

An aerial photograph showing a large, calm lake in the foreground, surrounded by dense forests and green fields. In the background, a small town is visible, and a prominent mountain peak rises in the distance under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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Iron Library –
a Foundation of Georg Fischer Ltd

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Annual Report 2017

Iron Library Foundation and
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

Imprint

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Foreword

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2017 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 Archive. Located in the former Clarissan convent Klostergut Paradies, they report to the Corporate Secretary and are managed by Franziska Eggimann.

Personnel

The “memory institutions” at GF are keen to call on the knowledge and know-how of GF retirees. For some years now, Hugo Rechsteiner (formerly GF Piping Systems) has been imparting technology history to international guests on tours. Susanne Nendel (formerly GF Casting Solutions) has begun to support the archive team in managing the GF art collections and preparing digital source material on the Corporation's history. In the past year, Hans-Eugen Meier (formerly GF Liegenschaften) assisted in correctly classifying and itemizing the company's collection of building plans. These experienced GF colleagues are making a dynamic and effective contribution to the broad range of activities of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archive. Sincere thanks are due to them all for their commitment.

Walter Knecht preparing the Iron Library in 1951 for its inauguration a year later. In 2017, the Library and Archive team showed the same care in preparing for the anniversary in 2018.

Iron Library

In 2017, the Library continued to grow as it purchased 250 volumes (books) and received 218 volumes as bequests or exchanges. The Iron Library also systematically pursued the development of its new focus on plastics. As part of these efforts, the holdings of the GF Piping Systems' Technology Center and R&D in Schaffhausen were incorporated into the Library's online catalog. Now that some 250 titles have been cataloged, it is possible to search the available printed literature on plastics online and centrally from a single catalog.

Activities

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archive organized two successful public events in 2017 that have enriched the diversity of the region's cultural life. The Iron Library participated for the third time in the cross-border literature festival “Erzählzeit ohne Grenzen”. Flurin Jecker read from his first novel “Lanz”, which, with its “youth” jargon, triggered a lively discussion among the hundred or so attendees at Klostergut Paradies. The first Wikipedia writers' workshop held at the Iron Library in the framework of Swiss Archive Day also generated a lot of discussion, especially on rules and conduct in our dealings with the digital community encyclopedia, before the neo-Wikipedians got down to writing their own articles.

History of Technology Conference 2017

The 40th Conference on the History of Technology (TGT), devoted to the topic “Colors in Technology – Technology of Colors”, featured

an innovation on the language front. For the first time, the Conference was held in two languages, with papers being evenly divided between English and German. The international guests from Austria, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Holland, India, Japan, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA held animated discussions in both languages – and others too. The papers read at the Conference are published the following year in the periodical FERRUM. Volume 89 of FERRUM on the topic “Synthetic Materials. Synthetically Transforming the World” appeared in 2017. All issues of FERRUM are accessible free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch).

Corporate Archive

The Corporate Archive 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 Archive 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, 116 archive inquiries (68 internal and 48 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the Corporate Archivist. 29 users (7 internal and 22 external) also visited the Archive on site.

The Corporate Archive grew by 44 linear meters in the year under review. Indexing of the as yet unprocessed accessions will be an increasingly important task for the Archive in the coming years, now that the existing holdings were reorganized in the previous year and indexing of the photo archive was completed in the current year.

Art collections

The Corporate Archivist is responsible for the Corporation's art collections. Many pictures, mostly by regional or Swiss artists, decorate the offices and meeting rooms at the Schaffhausen site. Homberger House, the company canteen, also boasts several commissioned works from the mid-20th century on its walls. In the year under review, the art collection inventory was surveyed, and the entries were updated and incorporated into the Archive database, where works that are on loan are monitored and kept up to date electronically.

Networking

The Scholar in Residence program launched two years ago has met with a very positive response. The program is geared to both established researchers and to up-and-coming academics. In 2017, the Iron Library approved three applications from Brazil, Italy, and Poland, 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 Mettmann (both in Germany). The Iron Library and the Corporate Archive are also members of over 30 institutions and associations. These connections are very important for the exchange of ideas and know-how.

Outlook for 2018

The main focus in 2018 is the anniversary “100 Years of GF at Klostergut Paradies”. An impressive gala event to ring in the anniversary year was held in mid-March with guests from politics, business, and science. The exhibition “Vigorous Convent – Vibrant Industry: 100 Years of GF at Kloster-

gut Paradies" will run until mid-November and features a varied program including monthly Open House days and guided tours by experts in various special fields. To mark the anniversary, the photo book "Vibrant Industry" has been published in collaboration with the Hier und Jetzt Verlag in Baden.

Preparations are already underway for the 41st Conference on the History of Technology in November 2018, which will be on the topic "Technology's workforce. Inventing, operating and learning technology throughout history" (16 and 17 November 2018).

In addition, the staff of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archive are involved in the ongoing updating, expansion, and maintenance of the holdings. Digital services are also constantly expanded. The Iron Library is enlarging its collection "History of Technology and Science" on e-rara.ch this year and is gaining initial experience with e-books. The Corporate Archive will go online in spring with a freely accessible picture gallery and its new Archive database.

We will keep you informed about these projects and activities with announcements in due course, either on our website www.eisenbibliothek.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, 29 March 2018



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



Education/Events

Tours and tales – reading and writing

Guided tours of the Iron Library

The guided tours of the Iron Library are equally popular among 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 2017, the Iron Library welcomed about one thousand guests from around the world on its tours. They included internal visitors (employees, customers, and guests of GF) and external guests, in approximately equal numbers.

Visitors on the guided tours – held in German, English, French, and Czech – were able to view treasures from the Iron Library's holdings, including such works as Agostino Ramelli's "Schatzkammer Mechanischer Künste" (Treasure Trove of Mechanical Arts) with his sophisticated book wheel (1620), or the folio volume illustrating the ill-fated construction of the Quebec Bridge (1919). Since plastic was established as a new collection focus, the tours also include a look at works such as "Der Kautschuk und seine Quellen" (Rubber and its sources) (1899) or "Plastics in the world of tomorrow" (1946).

"Erzählzeit" 2017 – a reading with Flurin Jecker

On 3 April, about a hundred people made their way to Klostersgut Paradies in order to hear Flurin Jecker read from his first novel *Lanz* as part of the "Erzählzeit ohne Gren-

zen" literature festival. The evening began with a tour through the Iron Library. The reading created a relaxed atmosphere, and the "youth" jargon in the novel "Lanz", which is about a young blogger, lent the historical background a spirit of youthfulness and had an invigorating effect on the audience. There was a lively discussion over refreshments after the reading.

Wikipedia writers' workshop on Swiss Archive Day

Active participation in Wikipedia is not only meaningful, but it can also be entertaining, as the 20 participants who came together for the Wikipedia writers' workshop held in the Iron Library on 9 June learned for themselves. This day marks Swiss Archive Day, when archives throughout Switzerland open their doors to welcome visitors.

Ulrich Lantermann from Wikimedia Switzerland gave an introductory talk on how to go about writing articles for Wikipedia. After the introduction, the neo-Wikipedians sat down to produce their own new content for the online encyclopedia. Some of the articles produced cover personalities such as Johann Conrad Fischer, Julius Bührer, Franz Hofmann, Johan Conrad Spengler, Valerian Gillar and Isaac de Caus.

The Iron Library provided ideal facilities for the participants in which they could concentrate on their task and work cooperatively. Ulrich Lantermann summed up the purpose and aim of Wikipedia with the slogan "Knowledge is good, free knowledge is better." One can hardly imagine a finer motto for this writing workshop.

Reading and writing in Paradies:

Reading by Flurin Jecker (top) and Wikipedia writers' workshop (bottom).



Events

History of Technology Conference

“Colors in Technology – Technology of Colors”

In November, the Iron Library extended invitations to the 40th History of Technology Conference (TGT) on “Colors in Technology – Technology of Colors”. The Conference featured an innovation on the language front: for the first time, the TGT was held in two languages, with papers being evenly divided between English and German. The discussions among the 60 international participants from Austria, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Holland, India, Japan, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA were animated and multilingual.

Yves Serra, CEO of Georg Fischer AG, formally opened the Conference, and the 15 speakers provided impressive proof of the remark by Friedrich Steinle (Berlin) that color is an ever-present phenomenon in the history of technology.

The spectrum of papers ranged from the exciting keynote address by Regina Lee Blaszczyk (Leeds) on “Visibly Invisible: Color, Commerce, and Consumer Culture”, to the presentation by Robert Fuchs (Cologne) on “The Invention of Color Production”. Annapurna Mamidipudi (Berlin) and BuYun Chen (Berlin) afforded an insight into the role that traditional color technologies played (and still play) in southern India and on the Okinawa Islands. Tracey Panek (San Francisco)

gave an overview of “The Global Blue Jeans Transformation”.

Sven Dupré (Utrecht/Amsterdam) spoke about “The Making of Glass Colors in the 17th Century”, while Barbara Flückiger (Zurich) enlightened the audience on the topic of “Technology, Analysis, and Restoration of Film Colors”. The final presentation by Jean-José Paccaud (Geneva) astounded with his remarks on current and future technologies and applications of laser nanostructuring that are being developed by GF Machining Solutions New Technologies.

The demonstration from the paintbox of color researcher Stefan Muntwyler (Windisch) was a unique experience for all conference participants. He demonstrated the steps involved in processing the raw material up to the point where the pigment is poured into a small watercolor pan.

The TGT has been held annually since 1978 and has become a fixture in the agenda of the history of technology community. Responsibility for the content of the conference is in the hands of a Scientific Advisory Board consisting of Dr. Gisela Hürlimann (ETH Zurich), Prof. Reinhold Reith (University of Salzburg) and Prof. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin). The papers read at the Conference are published the next year in the periodical FERRUM. Volume 89 of FERRUM on the topic “Synthetic Materials. Synthetically Transforming the World” appeared in 2017. All issues of FERRUM are accessible online free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch).

Color technology in theory and practice:
Regina Blaszczyk talks about “Color and Consumer Culture”, Stefan Muntwyler mixes colors from mineral pigments.



Femme d'ouvrier en Mines.

Eine Berg Knappin.

1. Marque à decouvrir les mines. 2. das Berg dicken womit der gesunde Schatz angezeigt wird. 3. cordes de la guitarre. 4. die Cithar. 5. la balance. 6. die Wag. 7. la broviète à mener les metaux. 8. Schutts Kärrelein das Erzh aus der Berg werck zu fuhrt. 9. corbeil à melurer. 10. der Meßkorb. 11. brauer. 12. das Berg Fell. 13. enclavé à laver les metaux. 14. das Wasser durch worin das Erzh gewaschen wird. 15. la fonte. 16. der Schmelz. 17. Hüllen oder das Schmelzwerck. 18. rakuu. 19. der Rechen. 20. lampe aux mines. 21. eine Berg ampel oder Lampe.

Research

Scholar in Residence Program

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

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 is 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 Switzerland's industrial and economic history is also particularly welcome because the program likewise gives support to projects that engage with the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd.

In the year under review, the Iron Library welcomed three scholars in residence who approached their wholly different topics with completely distinct methods; yet, all three of them were rewarded with rich source material and the occasional surprising discovery.

In July, the Italian historian Stefania Elena Carnemolla evaluated books and journals on iron, wood, and ship-building for her thesis on measures against fouling – the buildup of organisms on ship hulls made of wood and iron – in the 18th and 19th centuries. Among other things, she found that the Iron Library

possesses the rare lecture that John Grantham gave in Liverpool in 1842 on the use of iron in ship-building. At the time, this was a revolutionary idea because ship-builders were still wary of using iron as an alternative to wood.

The Brazilian professor and artist Mabe Bethônico also used the Library's facilities in July to collect material for her project "Workers in View: Grounding the Presence of Women in Mines of all Sorts". She explored the Iron Library's rich holdings to bring together material from a wide range of eras and regions. Mabe Bethônico delved into how the human body is represented and enacted in technical environments, focusing mainly on women especially in the field of mining.

In August, the Iron Library welcomed the Polish musicologist Anna Piotrowska from Cracow University, who did research on her project "On the Hierarchy of Instruments, or how Musical Instruments Are Different". She showed once more that the Iron Library holdings can be used in areas that have no immediately obvious connection, in this case questions relating to musicology. Anna Piotrowska collected material to aid her investigation into how the development of musical instruments differed from the development of general mechanical engineering between 1750 and 1910.

The "Berg Knappin" playing the "Cithar" from the Iron Library's collection of prints and drawings attracted the interest of a scholar in residence.



KASPAR SCHNETZLER

GLOCKEN UND KANONEN

Konrad von Einsiedeln – in Zürich Ungrad,
in Sevilla Don Corrado de Fuseli genannt.
Eine Geschichte um die Geschichte der
Familie Füssli, Stuck- und Glockengießer
in Zürich, die da spielt in den Jahren 1548
bis 1589.

Roman



Research

Internal and external research projects

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archive support research projects that are related to their holdings and address their contents. In the year under review, the following projects were completed:

- René Hauser, Stefan Mathis, Philippe Schranz: Das Ordonnanzfahrrad. Inventar des Ordonnanzfahrrades der Schweizerischen Armee 1905-1988 mit Statistik, Atlas und Register. Zürich: Schweizerisches Archiv für das Ordonnanzfahrrad, 2017. [on the Swiss military bicycle]
- Christoph Hofmann: Einfluss von verschiedenen Rezepturparametern auf die Qualität von PE-Xa Rohren. Bachelorarbeit 2017. GF Piping Systems Schaffhausen/Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Kunststoff- und Elastomertechnik. [on the impact of various formulation parameters on the quality of PE-Xa pipes]
- Josef Moos: «Grauer Schatz» in der Eisenbibliothek. Fast 120 Jahre alt: bebildertes Preisbuch von Valerian Gillar. In: *Hephais-tos*, Nr. 4, 2017, S. 50–51. [on “gray treasures” in the Iron Library]
- Britta Panzer und Carmen Scheide (Hg.): 70 Jahre Theresienkapelle – Zwangsarbeit, Gefangenschaft und Gottesdienst. – Singen, 2017. [on forced labor, captivity, and worship in Singen during World War II]
- Giuseppe Valadier’s manuscript on the casting of a bell for the St. Peter’s Basilica was combined with other elements to become the gorgeous book cover of Kaspar Schnetzler’s “Glocken und Kanonen”.
- Kellie Robertson: *Nature speaks. Medieval literature and Aristotelian philosophy.* – Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017 (= The Middle Ages series).
- Florian Ruhland: *Vormodernes Wasser-Wissen in der Eisenbibliothek (IV). Das Wissen von der Wassergüte in Enzyklopädien des 18. Jahrhunderts.* In: *Ferrum*, Nr. 89, 2017, S. 128–139. [on premodern water knowledge in 18th century encyclopedias]
- Kaspar Schnetzler: *Glocken und Kanonen. Roman: Eine Geschichte um die Geschichte der Familie Füssli, Stuck- und Glockengiesser in Zürich.* – Zürich: Bilgerverlag, 2017. [novel on bells and canons]
- Linda Streckfuß: *Auswirkung exothermen Speiser-Materials auf den Formstoff des Grünsandverfahrens. Grundlagenforschung anhand synthetisch hergestelltem Formstoff.* Abschlussarbeit 2017. GF AU/VDG-Zusatzstudium Giessereitechnik. [on the effect of exothermal feeder material on molding material in green sand casting]
- Tiziana Suarez-Nani, Olivier Ribordy, Antonio Petagine (éd.): *Lieu, espace, mouvement. Physique, métaphysique et cosmologie (XIIe-XVIe siècles).* – Barcelona, Roma: FIDEM, 2017 [on physics, metaphysics, and cosmology in the 12th–16th centuries]
- Teresa Leonor M. Vale (ed.): *The Art of the Valadiers.* – Turin: Umberto Allemandi for Alberto Di Castro, 2017.
- Hans Waldburger und Jürg Aeschlimann: *Tram und Bus in Schaffhausen.* – Krattigen, 2017. [on trams and buses in Schaffhausen]

Digital services

Presence on digital platforms

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archive portfolio for many years. It is a truism that their importance will continue to grow. Increasingly, it is not only tools such as library catalogs but the resources themselves that will be available online.

The annual journal *Ferrum*, which publishes the papers from the History of Technology Conference and reports on topics from the Iron Library and Corporate Archive, has been online since 2014 and accessible through the e-periodica website. *Ferrum* has to date published 89 volumes in 62 years. The e-periodica website, operated by the ETH Library, gives free access to digitized Swiss journals.

In 2017, the Iron Library, also in collaboration with the ETH Library, began to digitize a selection of its printed holdings and make them available on the e-rara website. The first 44 books have been digitized and are accessible in a collection named "History of Technology and Science". They are mainly works on the history of technology and science dating from the 16th to the 19th century. The thematic focus will shift to the fields of mining and metallurgy in the course of the current year.

The digitized manuscripts from the Corporate Archive and Iron Library can be found on the e-codices website, which is managed by the University of Fribourg. The e-codices

website is Switzerland's virtual manuscripts library. The digital photographs are freely available for non-commercial use (Creative Commons license BY-NC).

In the period under review, the GF Corporate Archive began cooperation with e-codices, the first corporate archive to do so. e-codices now includes two new items, the "memory albums" that the GF founder Johann Conrad Fischer – and before him his grandfather Christoph Fischer – kept during their many years of travel as journeymen in the 18th century. The album entries allow us to reconstruct the routes they traveled and their far-flung networks all across Europe.

The Iron Library had Hermann Wedding's notebooks and travel journals digitized in 2017 for presentation on e-codices. These are three manuscripts from the 1850s and 1860s that Wedding, later professor of metallurgy in Berlin, bequeathed. Sebastian Haumann from the Technical University Darmstadt undertook the task of describing the three manuscripts.

The latest digital measure of the Iron Library is its response to the demand for e-books; over the past year, it has made intensive efforts to develop an organizationally and technically viable solution. We have approached various companies as potential service providers, but developing an independent e-book offering from a small library has proven to be a very challenging task, which is why we will not present the implementation until the 2018 annual report.

Hermann Wedding described smelters in Belgium, Germany, and England in his metallurgical travel journal.



Library

Use, services, development, and cataloging

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 147 books were borrowed. The “book table” visited the employees in Schaffhausen and Singen in July and December, offering them a selection of the new acquisitions for direct borrowing. Media that are not in the Library itself are acquired through book trade or through second-hand bookshops. Where this is not possible, the Iron Library obtains them through interlibrary loan.

The Library received 85 inquiries in the past year. They ranged from concrete questions about literature, to complex research on various topics. In 2017, 57 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 two weeks.

In 2017, the Library continued to grow as it purchased 250 volumes (books) and received 218 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Library receives about 70 current journals and series either as a subscriber or through membership. The new acquisitions were geared to the Iron Library’s existing acquisition profile. Some small-scale acquisitions in 2017 contributed to the development of the new plastics collection focus, on which we have reported here in

A small, but very fine, focus of the Iron Library is bridge building. This is a photo from a book on the construction of the Oakland Bay Bridge in the 1930s.

recent years. The Iron Library was able to acquire a number of publications on plastics technology from Katrin Wallheinke from the GF Piping Systems’ Technology Center in Schaffhausen. They have already been cataloged in IRONCAT, the Iron Library’s online catalog.

GF Piping Systems also made a request to the Iron Library to create a central search and research instrument for the literature held by the Technology Center and R&D in Schaffhausen. The Library was able to catalog about 250 titles with the assistance of an intern from GF Piping Systems. The volumes are spread over seven different locations but they are now searchable centrally and online in IRONCAT.

The Iron Library lists its holdings as part of the catalog of the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund (SWB) and participates in cooperative formal cataloging and subject indexing. Resource Description & Access (RDA) has been the binding standard for formal cataloging since 2016, while verbal subject indexing is governed by the rules for subject catalogs (German acronym RSWK), using in both cases the Integrated Authority File (German acronym GND). Efforts are still being made to correct numerous catalog entries that are either out-of-date or do not conform with the standards.

As at 31 December 2017, the catalog of the Iron Library listed 35452 books, 1057 periodicals, 9,861 articles, and 117 online resources, which is about 950 cataloged items more than the year before.

PREISBVCH
MAY 1899

V. GILLAR

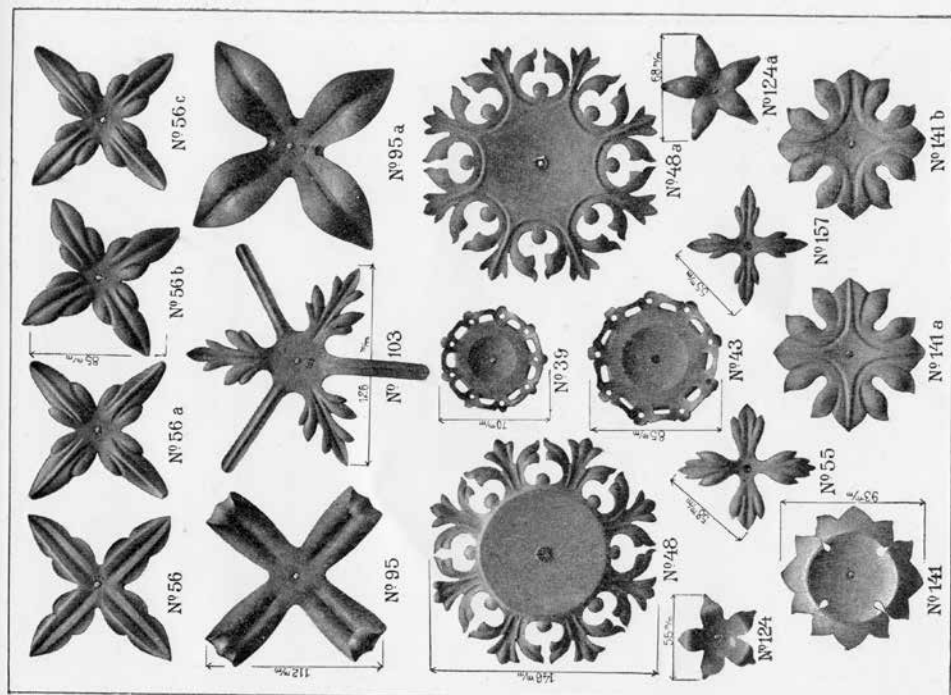
WIEN
V. SIEBENBRUNNENGASSE N° 9

INHALT:
SCHMIEDERISCHE BLÄTTER,
TULPEN & ROSETTEN
POSTSPARCASSEN
CONT. N° 807442

TELEPHON N° 40

Guberner & Hochhammer, Wien IV Hauptstr. 61

VALERIAN GILLAR, Wien, V., Siebenbrunnengasse 9.



TAFEL 33

Gesetzlich geschützt.

Library

A “pièce de résistance” among the new acquisitions

Valerian Gillar’s “Price Book”: On product catalogs and other “gray” treasures

The Iron Library houses considerable treasures in printed form. They include corporate publications, product catalogs, and price lists. While they are usually not very old, they are often very rare – so rare indeed that they are the only copy to be found in any library. This literature is called “gray” literature because the materials and catalogs are generally speaking not published by traditional publishers or sold in bookstores.

“Wrought-iron leaves, tulips & rosettes”

One example is the “Price Book” from May 1899, in which a certain Valerian Gillar, domiciled in Siebenbrunnengasse 9, in Vienna’s 5th District, offers “wrought-iron leaves, tulips & rosettes” produced by his own workshop. The “Price Book” itself contains 39 plates showing models of “embossing and repoussage of wrought-iron ornaments”, followed by a price list in Austrian guilders. Gillar addresses his customers as follows: “As a result of expanding my factory and the machinery... my establishment is equipped in such a way that every order, be it large or small, can be carried out with meticulous attention to detail and every ornament can be completed with impeccable accuracy, in keeping with my principles.” Who is this Valerian Gillar? A small workshop owner with mainly a local clientele in Vienna? Or perhaps an artisan who has left some trace in Vienna’s art history?

A “gray” treasure in the Iron Library:
Valerian Gillar’s Price Book from 1899.

Who was Valerian Gillar?

The Vienna Municipal and Provincial Archives contains registration forms pertaining to Valerian Gillar. From these forms we learn that Gillar was an ornamental metalworker and purveyor to the imperial court (“K.u.k. Hof Bau- und Kunstschlösser”) who was born in Freiberg in Moravia (Příbor) on 28 April 1839 and died in Vienna on 23 January 1927. The 15 August 1880 edition of the newspaper “Das Vaterland” reported that Gillar took part in the Lower Austrian industrial fair: “... we find stylish works by Gillar, a chandelier, a console with a lamp, door and window fittings, a lantern, and lamps in wrought-iron chased work in the Renaissance style...” On 6 May 1881 we read in the “Morgen-Post” that the Emperor awarded Gillar, the Court purveyor of ornamental metal works, the golden Cross of Merit.

The “Grazer Volksblatt” dated 3 July 1894 carried a report on the “Exposition Internationale” held in Antwerp that year: “The Vienna Association of Arts and Crafts was represented in particular by: [...] ...Valerian Gillar, who displayed a hand-made wrought-iron clock...” Gillar also took part in the Paris “Exposition Universelle” in 1900.

One place where Gillar’s art can still be admired is the Herz Jesu church in Vienna. The “Bautechniker” dated 21 December 1906, praises Gillar’s work: “The wrought-iron work was produced by Valerian Gillar’s metal-working shop ... and are worthy of particular mention. In particular the fittings for the entrance doors, which are in a sturdy Romanesque manner, are very stylish and powerful in their effect.”



Corporate Archive

Use, inquiries, new accessions, and indexing

The Corporate Archive can be used both 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 concern the holdings of both the Corporate Archive and the Iron Library, it is convenient for users to be able to work with all the source material at the same time and at the same place.

In the reporting period, 116 archive inquiries (68 internal and 48 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the Corporate Archivist. 29 users (7 internal and 22 external) also visited the Archive on site. A popular topic in the year under review was the company school. This year, GF is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of vocational training, and this has occasioned archival research and the search for historical photographs. Another anniversary closer to home kept the Corporate Archive and Iron Library very busy. While preparing the exhibition, magazine, and photo book to celebrate “100 Years of GF at Klostergut Paradies” in 2018, the team of the Archive and Library was often spoilt for choice by the wonderful abundance of written sources and photographic material. The Archive also provided extensive material for a memorial exhibition in Singen on the forced laborers from Eastern Europe during the Second World War.

The company photographer documented all aspects of vocational training at GF – including apprentice sport events, like this orienteering course through the woods around Schaffhausen in 1963.

In the year under review, 17 deliveries of archive material comprising 44 linear meters were added as new accessions. The largest and most important accession came from the office of the long-serving CFO of GF who retired the previous year. Some smaller deliveries resulted from clean-up campaigns in the offices of the Swiss corporate company and of GF Piping Systems at the Schaffhausen site. Both office buildings will be redesigned and renovated in 2018, and the departments affected were conscientious in their preparations. A visit to the GF Piping Systems sales company in Stockholm resulted in the collection of employee newspapers and company magazines containing periodical information for customers in the Scandinavian market.

Work on indexing the photo archive that was begun the previous year, continued as part of the preparations for planned exhibitions and publications. The finding aids, consisting of 30 000 index cards, 4 000 glass plates, and 5 000 of the earliest photographic negatives, were indexed and partially digitized by the end of the year. Altogether, about 130,000 photographs were organized and made accessible. The database entries – currently more than 48 000 – and a picture gallery featuring 5 000 early photographs will be put online in the spring of 2018. A full report will be published in the next Annual Report.



The team of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archive (left to right): Susanne Nendel, Pauline Zade, Lucas Zollinger, Lina Kuhn, Florian Ruhland, Franziska Eggimann.

Personnel

The team of the Iron Library and Corporate Archive 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 Archive of GF. Florian Ruhland, academic librarian, and Pauline Zade, administration, complete the team. They are supported by Susanne Nendel, part-time employee, Linda Kuhn, student employee, and Lucas Zollinger, 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 (until mid-2017, 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 2017: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- May 2017: VINTES annual meeting “Chance Big Stuff”, Dampfzentrum Winterthur (organizer FE)
- May 2017: “E-books in the Iron Library – some remarks on work in progress”, OPL-Kreis Bodensee, Friedrichshafen (talk FR)
- May 2017: Introduction to protection of cultural assets, with practical drill for the GF fire department, Klostersgut Paradies (talk FE)
- June 2017: Noon-hour tour “Iron”, Museum

Altes Zeughaus, Solothurn (presentation FE)

- September 2017: Large-scale fire drill, Klostersgut Paradies (contribution FE)
- October 2017: History in practice: Library, University of Zurich (talk FE)

Participation in events

- April 2017: ICA/SBA conference “The Future Role of Business Archives”, Stockholm (FE)
- September 2017: Annual meeting of VSA, Schaffhausen (FE)
- December 2017: 108. ročník hornického semináře, Národní technické muzeum, Prague (FR)
- December 2017: 57. Seminář z dějin hutnictví, Národní technické muzeum, Prague (FR)

Ongoing training

- March 2017: Exhibiting old and special holdings in libraries, Center for Library and Information Science Training, Cologne (FR)
- May 2017: Conservation of photographic materials, fokore Foto Konservierung & Restaurierung, Berne (FE)
- May 2017: Handling, transport, storage, and presentation of artworks, ICOM course, Federal art collection, Berne (FE)
- June 2017: History of Book Illustration, London Rare Books School, London (FR)
- September 2017: Introduction to the Integrated Authority File (GND), Library Service Center Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart (FR)
- November 2017: Franklin Covey Follow-up Training, Kloster Hegne, Allensbach (FR)



Board of Trustees and Governing Board
at the meeting in 2016 at Klostersgut 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 Archive has a separate cost center within GF.

The Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees:

Members as per 1.1.2018

- Yves Serra,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
CEO Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen,
Switzerland
- Irene Amstutz
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and University Library Economics, Basel,
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Institute, RWTH Aachen, Germany
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Zürich, Switzerland
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Museum, Munich, Germany

- 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 1.1.2018

- 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 Casting Solutions, Schaffhausen
- Urs Werner
Senior Advisor, GF Piping Systems,
Schaffhausen

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 48 000 records – More than 1 100 linear meters – Approx. 700 objects 	Starting in 1693

Use of Library/Archive	2017	2016	2015	2014
Library users	57	54	20	34
Archive users	29	18	20	17
Library inquiries	85	56	55	38
Archive inquiries	116	79	108	78
Library items lent	147	108	151	113

Archive holdings	2017	2016	2015	2014
Accessions	44 lin. m	23 lin. m	40 lin. m	40 lin. m
Holdings indexed	750 lin. m	620 lin. m	800 lin. m	800 lin. m
Holdings not indexed	450 lin. m	400 lin. m	380 lin. m	340 lin. m
Indexing	100 lin. m	50 lin. m	2 lin. m	4 lin. m
Records	48 375	31 306	–	–

Library holdings	2017	2016	2015	2014
New acquisitions – purchases	250	760	245	207
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	218	227	63	40
Catalog entries books – titles	34 784	33 900	32 598	32 089
Catalog entries books – copies	35 452	34 513	33 200	32 663
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 861	9 751	9 603	9 606
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 057	970	851	744
Current periodicals and series	70	66	63	62
Catalog entries online resources	117	69	27	15

Guided tours	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total no. of visitors	1 002	1 098	1 089	1 130
Total no. of tours	74	85	99	103
Tours for GF guests	38	50	56	53
Tours for external guests	36	35	43	50
Avg. no. persons per tour	14	13	11	11

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 replies to inquiries
- Public reading room with several workplaces, wifi internet access
- 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

Digital services

- IRONCAT: Online library catalog (<http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/>)
- ANTON: Online Corporate Archive database (archives.georgfischer.com)
- FERRUM available digitally on e-periodica (www.e-periodica.ch)
- Selected manuscripts available digitally on e-codices (www.e-codices.unifr.ch)
- Selected old prints available digitally on e-rara (www.e-rara.ch)
- Picture gallery with historical photographs from the Corporate Archive (archives.georgfischer.com/gallery)

Events in 2018

19 March to 12 November 2018

“Vigorous Convent – Vibrant Industry: 100 Years of GF at Klostergut Paradies”. Exhibition and extensive exhibition program (see www.eisenbibliothek.ch)

23 June 2018

Wikipedia writing workshop

July 2018

Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

16 and 17 November 2018

41st Conference on the History of Technology: “Technology’s workforce. Inventing, operating and learning technology throughout history”

December 2018

Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

Contact

Employees as at 1.3.2018

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Susanne Nendel

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Lina Kuhn

Student employee Corporate Archive
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Lucas Zollinger

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eisenbibliothek@georgfischer.com
www.eisenbibliothek.ch

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