate cost center within GF.

The Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees:

Members as per 1.1.2017

- Yves Serra,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
CEO Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen,
Switzerland
- Irene Amstutz
Director of the Swiss Economic Archives
and University Library Economics, Basel,
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- Prof. Dr.–Ing. Martin Bastian
CEO German Plastics Center SKZ,
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- Gerold Bühner
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- Dr. Roland E. Hofer
State Archivist and Head of depart-
ment for Cultural Promotion Canton of
Schaffhausen, Switzerland
- Dr. Gabriele Zuna–Kratky
Director Technisches Museum, Vienna,
Austria

Governing Board:

Members as per 1.1.2017

- Dr. Roland Gröbli,
Chairman of the Governing Board
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd,
Schaffhausen
- Stefan Dahl
Head of Technology Unit New Technolo-
gies, GF Machining Solutions, Geneva
- Dr. Nabil El Barbari
Vice President, Head of Technology,
Quality & Sustainability,
GF Piping Systems, Schaffhausen
- Dirk Lindemann
Head Business Unit Iron Casting Europe,
GF Automotive, Schaffhausen
- Urs Werner
Senior Advisor, GF Piping Systems,
Schaffhausen



Memberships

Memberships in Switzerland

- Freunde des Bergbaus in Graubünden (FBG), Celerina
- Historischer Verein des Kantons Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen
- Historischer Verein des Kantons Thurgau, Frauenfeld
- Museumsverein Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen
- Schmiedezunft Eligius, Paradies, Schlatt
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte (SGG), Bern
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für historische Bergbauforschung (SGHB), Basel
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte und Industriekultur (SGTI), Winterthur
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte (SGWSG), Bern
- Thurgauische Museums-gesellschaft – Museen im Thurgau, Frauenfeld
- Verband Bibliothek Information Schweiz (BIS), Bern
- Verband Industriekultur und Technikgeschichte Schweiz (VINTES), Luzern
- Verein für wirtschaftshistorische Studien, Zürich
- Verein Schweizerischer Archivarinnen und Archivare (SVA), Bern

International memberships

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Spezialbibliotheken e.V. (ASpB), Frankfurt am Main D
- Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA), Telford UK

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik e.V. (DGMNT), Frankfurt am Main D
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kunststoffgeschichte e.V. (dgkg), Bayreuth D
- European Route of Industrial Heritage e.V. (ERIH), Meerbusch D
- Georg–Agricola–Gesellschaft e.V., Freiberg D
- Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte e.V. (GTG), Berlin D
- Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte e.V. (GUG), Frankfurt am Main D
- Historical Metallurgy Society Limited, London UK
- International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), Warschau PL
- International Council on Archives (ICA), Paris F
- Kunststoff-Museums-Verein e.V., Düsseldorf D
- Plastics Historical Society (PHS), London UK
- Society for the History of Sciences and Technology (sDVTcz), Prag CZ
- Stahlinstitut VDEh, Düsseldorf D
- Verein Bibliotheken der Regio Bodensee, A/CH/D
- Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare e.V. (VDB), München D
- Verein Deutscher Giessereifachleute e.V. (VDG), Düsseldorf D
- Verein für die Geschichte des Bodensees und seiner Umgebung e. V., Friedrichshafen A/CH/D
- Vereinigung deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare e. V. (VdW), Dortmund D
- Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare (VÖB), Graz A

The History Committee of the VDEh met at the Iron Library in 1955. Today Franziska Eggmann represents her institution on this body.

Overview and statistics

Library

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
Literature on the history of iron and steel and on the history of technology, shelved according to a classification system developed by the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Books/monographs – Journals and periodicals – Company publications and product catalogs – Articles and offprints – Separately listed collections and bequests – Digital Resources 	More than 44,000 catalog records	13th century to the present

Archive

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fischer Family bequest – Management and administration files of Georg Fischer Ltd and divisions – Files of corporate subsidiaries and holdings in Switzerland and elsewhere – Photographic and film archive – Collection of objects – Art collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative documents Project documentation Correspondence Promotional material Minutes Patents Objects Photographs Films Building plans etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 30,000 records More than 1,000 linear meters Approx. 700 objects 	Starting in 1743

Use of Library/Archive	2016	2015	2014	2013
Library users	54	20	34	20
Archive users	18	20	17	7 (Q4)
Library inquiries	56	55	38	14
Archive inquiries	79	108	78	17 (Q4)
Library items lent	108	151	113	55

Archive holdings	2016	2015	2014	2013
Accessions	23 linear m	40 linear m	40 linear m	20 linear m
Holdings indexed	620 linear m	800 linear m	800 linear m	800 linear m
Holdings not indexed	400 linear m	380 linear m	340 linear m	300 linear m
Indexing	50 linear m	2 linear m	4 linear m	0 linear m
Records	31,306	–	–	–

Library holdings	2016	2015	2014	2013
New acquisitions – purchases	643	180	318	147
New acquisitions – bequests, exchange	116	278	164	231
Catalog entries books – titles	33,900	32,598	32,089	31,768
Catalog entries books – copies	34,513	33,200	32,663	32,334
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9,751	9,603	9,606	9,604
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	970	851	744	702
Current periodicals and series	66	63	62	59
Catalog entries online resources	69	27	15	n.a.

Guided tours	2016	2015	2014	2013
Total no. of visitors	1,098	1,089	1,130	705
Total no. of tours	85	99	103	59
Tours for GF guests	50	56	53	32
Tours for external guests	35	43	50	27
Avg. no. persons per tour	13	11	11	12

Useful information

Services of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives

- Guided tours of the historical premises of the Iron Library
- Use of the library and archive holdings on site
- Advice to users and answering inquiries
- IRONCAT: Online catalog library (<http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/>)
- Public reading room with several work-places
- Internet access via WLAN
- Lending of library holdings for GF employees at the Schaffhausen, Singen and Mettmann sites
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and NEBIS
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings (taking delivery, evaluation, indexing and maintenance)
- Subscription to FERRUM free of charge
- FERRUM available digitally on e-periodica (www.e-periodica.ch)
- Selected manuscripts available digitally on e-codices (www.e-codices.unifr.ch)

Events in 2017

3 April 2017

Flurin Jecker reading from "Lanz"
(Erzählzeit Literature Festival,
Schaffhausen/Singen)

9 June 2017

Wikipedia writing workshop
(Swiss Archive Day 2017)

July 2017

Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

17 and 18 November 2017

40th History of Technology Conference
"Colors in Technology – Technology of
Colors"

December 2017

Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

Contact

Employees as at 1.3.2017

Franziska Eggimann

Head Iron Library and Corporate Archives
franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com

Florian Ruhland

Academic Librarian
florian.ruhland@georgfischer.com

Pauline Zade

Administration and tours
pauline.zade@georgfischer.com

Lina Kuhn

Student employee Corporate Archives
lina.kuhn@georgfischer.com

Natalie Hubli

Trainee Corporate Archives
natalie.hubli@georgfischer.com

Opening times and directions

Monday to Friday by appointment

Travel by train:

S8 train from Schaffhausen, direction Stein am Rhein, to Langwiesen or Schlatt station,
then 15 minutes' walk to Klostergut Paradies

Travel by car:

Metered parking available across from the Paradies Restaurant and landing stage

Address

Iron Library
Klostergut Paradies
8252 Schlatt/Switzerland
Tel. +41 52 631 27 44
eisenbibliothek@georgfischer.com
www.eisenbibliothek.ch