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Switzerland
www.eisenbibliothek.com





Annual Report 2018

Iron Library Foundation and
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd



Imprint

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PARTICIPATION DE LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU FER AU CON



Foreword

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2018, which describes how we have preserved the historical and cultural heritage at GF. The Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives are the bodies mainly responsible for this task. Both are located in the former Klostergut Paradies convent; they report to the Corporate Secretary and are both managed by Franziska Eggimann.

Centenary Year

Georg Fischer Ltd purchased Klostergut Paradies, along with its extensive farmland, exactly one hundred years ago in order to provide food for its employees from the crops grown there. The year 2018 was therefore defined by the celebrations for “100 Years of GF at Klostergut Paradies”, which were organized under the leadership of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives. The anniversary year started with an impressive ceremony attended by some 120 guests from the world of politics, business, and society. A richly varied program was organized in conjunction with the exhibition “Vigorous convent – Vibrant industry: 100 years of GF at Klostergut Paradies”. This included an open house day every month and tours on various topics of particular interest that were led by specialists. Some 2000 visitors were attracted to Klostergut Paradies by these activities between March and Novem-

ber. To mark the anniversary, the photo book “Vibrant Industry: Visualizing the Corporate Archive of Georg Fischer Ltd” was published in cooperation with the Hier und Jetzt Verlag in Baden. The volume, for which about 4000 inquiries had been received by year-end, has proven very popular both inside and outside the company.

Activities and Knowledge Transfer

In the year under review, the Iron Library welcomed more than 2100 international guests on a total of 131 tours through the Library and the Anniversary Exhibition. The tours imparted both technical knowledge and the history of GF to a broad public. The Corporate Archives launched a new approach to talking about history. Taking “GF History on Tour” as the motto, the Corporate Archivist visits GF locations worldwide, including China in 2018, in order to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of employees abroad in the Corporation’s history and roots.

History of Technology Conference 2018

“Everything has to change so that things stay as they are.” It was with this quote that Roland Gröbli opened the 41st History of Technology Conference (TGT) on “Technology’s Workforce. Inventing, Operating, and Learning Technology throughout History”. The TGT introduced a novelty on the eve of the Conference: the Iron Library, together with the Schaffhausen Lecture Society, organized a public lecture that was well received by the public in Schaffhausen and by the Conference guests, who had come from eight different countries. As of 2018, the TGT will go over to a biennial cycle, which means that the

The 2019 anniversary exhibition will display highlights from the Iron Library’s holdings, just as the Swiss Bibliophile Convention did in 1956.

next TGT will take place on 13–14 November 2020 at the traditional venue, Klostersgut Paradies. The papers read at the Conference are published the following year in the periodical *Ferrum*. In 2018, issue 90 of *Ferrum* on the topic “Color Technology – Colors in Technology” appeared. All issues of *Ferrum* are accessible electronically free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch).

Iron Library

In 2018, the Library continued to grow: it purchased 198 volumes (books) and received 123 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Iron Library currently subscribes to 67 journals and series. Some small-scale acquisitions in 2018 contributed to the development of the new collection focus on plastics. The Iron Library acquired a number of publications on plastics technology from the library of the Technical University Rapperswil (HSR). Furthermore, it received the complete series of the “Stuttgarter Kunststoff-Kolloquium” through the offices of Professor Christian Bonten, Head of the Institute of Plastics Technology at the University of Stuttgart.

Corporate Archives

The Corporate Archives are open to employees of GF and to people outside the Corporation. They can consult the archives on the Iron Library premises. 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, 104 archive inquiries (49 internal and 55 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the archive team. 18 users (6 internal and 12 external) also consulted the archives on site. All told, 22 acces-

sions consisting of about 56 linear meters of documents, or almost 2000 records, were indexed. On 31 December 2018, the archive database contained 50 093 records.

Digital Services

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. The Corporate Archives made a quantum leap in the reporting year, becoming one of the first corporate archives to go online with its database. Most of the holdings in the archive catalog are now available for research without registration and free of charge. 5000 of the approximately 130 000 photographs are freely available and searchable in an online picture gallery. In addition, the Corporate Archives digitized the annual reports of Georg Fischer Ltd going back to 1896. They are now also available online and full-text searchable. The Iron Library successfully launched its own e-book website and gained pilot-phase experience in the area of plastics.

Networking

The Scholar in Residence program continues to meet with great interest. The program is geared to both established researchers and up-and-coming academics. In 2018, the Iron Library approved one application each from Germany, Italy, and the USA, enabling scholars on three occasions to spend several weeks doing research on the Library premises.

Networking includes involvement in professional bodies, as well as internal book lending and cooperation with the research departments of GF in Schaffhausen. Moreover, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are members of over 30 institutions and associations. These connections are very useful for the exchange of ideas and know-how.

Outlook for 2019

Following the big anniversary celebrations at Klostergut Paradies last year, the Iron Library has another reason to celebrate this year. To mark the 70th anniversary of the Iron Library Foundation, we will host the exhibition "From Convent to Cloud: Two Libraries in Paradies Convent and their Books". Alongside the exhibition, there will be an accompanying program of attractive events and a Family Open House Day on 23 June 2019. The exhibition will open at the same time as the book launch of a new art guide on the Paradies convent, which GF is publishing in collaboration with the Society of Swiss Art History (GSK). The guide's authors, Peter Niederhäuser and Walter Bersorger, are specialists in their field, and their book provides a wealth of unfamiliar details on the convent's history.

In addition, the staff of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives is involved in the ongoing updating, expansion, and maintenance of the holdings. Digital services are being constantly strengthened as well. This year the Iron Library is again updating its collection "History of Technology and Science" on e-rara.ch, while the Corporate Archives are digitizing two further manuscripts for e-codices.

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.

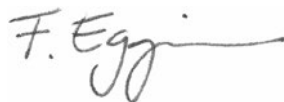
We thank all of you for your interest in the Iron Library and the historical and cultural heritage of the GF Corporation, and we look forward to being in contact with you in one way or another in the coming year.

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, 1 March 2019



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



Centenary in 2018

100 Years of GF at Klostersgut Paradies

The year 2018 was defined by the extensive centenary celebrations and the wide array of activities organized to mark “100 Years of GF at Klostersgut Paradies”. Georg Fischer Ltd purchased the convent on the Rhine not far from Schaffhausen in 1918 so as to be able to produce food for its employees on the large farmland. GF used the former Poor Clares’ convent for many years to house employees and later as old-age accommodation; after World War II, it was repurposed in part as the seat of the Iron Library Foundation. The Corporate Archives also found a home here in 1948. Since 1974, the carefully restored, landmarked convent building has been used primarily as the GF training center. The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives, as long standing “tenants” of the convent, were closely involved in organizing and planning the activities to mark the centenary.

An impressive ceremony, attended by some 120 guests from the world of politics, business, and society, kicked off the centenary year in mid-March. Concurrently, the exhibition “Vigorous Convent – Vibrant Industry: 100 Years of GF at Klostersgut Paradies” opened its doors. Photographs from the Corporate Archives not only unfurled the pageant of the convent’s lively history before GF came on the scene and in the past hundred years, but also served as a portrait gallery to present some of the 400 000 visitors to Klostersgut Paradies since 1918. Last but certainly not least, the company photographers

revealed the rich history of Schaffhausen’s industry in the 20th century.

A varied program accompanied the exhibition: some 60–80 people attended the monthly Open House afternoons to visit the exhibition and get a glimpse behind the convent walls. Invited specialists illuminated aspects of the exhibition on guided tours which were regularly sold out. Historian Peter Niederhäuser, for instance, swept visitors off into the medieval Paradies convent; retired GF employee Hugo Rechsteiner recounted stories from the world of GF; and Martin Gasser, conservationist at the Winterthur Photography Foundation, embedded industrial photography at GF in the context of 20th century Swiss photographic history.

Moreover, a photo book, “Vibrant Industry: Visualizing the Corporate Archive of Georg Fischer Ltd”, was published together with Hier und Jetzt Verlag in Baden right on time for the anniversary. Starting with an introduction into the more than 200-year history of GF, 50 picture stories recount what life and work in the GF “microcosm” were like. The stories take place in the lab or at the post office, at a Christmas party or on the shop floor where paddlewheels and pipe fittings, cooking pots and army tanks were manufactured. The volume closes with a photo reportage on the famous industrial photographer Jakob Tuggener. The book proved very popular with GF colleagues around the world: close to 3000 copies were ordered at GF locations and dispatched all over the globe. Given this popularity, it was only logical to select the photo book as this year’s “pièce de résistance” to be presented on the following page.

Yves Serra, CEO of GF, opened the anniversary exhibition along with Franziska Eggimann (above); the historian Peter Niederhäuser recounts the fate of the last nuns of the Paradies convent (below).



Centenary in 2018

A “pièce de résistance” among the New Publications

Franziska Eggimann: Vibrant Industry: Visualizing the Corporate Archive of Georg Fischer Ltd Baden: Hier und Jetzt Verlag, 2018.

It's here that we usually present a new library acquisition that stands out because it is rare, original, topical, or simply a curiosity. This year, we have selected a volume that is not a new acquisition but a new book altogether, one that GF colleagues around the world have found attractive and that has met with favorable praise from the Swiss press.

“A Photographic Treasure Recovered”

“The book aims to ‘visualize’ the Georg Fischer Corporate Archives, but it delivers far more. A photographic treasure has been recovered! [...] From stack molding, to workers’ children, from overseas shipping, to visitors’ day – it illustrates everyday factory life in Switzerland from about 1900 to 1980. The book pays tribute to a factory and to its workers.” What NZZ Geschichte called a “photographic treasure”, Schaffhauser Nachrichten described as an “optical pleasure”: “The pictures by company photographers like Ferdy Baumann and Max Graf reveal a substantial regional and historical panorama, accompanied by knowledgeable and compact texts that round off the optical pleasure.”

Nighttime spectacle in the large steel foundry: the foundrymen are spellbound as they watch the casting of a turbine, 1964.

The Company Photographers

We have the company photographers to thank for this visual delight. They were the ones who recorded on film the whole gamut of GF life – from production plants at home and abroad, to new products and employees’ social life. The company photographers have bequeathed to us an impressive legacy of over 130 000 pictures from the beginnings of photography to the present day. One of the company photographers was Max Graf (1923–1997). Graf initially worked in the core shop and as an electrical welder before he moved to the GF dark room at age 33. Given his background as a skilled worker, he very quickly obtained his federal master’s diploma as a photographer.

Graf was particularly attracted by the steel foundry in the Mühlental. He staged large steel castings as a magnificent extravaganza and captured grandiose scenes in the smelter, in casting, or in the subsequent machining stage. He made a spectacle of the immense casting pieces, while the workers appeared as extras. The photograph shown here gives a glimpse of Graf’s favorite backdrop. It is part of a night-time reportage from 1964: the large steel foundry had prepared a mold that was larger than the capacity of the furnaces. The surplus molten steel was poured into cast iron pans and transported about five kilometers across Schaffhausen to the steel foundry in the Mühlental. At five in the morning everything was ready, and the casting could start – and Max Graf was in his element.



Knowledge Transfer/Events

From Library and Archives to Wikipedia

Guided Tours of the Iron Library

The guided tours of the Iron Library are equally popular among in-house and external visitors. Thereby, the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of GF is impressively imparted to a wide audience. In the year under review, the celebrations surrounding the centenary “100 Years of GF at Klostergut Paradies” encouraged many visitor groups to book a combination of a tour of the Iron Library and the centenary exhibition. As a result, the Library and the exhibition welcomed more than 2100 international guests on a total of 131 tours. Of these, 71 tours were exclusively or partly devoted to the Iron Library.

On the tours, visitors were able to see treasures from the Iron Library’s holdings, including “Les Raisons des forces mouvantes” (On the Causes of Motion) by Isaac de Caus, with its gear reminiscent of an infinity machine (1615), or the folio volume illustrating the ill-fated construction of the Quebec Bridge (1919). Since the establishment of plastics as a new collection focus, books from this area are part of the tours as well.

Talking about the History of GF in the Corporation

The history of the GF Corporation and its commitment to maintaining interest in this legacy, is a topic that is discussed, to varying extents, on every tour of the Iron Library. The Corporate Archivist furthermore

takes the opportunity on various occasions to convey a compact overview of GF history. The introduction event that is organized in Schaffhausen for new employees from Sis-sach, Subingen, Seewis, and Schaffhausen provides the ideal framework for this brief historical overview. Taking “GF History on Tour” as the motto, the Corporate Archivist visits GF locations worldwide, including China in 2018, in order to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of employees abroad in the Corporation’s history and roots.

Wikipedia Writers’ Workshop in the Anniversary Program

As part of the anniversary celebrations at Klostergut Paradies, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives invited interested persons to participate in a Wikipedia workshop. This was already the second event that was organized together with Wikimedia Switzerland. Ulrich Lantermann, Wikimedia Community Manager, who was the co-organizer and is a Wikipedia specialist, describes the idea behind Wikipedia with the catchy slogan “Knowledge is good, free knowledge is better”. Even newbies could get started right away since no prior knowledge was assumed and an introduction to editing Wikipedia articles was offered several times over the course of the day. The aim was to create new articles, or add to existing ones, using the information stored in the Archives and the Library, thus making this knowledge more readily accessible to the public.

Wikipedians in action (above); “GF History on Tour” visiting GF Piping Systems in Shanghai, China (below).



Events

History of Technology Conference: “Technology’s Workforce”

A total of 60 participants from eight countries responded to the invitation to the 41st History of Technology Conference on the topic “Technology’s Workforce. Inventing, Operating, and Learning Technology throughout History”. The Conference started on Thursday evening with a premiere: instead of the traditional dinner, the participants were invited to a lecture by Yulia Sandamirskaya from the ETH Zurich, held in the Town Hall arcade in Schaffhausen, on the subject of artificial intelligence. The public event was organized in collaboration with the Schaffhausen Lecture Society.

Over the next two days, the 14 speakers opened up a wide range of perspectives on the subject. Olaf Schmidt-Rutsch (Dortmund), for instance, lectured on the “Industrial Labor Memory Archive” of the LWL Industrial Museum, showing which memories various contemporaries have of particular industrial occupations and how different these memories can be. Gerhard Dohrn-van Rossum (Chemnitz) talked about knowledge transfer from the polymaths to the early modern technical specialists, while Serenity Sutherland (Oswego) provided a gender perspective in her lecture on the first female students at MIT.

There was a novelty for the lectures as well. Marisa De Picker (Leuven) was unable to make the journey for reasons of health. Therefore, a live video conference to her living room in Belgium was set up. This meant

that participants were able to listen to a fascinating talk on how wounded Belgian soldiers were rehabilitated by means of prostheses.

In the final talk, Andreas Rauch from GF Machining Solutions (Geneva) described the challenges companies are facing in the digital age, especially owing to the growing importance of digital platforms. The Conference program was enriched by a guided tour of the production plants of GF Piping Systems in Schaffhausen. The various points of view were a powerful illustration of how broad the topic is, and, as Marcus Popplow pointed out aptly in his closing remarks, “technology’s workforce” deserves a field of study all for itself.

Following this 41st Conference, the TGT will go over to a biennial cycle. The next Conference will therefore take place on 13–14 November 2020 at the traditional venue, Klostersgut Paradies. Responsibility for the content of the Conference remains with the 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 following year in the periodical *Ferrum*. Issue 90 of *Ferrum* on the topic “Colors in Technology – Technology of Colors” appeared in 2018. All issues of *Ferrum* are accessible electronically free of charge on the e-periodica platform of the ETH Library (www.e-periodica.ch).

Yulia Sandamirskaya’s fascinating lecture at the Schaffhausen Town Hall (above) launched the 41st History of Technology Conference (below).

THE NAUTILUS DIVING MACHINE.

FIG. 1.

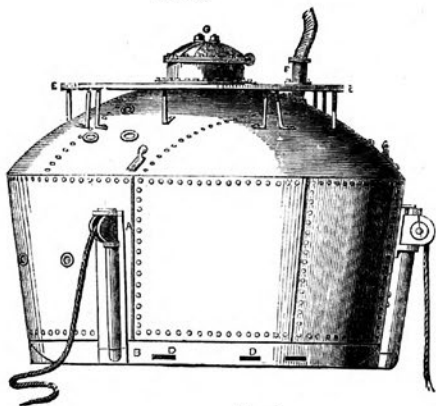


FIG. 2.

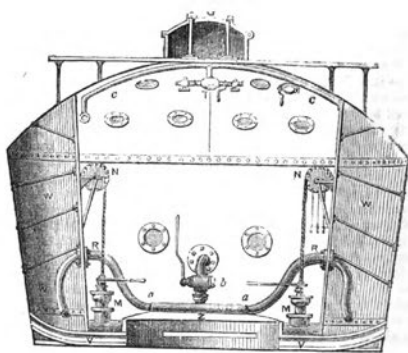


FIG. 4.

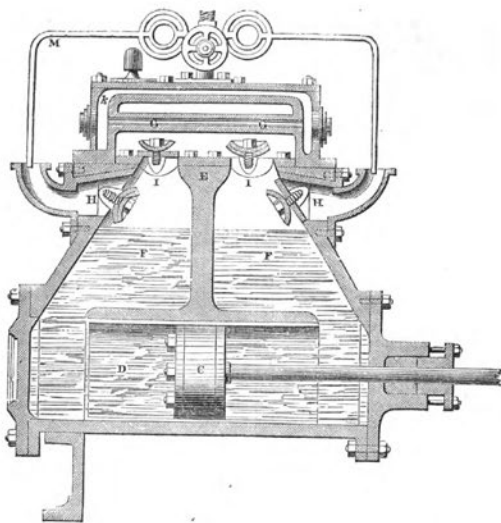


FIG. 5.

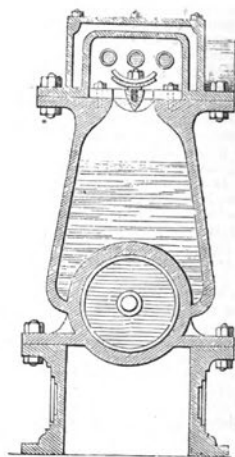


FIG. 3.

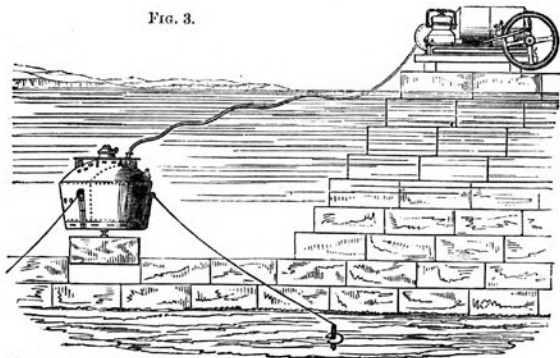


FIG. 6.

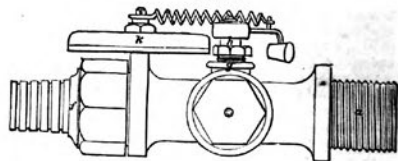
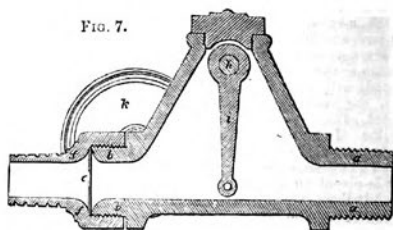


FIG. 7.



Research

Scholar in Residence Program and Publications

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

In July, Thomas Boothby, Professor of Civil Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, came to the Iron Library as a scholar for the second time. His project "The Adoption of Iron Bridge Types in Europe and in the USA 1875–1895" investigates where the construction of iron bridges in the late 19th century was based on rational material analyses, and where it drew on empirical values.

In early autumn, Mariann Juha, a researcher at the Deggendorf Technical University, did research for her project "Mining Traditions. Intangible Heritage of the Mining Sector". Mariann studies which factors unite the populations of Europe's former mining towns, starting from the former Slovakian silver-mining town Banská Štiavnica (Schemnitz).

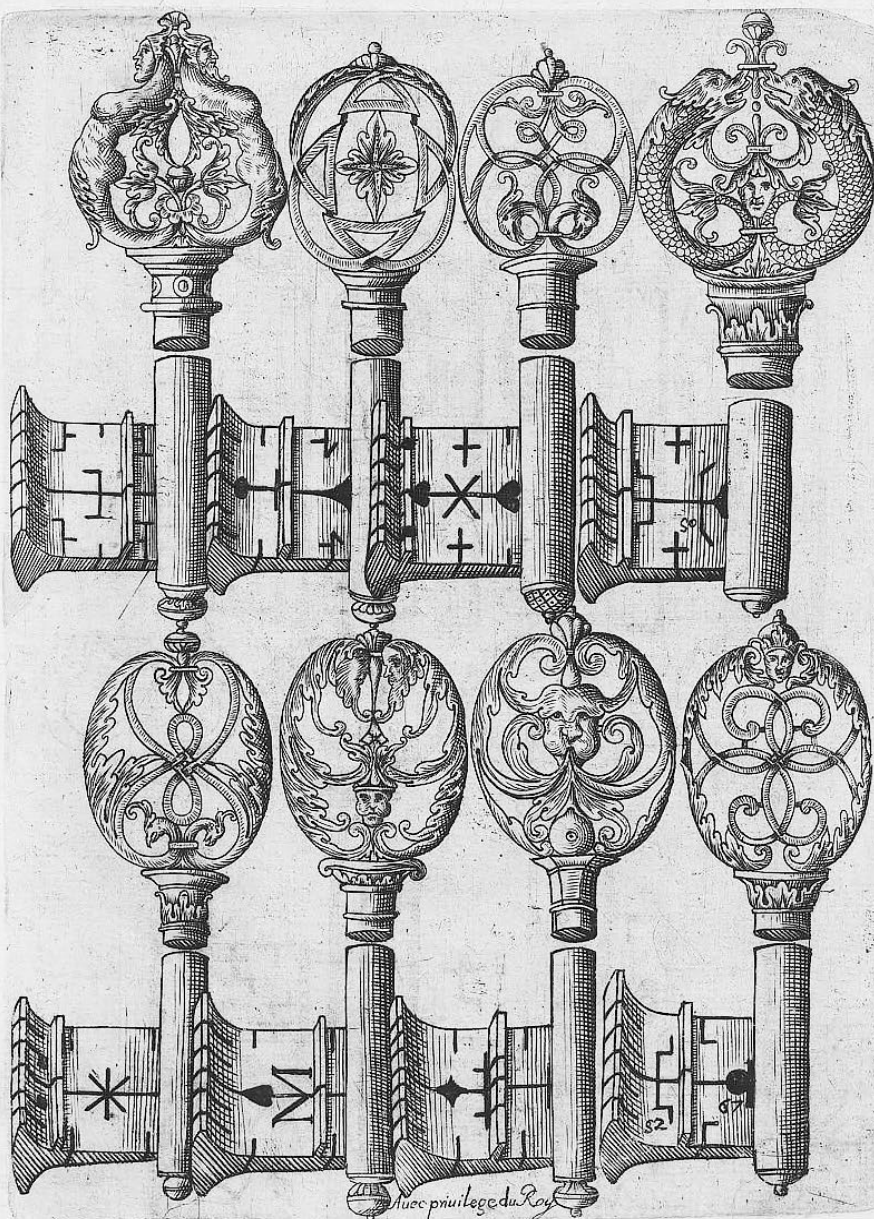
Also for the second time, the Italian historian Stefania Elena Carnemolla came to the Library in November. Her research focuses on maritime history of technology of the early 19th century. The Library's holdings on ship-building, as well as engineering journals, in particular the "Mechanics' Magazine" from London, proved to be rich resources.

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives support research work that is based on their holdings. The following publications appeared in the reporting year:

An inexhaustible source for history of technology research of all kinds: The "Mechanics' Magazine" appeared in London from 1823 to 1873.

- Franziska Eggimann: 100 Jahre GF im Klostergut Paradies. Vom Gutsbetrieb zum Kulturdenkmal. In: *Ferrum* 90, 2018, pp. 108–117. (on the centenary of GF at Klostergut Paradies)
- Josef Moos: La fidelle Ouverture de l'Art de Serrurier. Einzigartiges Schmiede- und Schlosserbuch aus der Eisenbibliothek. In: *Hephaistos* 2018, 6, pp. 14–15. (on an unique book on metal-working in the Iron Library)
- Beat Moser: Das Bergwerk Gonzen und die Familie Neher. In: *Terra plana* 48, 2018, 3, pp. 33–38; also in: *Bergknappe* 42, 2018, 2, pp. 18–25. (on the Gonzen mine and the Neher family)
- Florian Ruhland: "Ayn liblichs piechel" wird digitalisiert – Eine Spurensuche zur verschollen geglaubten Probierebuch-Handschrift des Wok Pniowsky von Eulenberg (1526). In: *Ferrum* 90, 2018, pp. 96–107. (on the tracing of a manuscript of Wok Pňovský von Eulenberg, believed to be lost)
- Peter Tölke: Entwicklung des Tempergusses. Grundlagen und Anwendung. In: 3. Giessereihistorisches Kolloquium 2015 zur GIFA 2015. Düsseldorf 2017, pp. 86–102 (on the development of malleable cast iron)
- Kurt Walter: Villa Berg Schaffhausen. Geschichten, Bilder, Dokumente. Schaffhausen 2018. (on the Villa Berg in Schaffhausen)
- Urs Werner: A Brief Glance at the History of Iron Metallurgy in Switzerland [...]. In: History of Iron Technology FORUM. 23rd Public Presentation. Proceedings. Tokyo 2018, pp. 21–32.
- Jeannine Wyss/Edi Gasser: Das Leben und Wirken des Dr. h.c. Ernst Müller-Reiffer. In: *Uhwieser Mappe* 2018, pp. 389–400. (on the biography of Ernst Müller)

QVARENTE-TROISIESME FIGVRE.



Digital Services

Presence on Digital Platforms

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library's and the Corporate Archives' portfolio for many years. Increasingly, however, it is not only catalogs and repertories, but also the resources themselves that are being put online.

The Corporate Archives made a quantum leap in the reporting year, becoming one of the first corporate archives to go online with its database. Most of the holdings in the archive catalog are now available for research without registration and free of charge. 5000 of the approximately 130 000 photographs are freely available and searchable in an online picture gallery. In addition, the Corporate Archives digitized the annual reports of Georg Fischer Ltd going back to 1896. They are now also available online and full-text searchable.

The annual journal *Ferrum*, which publishes the papers from the History of Technology Conference and reports on topics from the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives, is online and accessible through the e-periodica website. *Ferrum* has by now published 90 volumes in 63 years. The e-periodica website, which is operated by the ETH Library, offers free access to digitized Swiss journals.

The Iron Library, also in collaboration with the ETH Library, is currently digitizing a selection of its printed holdings, making them

available on the e-rara website. The digital versions of 68 books are now available in the Library's own collection called "History of Technology and Science". These are books relating to the general history of technology and science from the 16th to the 19th centuries, books printed in Switzerland, and volumes from the fields of mining and metallurgy.

The digitized manuscripts from the Corporate Archives and the Iron Library can be found on the e-codices website which is managed and further developed by the University of Fribourg. E-codices is Switzerland's virtual library of manuscripts. The digital photographs are freely available for non-commercial use. In the period under review, the Iron Library had three early modern mining codes from the Frick Valley (Switzerland), Lower Austria, and Styria (Austria) digitized, and these will be put online in 2019.

After intensive preparations, the e-book website of the Iron Library, IRONBOOK, went online in the spring of 2018. The service provider Missing Link has established a password-protected interface via an EZproxy server, through which GF employees can access the entire German-language e-book program of Hanser Verlag on plastics technology (currently 71 e-books). The e-book website was presented in July at the internal information event "At first hand", held at GF Piping Systems in Schaffhausen.

An illustration from "La fidelle Ouverture de l'Art de Serrurier", a book made available online on the e-rara platform in 2018.



Library

Use, Services, Development, and Cataloguing

A reference library such as the Iron Library does not lend media, except for internal borrowing by GF employees at the Schaffhausen site and interlibrary loan requests from other libraries. A total of 138 media were lent. The book table visited the employees in Schaffhausen and Singen in July, offering them a selection of the new acquisitions for direct borrowing. Requested media that are not in the Library itself are acquired through the book trade or through antiquarian bookshops. Where this is not possible, the Iron Library obtains them through interlibrary loan.

The Library received 89 inquiries in the past year. They ranged from concrete questions about literature, to complex research on various topics. Queries and requests about literature that is available only in the Iron Library, or that only the Iron Library has listed in a public catalog available online, come from all over the world. In 2018, 36 users worked in the Library's reading room on 54 days. Generally, they used the facilities for a day, and in the case of the three Scholars in Residence they stayed for one or two weeks.

In 2018, the Library continued to grow: it purchased 198 volumes (books) and received 123 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Library obtains 67 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 2018 contributed to the development of the newly established collection focus on plastics, on which we have reported here in recent years. The Iron Library acquired a number of publications on plastics technology from the library of the Technical University Rapperswil (HSR). Furthermore, it received the complete series of the "Stuttgarter Kunststoff-Kolloquium" through the offices of Professor Christian Bonten, Head of the Institute of Plastics Technology at the University of Stuttgart. They have already been catalogued in IRONCAT, the Iron Library's online catalog.

The Iron Library lists its holdings as part of the catalog of the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund (SWB) and participates in cooperative subject and descriptive cataloguing. Resource Description & Access (RDA) is the binding standard for descriptive cataloguing, while verbal subject cataloguing is governed by the rules for subject catalogs (German acronym RSWK), using in both cases the Integrated Authority File (German acronym GND). Efforts are consistently being made to correct numerous catalog entries that are either out-of-date, or do not conform with the standards. At 31 December 2018, the catalog of the Iron Library contained 35976 books, 1125 periodicals, 9869 articles, and 134 online resources.

From the Iron Library to the Museum of Medieval Mining in the Erzgebirge: the illustration shows charcoal burning in La Croix-aux-Mines in the Vosges mountains in the 16th century.



Kriegs-Erinnerung

Corporate Archives

Use, Queries, New Accessions, and Indexing

The Corporate Archives can be used both by employees of GF and by people outside the company. They can consult the archive holdings on the Iron Library premises. In the event of “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 materials at the same time.

In the reporting period, 104 archive inquiries (49 internal and 55 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the archive team. 18 users (6 internal and 12 external) also used the archive on site. Two areas were of particular interest for topical reasons. For one thing, the past year marked the anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918. For another, 2018 was the hundredth anniversary of the Swiss General Strike. The history of GF was consulted repeatedly in the preparations for exhibitions, publications, and commemoration ceremonies, and mentioned in various presentations.

In the year under review, nine deliveries of archive material comprising 13 linear meters were added as new accessions. The two largest and most important accessions came from the Human Resources and Controlling departments of the corporate company. Some smaller deliveries resulted from clean-up campaigns in the offices of the cor-

porate company and of GF Piping Systems at the Schaffhausen site. Furthermore, the attic of a farmhouse in the village of Löhningen unearthed a very unexpected discovery: a handwritten diary belonging to Johann Conrad Fischer, the founder of GF. The journal contains excerpts from the years 1826–1840 that he had taken from his other diaries relating to his “Conversations with Princes”, especially the Archduke Johann of Austria. The approximately 140 pages, which are now being transcribed, will reveal the content of these “Conversations”.

In the run-up to the planned exhibitions and publications to mark the centenary at Klostersgut Paradies, work on indexing was focused in the previous years on the photographic holdings. Altogether, about 130 000 photographs were organized and made accessible. In the reporting year, further important holdings were added to the database. There are now two new holdings, one for the minutes of annual general meetings, and one for annual reports of Georg Fischer Ltd since 1896. The annual reports were also digitized, are now available online in the database, and are full-text searchable. About 20 smaller accession groups were abolished and the contents integrated into existing holdings. All told, 22 accessions consisting of about 56 linear meters of documents, or almost 2000 records, were indexed in the year under review. On 31 December 2018, the archive database contained 50 093 records.

Martial euphoria as a postcard illustration: female workers from the Georg Fischer Works posing at the start of the First World War in the studio of photographer Jos. Ott in Singen, around 1915.



The team from the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives (left to right): Lucas Zollinger, Susanne Nendel, Tamara Haefeli, Nicolau Lutz, Florian Ruhland, Nina Helg-Kurmann, Pauline Zade, Franziska Eggimann.

Personnel

The core team of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives comprises 2.4 FTEs, shared by three employees: Franziska Eggmann, Managing Director of the Iron Library Foundation, who is at the same time responsible for the Corporate Archives of GF. Florian Ruhland, scientific librarian, and Pauline Zade, administrator, complete the team. They are supported by Susanne Nendel and Nina Helg-Kurmann, part-time employees, Lucas Zollinger, student employee, and Tamara Haefeli, intern. Since the end of 2017, the Iron Library offers the possibility of doing civilian service. Currently, Nicolau Lutz is giving valuable assistance at the Library in this capacity.

Involvement in Committees/ Working Groups

- Education committee of the Association of Swiss Archivists VSA (FE)
- Board member Schaffhausen Museum Society (FE)
- Historical Technology Dialog, History committee (FE)
- OPL-Kreis (One Person Libraries) Bodensee (FR)

Involvement in Events

- January, March, June, September, and November 2018: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- March 2018: annual meeting of the Schaffhausen Museum Society, Klostersgut Paradies (organization and tour FE)
- April 2018: Wikipedia “GLAM on Tour” at Migros, podium discussion on archives and Wikipedia, Zurich (podium participant FE)
- Mai 2018: GF History on Tour, Suzhou, Changzhou, Shanghai (presentations FE)

Participation in Events

- March 2018: Historical Technology Dialog, Linz (FE)
- March 2018: Visual Approaches to Cultural Heritage, Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), ETH Library, Zurich (FR)
- June 2018: Bodensee regional chapter of OPL, Library of the Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg in Freiburg, University Library Freiburg (FR)
- September 2018: Annual meeting of VSA, Sion (FE)
- September 2018: Historical Technology Dialog, Andernach (FE)
- November 2018: Conference on History of the Digital Age, ETH Zurich (FE)
- November 2018: Bodensee regional chapter of OPL, school library of Scheffel Gymnasium, Bad Säckingen (FR)

Ongoing Training

- September 2018: managerial training, Klostersgut Paradies (FE)
- October 2018: Historical colored papers, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Library – Center for Advanced Training, Hanover (FR)



Board of Trustees and Governing Board at the last meeting at Kloostergut 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 have a separate cost center within GF.

The Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees:

Members as per 1.1.2019

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Chairman of the Board of Trustees
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Switzerland
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Schaffhausen, Switzerland
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Director Technisches Museum, Vienna,
Austria

Governing Board:

Members as per 1.1.2019

- Dr. Roland Gröbli,
Chairman of the Governing Board
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd,
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Head of Technology Unit New Technolo-
gies, GF Machining Solutions, Geneva
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GF Piping Systems, Schaffhausen
- Dirk Lindemann
Chief Technology Officer, GF Casting Solu-
tions, Schaffhausen
- Urs Werner
Senior Advisor, GF Piping Systems,
Schaffhausen

Overview and Statistics

Library

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
Literature on the history of iron, steel and plasctics, 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 45 000 catalog records	13 th 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 50 000 records – More than 1200 linear meters – Approx. 700 objects 	Starting in 1693

Use of Library/Archive	2018	2017	2016	2015
Library users	36	57	54	20
Archive users	18	29	18	20
Library inquiries	89	85	56	55
Archive inquiries	104	116	79	108
Library items lent	138	147	108	151

Archive holdings	2018	2017	2016	2015
Accessions	13 lin. m	44 lin. m	23 lin. m	40 lin. m
Holdings indexed	848 lin. m	750 lin. m	620 lin. m	800 lin. m
Holdings not indexed	396 lin. m	450 lin. m	400 lin. m	380 lin. m
Indexing	56 lin. m	100 lin. m	50 lin. m	2 lin. m
Records	50 093	48 375	31 306	–

Library holdings	2018	2017	2016	2015
New acquisitions – purchases	198	250	760	245
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	123	218	227	63
Catalog entries books – titles	35 287	34 784	33 900	32 598
Catalog entries books – copies	35 976	35 452	34 513	33 200
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 869	9 861	9 751	9 603
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 125	1 057	970	851
Current periodicals and series	67	70	66	63
Catalog entries online resources	134	117	69	27

Guided tours	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total no. of visitors	2 155	1 002	1 098	1 089
Total no. of tours	131	74	85	99
Tours for GF guests	50	38	50	56
Tours for external guests	81	36	35	43
Avg. no. persons per tour	16	14	13	11

Useful Information

Services

- 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 sites
- Interlibrary lending via SUBITO 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 Archives 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 Archives (archives.georgfischer.com/gallery)
- Annual reports of GF since 1896 digitally available (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)

Events in 2019

6 May–19 July 2019

Exhibition "From Convent to Cloud: Two Libraries in Paradies Convent and their Books" with an extensive supporting program (see www.eisenbibliothek.ch)

20–23 June 2019

Wikipedia "GLAM on Tour" at the Iron Library

23 June 2019

Open House Day at Klostersgut Paradies

July 2019

Book table in Schaffhausen

December 2019

Book table in Schaffhausen

Contact

Employees as of 1.3.2019

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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