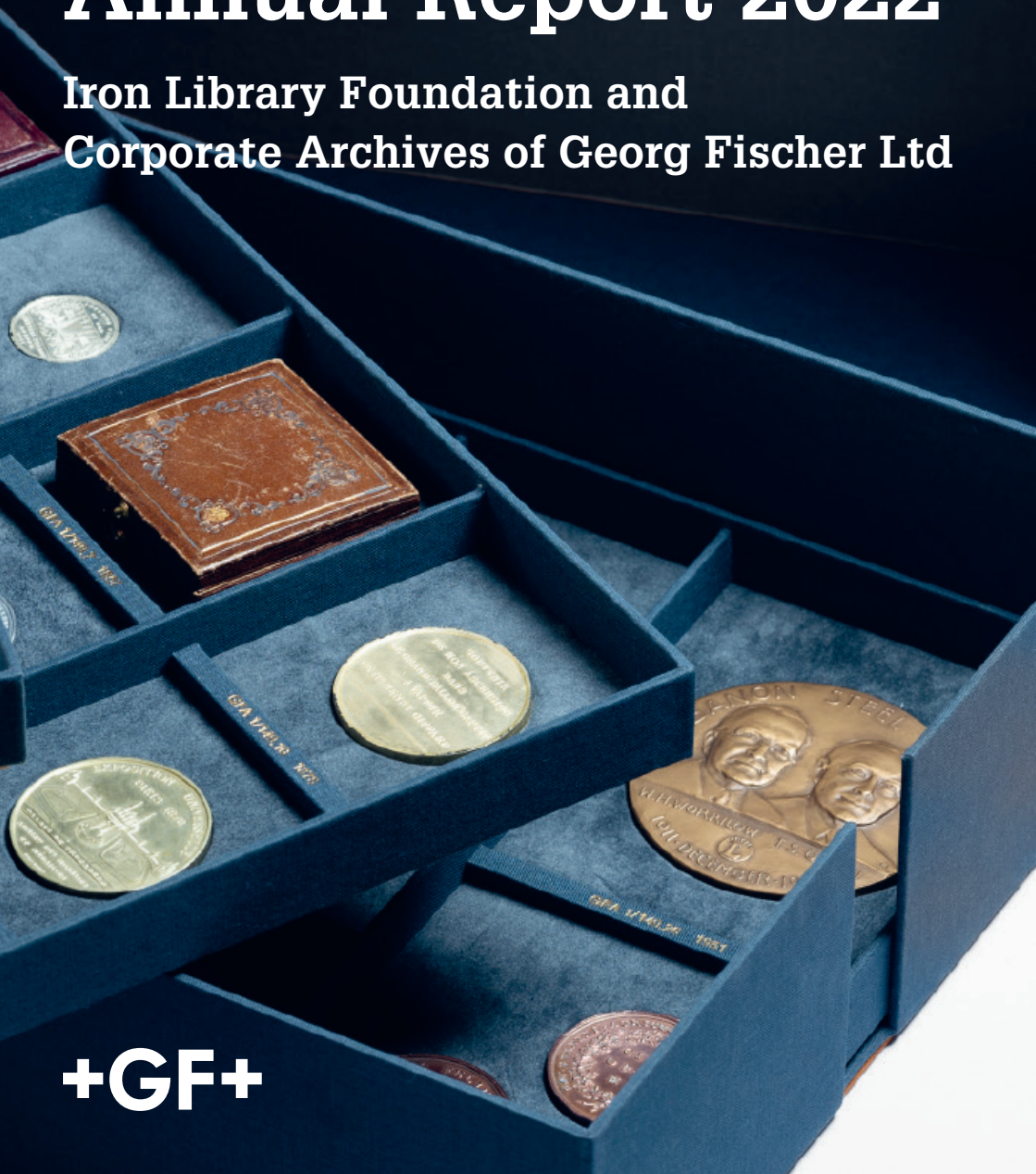




Annual Report 2022

Iron Library Foundation and
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd



Imprint

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Cover photo: The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are rich in treasures, here in the form of neatly embedded medals from industrial exhibitions.

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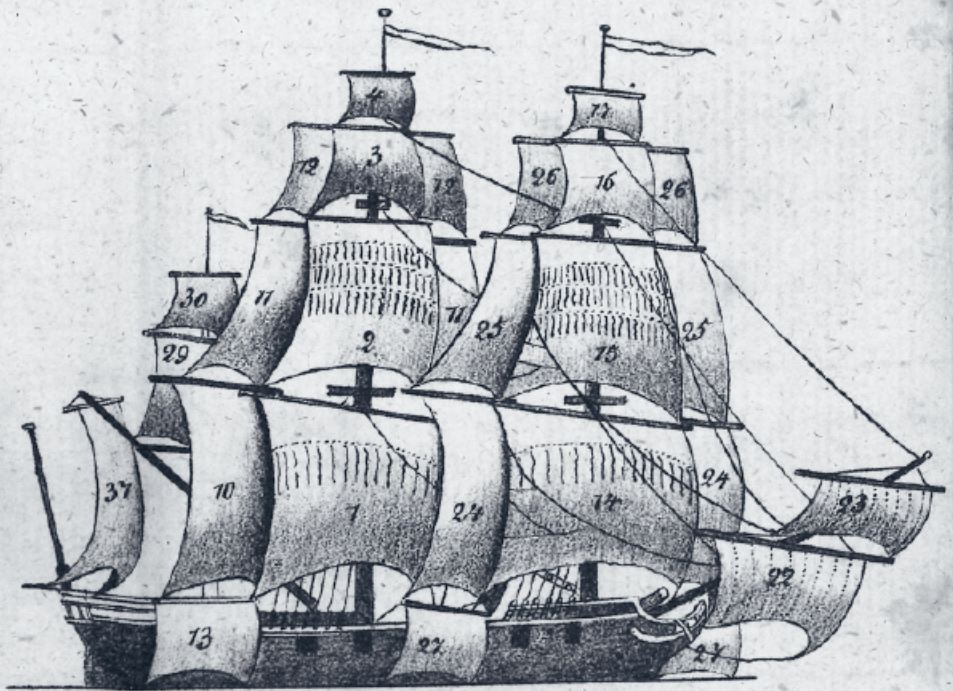
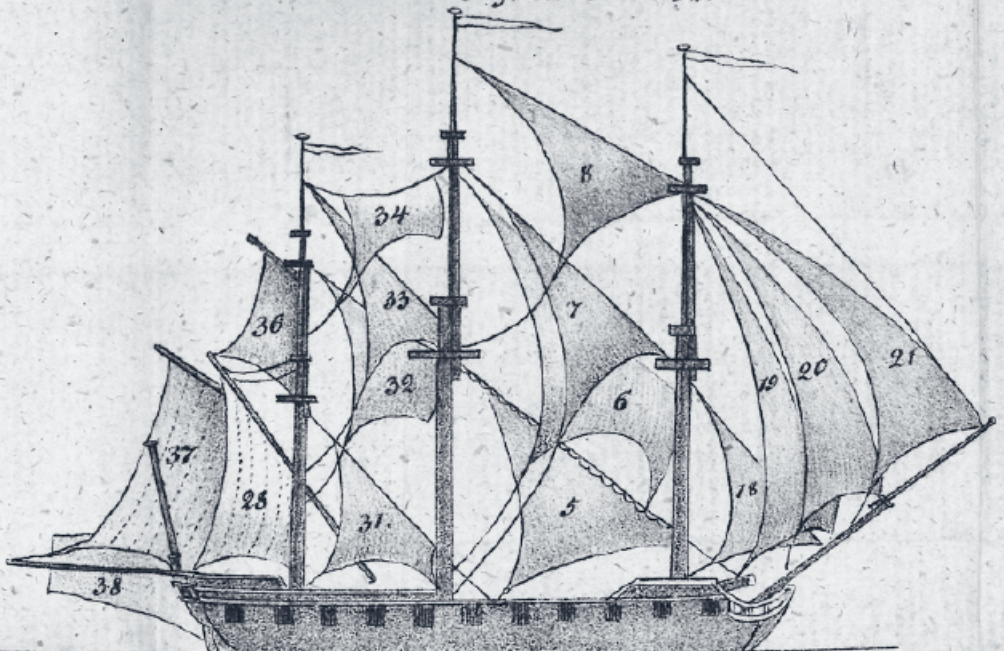


Fig: 8207. S. 192.



Preface

Dear ladies and gentlemen

Dear readers

In 2022, the Iron Library and the GF Corporate Archives were again underway under full sail. We moved in familiar waters and yet set course for new horizons. By way of introduction, we are pleased to record some very special "sailing trips". First and foremost, we are pleased about the well-established cooperation with Wikipedia. Together with two Wikipedia specialists, the team conducted two well-attended writing workshops on "Women as multi-talents" and was thus able to close numerous gaps on the world's largest knowledge platform. The 92nd issue of our journal "Ferrum" is already attracting great interest. This time, this internationally appreciated and sought-after publication on the history of technology contains 13 articles on "Raw Materials. Natural Resources in History". The articles are written versions of papers presented at the 2021 History of Technology Conference of the same name at the Klostergut Paradies.

Less visible to the outside world was the demanding task of the Corporate Archives to return about 600 works of art to the company's own art depot in the course of the renovation of the GF headquarters. In addition to inventory control, measures were taken to preserve the most valuable works, and a few supposed works of art were transferred to the paper recycling as cheap prints. The greatest attention and the most challeng-

ing project in terms of time will set sail in the current year, to remain true to the imagery of the adjacent picture: in 2023 we will be celebrating the 250th birthday of the company's founder Johann Conrad Fischer (1773–1854). We will celebrate and enrich this unique anniversary with numerous activities.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we once again give an account in this Annual Report of the cultivation of the historical and cultural heritage at GF in 2022 by informing you in the coming pages about the projects already mentioned and many more, as well as about the ongoing grassroots work. Founded in 1802, GF has developed and proven itself as an agile and resilient company, thanks to capable and committed employees. The Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd are dedicated to the active preservation and communication of these impressive achievements and history. Both are based at Klostergut Paradies, report to the Corporate Secretariat and are managed by Franziska Eggimann. We would like to take this opportunity to express our special thanks to the motivated, indeed enthusiastic team, without which these many tasks and projects could not have been realized in this quality.

Growing digital content offering

More and more, we are not only making catalogs or repertories available online, but also the resources themselves. This is entirely in the spirit of "Open GLAM" (GLAM= Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). The Iron Library works mainly with cooperation platforms such as e-codices and e-rara for digitization; the Corporate Archives offers a growing amount of digital content directly in

On course: Sail plans for three-masted ships from the "Oekonomisch technologische Encyclopädie" by Johann Georg Krünitz.

its own web-based archive database. In the reporting year alone, our online presence grew by over 14 000 digitized book pages. The highlight from the new digitizations is certainly the first edition of Isaac Newton's "Principia". It contains numerous marginalia written by the previous owner, Ernst Mach, which provides a double gain in knowledge. As of December 31, 2022, the digital offering counted a total of 167 e-books, 1 392 digitized volumes with 131 608 pages, and 9 725 digitized photographs.

Cooperation with all GF divisions

The Corporate Archives and Iron Library work closely with the GF Corporation and the three divisions in various areas. The Iron Library is a valued point of contact for the R&D departments for literature research, advice and procurement. Demand continued to increase in the year under review, encouraged by and in parallel with the pilot project for Corporation-wide access to an external platform containing some 120 000 titles of renowned technical literature. In addition, the Corporate Archives are also receiving an increasing number of more complex inquiries on a wide variety of aspects of the Company's history. For example, since the redesign of the GF employee magazine in 2022, one page in each issue has been devoted entirely to the history of the Corporation.

The Iron Library grows, thanks to donations

During 2022, the library continued to grow. It acquired 186 titles (books and periodicals) and received 772 titles as bequests or exchanges. We also received several large donations, including some 50 valuable volumes from the Enlightenment period with a complete octavo edition of Encyclopédie. 145 requests were received by the library and 19 users worked 55 days in the reading room. As of December 31, 2022, the

Iron Library catalog included 37 534 books, 1 178 periodicals, 9 885 articles, and 134 online resources.

Material specimens in the Corporate Archives

70 years ago, in-house chemists experimented with plastics for the first time, testing their suitability for the manufacture of pipe fittings. Probably only the greatest visionaries believed at the time that their developments would largely replace traditional metal fittings over the next few decades. Thanks to the research carried out at that time, the GF Piping Systems division is now one of the leading suppliers of piping systems throughout the world. In the year under review, the archives were able to take over some 1 500 prototypes and material samples from the plastic fittings' development period in the 1950s to 1970s. These three-dimensional testimonies are now secured for posterity in the Corporate Archives.

In the year under review, we processed 125 archive inquiries (57 internal, 68 external). 24 users (7 internal, 17 external) inspected the archive material on site. In total, we were able to index just under 7 500 units of description. On December 31, 2022, the archive database contained 128 991 units of records.

Close network thanks to great openness

GF has always cultivated its cultural heritage with remarkable openness. In this spirit, we also offer the Scholar in Residence Program. It enables scholars from all over the world to engage intensively with the holdings of the library and archives. In the year under review, three scholars from Germany, Luxembourg and the USA took advantage of the opportunity to spend an extended research period at Klostergut Paradies. They dealt with the significance of the Sayner ironworks near

Koblenz as a center of early industrial iron and mechanical engineering, photography as a means of shaping identities in industry after World War II, and historical changes in the financial structure of GF as an illustration of developments in the financial and banking system.

Outlook 2023

In 2023, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Johann Conrad Fischer (1773–1854), the founder of today's GF. To mark the anniversary, the Iron Library is realizing an online edition of Fischer's travel diaries and is also translating the texts from the original German into English for the first time. Publication is planned for June 2023. At the same time, an anniversary exhibition will be held at Klostergut Paradies from June to November. It will be accompanied by an attractive supporting program and a family open day on June 11, 2023.

The "Erzählzeit" literature festival will also return to Klostergut Paradies this year: on March 29, 2023, the Iron Library will organize a reading by author Jan Faktor from his novel "Trottel". In November 2023, the 43rd History of Technology Conference will be held on the topic "Good, Durable, Safe. Quali-

ty and Safety Requirements of Technology in History".

In addition, the Iron Library and Corporate Archives team continues to take care of the ongoing processing, expansion and maintenance of the holdings. The digital offerings are also being continuously expanded. This year, the Iron Library is again expanding its "History of Technology and Science" collection on e-rara, and the Corporate Archives is tackling the digitization of the valuable glass plate collection of the measuring and testing machine manufacturer Alfred Amsler & Co.

We will be happy to inform you about all these initiatives and activities in due course on our website www.eisenbibliothek.ch – or in next year's annual report at the latest.

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

A big thank you goes to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personnel and non-material support the implementation of all these activities would not be possible.

Schaffhausen/Schlatt, February 17, 2023



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



Outreach / Events

Wikipedia writing ateliers

Women have worked in science and technology, in the arts, and as entrepreneurs for millennia. Yet their biographies and achievements are often invisible. Even in Wikipedia, which has been called the “memory of the world,” women’s accomplishments are often not adequately represented. Well, the Iron Library has taken steps to remedy the situation!

On May 12, 2022, the library hosted the Wikipedia workshop “Women as Multi-Talents,” which we co-organized with two experienced Wikipedians, Sandra Becker and Kathrin Herwig, who were also at the library as Wikipedians in Residence. For the workshop, we called on anyone interested to join in and add to or rewrite biographies of women from all eras, regions, and disciplines. The library provided literature, infrastructure, and food for the 15 participants, who enthusiastically got to work, some writing Wikipedia articles about women of their choice for the first time. By the end of the day, more than 26 articles had been written, edited or expanded.

Due to the success of the first Wikipedia workshop, the Iron Library realized another writing workshop together with the Schaffhausen City Library as part of the Swiss Digital Days in September 2022. This well-attended workshop again focused on women’s biographies, this time with less of a technical background and more of a regional one.

One article created on this occasion is an example of the free, i.e. collective, authorship that characterizes Wikipedia and generally ensures that the content is improved and supplemented collectively. The article about the Schaffhausen landlady and salonnière Mathilda Heck (1877–1970), however, did not receive the desired improvement right at the beginning, but a deletion request on the grounds of lack of relevance. Among others, Hermann Hesse and the Japanese writer Arishima Takeo frequented Heck’s literary salon. These international literary meetings were crucial to the development of new styles in the early twentieth century, and so Heck’s historical relevance and article worthiness should really be beyond doubt. After several weeks of online debate about honoring women’s achievements in history, the article was retained and even significantly expanded by the engagement that the controversy generated.

New and expanded articles (selection):

- Louise de Corcelles (1726–1796), painter
- Maria Cunitz (1610–1664), astronomer
- Margaret Gatty (1809–1873), botanist
- Anna Krumm 1453–1476), prioress
- Marie Lavoisier (1758–1836), chemist
- Agnes Magnell (1878–1966), architect
- Anna Morandi Manzolini (1714–1774), anatomist and anatomical wax modeler
- Sophie Stokar (1790–1823), soprano singer

New Wikipedians: Participants at the May atelier get to work writing their first articles.



Outreach / Events

Guided tours and activities

The guided tours of the Iron Library and the GF history exhibition are popular with internal and external visitors alike. A few years ago, we reduced the maximum group size, which has allowed for more engagement and exchange with visitors and their interests. In the year under review, we welcomed 646 guests on a total of 84 tours, including GF colleagues from all three divisions. Visitors came from all over the world, most of them from European countries, but also from Dubai, the USA and Japan. As a stop on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, the library receives sporadic visits from pilgrims – most recently from a particularly long-distance pilgrim who set out on foot on the nearly 3000-kilometer journey from Wrocław to Santiago de Compostela.

Among the particularly bibliophile visitors were guests from the Thurgau Cantonal Heritage Society, the Association of OPL Libraries (One Person Library) of Lake Constance, and a group of students from the MA Information Science program at the Graubünden University of Applied Sciences in Chur. Of particular interest to GF colleagues was the history of pipe fittings, plastics technology, and sustainability.

Despite different backgrounds, most visitors have the same highlights on their wish list. These included Gustav Eiffel's book with the construction plans of the Eiffel Tower, the Albertus Magnus Aristotle manuscript – and above all the first edition of

Isaac Newton's "Principia". You can read more about the special nature of the copy in the Iron Library on the next page about digital services.

Erzählzeit: Reading by Katerina Poladjan from "Zukunftsmusik".

In April, the library hosted an eagerly awaited reading as part of the "Erzählzeit" literary festival. In the convivial atmosphere of the refectory at Kloostergut Paradies, Katerina Poladjan read several excerpts from her new novel "Zukunftsmusik" to 50 interested guests. The story about a day in a Kommunka offers a microcosmic snapshot of life and hopes for the future in the Soviet Union on the fateful day of Gorbachev's inauguration in 1985. Atmospheric, melancholy, but with the quiet humor of everyday life, the novel elicited laughter from the audience several times; and the author's experience as a voice actor was reflected in the quality of the reading.

Moderated by GF Corporate Secretary Roland Gröbli, a lively discussion ensued, focusing on the utopian setting of the novel and the author's family background, as well as how her personal memories of life in Soviet Russia were incorporated into the structure of the novel. The audience's interest continued in intense and cheerful conversations during the aperitif – a sure sign of a very successful evening.

Katerina Poladjan reads from her novel to a fascinated audience at Kloostergut.

PHILOSOPHIÆ
NATURALIS
PRINCIPIA
MATHEMATICA.

Autore ^[200] J. S. NEWTON, Trin. Coll. Cantab. Soc. Mathefeos
Professore *Lucasiano*, & Societatis Regalis Sodali.

IMPRIMATUR.
S. P E P Y S, Reg. Soc. P R Æ S E S.

Julii 5. 1686.

Doublet



L O N D I N I,

Jussu Societatis Regiæ ac Typis *Josephi Streater*. Prostant Vena-
les apud *Sam. Smith* ad insignia Principis Walliæ in Cœmiterio
D. Pauli, aliosq; nonnullos Bibliopolas. Anno MDCLXXXVII.

[*Britannica*]

Prof. Ernst Mach

Mach

Digital services

Services for internal and external visitors

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. In the spirit of "Open GLAM" (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums), we are increasingly making available online not only catalogs or repertories, but also the resources themselves. As of December 31, 2022, the digital offering totaled 167 e-books, 1 392 digitized volumes with 131 608 pages, and 9 725 digitized photographs.

The digitized manuscripts from the Corporate Archives and the Iron Library are located on the e-codices portal, Switzerland's virtual manuscript library. The digital photographs are freely available for non-commercial use. The Iron Library and Corporate Archives offer on e-codices includes 19 manuscripts with over 3 000 pages.

The journal "Ferrum" with the articles of the History of Technology Conference as well as reports on the topics of the archives and the library, is accessible online on the portal e-periodica. There are now 91 issues from 66 years. The e-periodica portal is operated by the ETH-Bibliothek and makes digitized Swiss journals freely accessible.

Also in collaboration with the ETH-Bibliothek, the Iron Library is digitizing a selection from its printed holdings to make them available on the e-rara portal. In a separate collection called "History of Technology and

Science," 122 books with 32 746 pages are currently available. The most recent tranche comprised 19 works, including the first edition of Newton's "Principia" from 1687. The Iron Library's copy contains critical marginalia by the previous owner, Ernst Mach. The criticism of Newton's mechanics by Mach, a physicist, had fundamental importance for the development of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity.

To provide a more in-depth look at these digitized objects and other interesting items and stories from the Iron Library and Corporate Archives, we have also continued to produce short YouTube films. Last year, for example, videos appeared on Newton's "Principia", the designs of Agostino Ramelli, and GF's role in renewable energies, looking at the Grand Dixence hydropower plant in Valais.

In the year under review, the library expanded the range of current digital research literature for GF. This included new acquisitions for the in-house e-book platform IRONBOOK. The platform is accessible worldwide via an individual login and currently offers 167 fully licensed, highly specialized reference works on industrial manufacturing and plastics technology. In addition, a company-wide subscription has been taken out with Springer Professional, an online library for science and industry. As of February 2022, GF employees have access to 120 000 e-books and 500 current journals.

Not a unique print, but certainly a unique copy: "Principia" with Mach's comments from the Iron Library.



Research

Scholar in Residence program and publications

The Scholar in Residence program is an invitation to researchers to engage intensively with the rich holdings of the library and archives. In the year under review, we welcomed Florian Fichtner, Karin Priem and Duncan Alford.

Florian Fichtner is a doctoral student at the TU Bergakademie Freiberg in Germany. His research focuses primarily on the history of the Sayner Ironworks, often referred to as the “prototype of modern industrial construction.” Karin Priem visited the library this summer as part of her research on the mediatization of social change and industrial leadership after World War II. Karin’s focus was on the GF photo collections and how photography was used to promote socio-educational reform and shape identities. At the same time as Karin, we were joined by Duncan Alford, professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He used GF as a case study to examine how industries have responded to longer-term developments in finance.

Ferrum and other publications

The year under review saw the publication of the latest issue of “Ferrum”, devoted to the theme of commodities in history. It contains 13 insightful articles based on papers presented at the previous year’s History of Technology Conference.

In the 1930s, GF was not only a foundry but also a quarry operator. Read all about it in the new issue of “Ferrum”.

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

- Walter R.C. Abegglen: Schaffhauser Portraits 1450 – 1870. Weggis 2022.
- Franziska Eggimann: Die Fortsetzung der Geschichte. Existenzsichernde Massnahmen der Georg Fischer AG in der Zeit des Kalten Kriegs. In: Schaffhauser Geschichte im Fokus, Festschrift für Hans Ulrich Wipf. Schaffhauser Beiträge zur Geschichte, 93 (2021), p. 241 – 262.
- Franziska Eggimann: Rohstoffe erzählen Geschichte. Die Materialbeschaffung bei GF als Spiegel der Firmen- und der Weltgeschichte (1899 – 1932). In: Ferrum, 92 (2022), p. 128 – 137.
- Karl Heinrich Fehrlin: Die Schizophrenie. Kommentierte Neuausgabe mit schrift-deutscher Übersetzung, herausgegeben von Katrin Luchsinger und René Specht. Zurich 2022.
- Felix Graf: Die Mutter des Freiherrn. Die Welt der Elisabeth Hürus in Stein am Rhein um 1600. Ein historisch-biographisches Zeitbild. Schleithelm 2022.
- Pietro Grandi: Artificio. Rome 2022.
- Dominik Landwehr: De re metallica – ein Bestseller aus dem 16. Jahrhundert. Blog post of the Swiss National Museum, Zurich. Published 21.1.22.
- Artemis Yagou: Materials expertise and networks: The case of Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 – 1854). In: Antiquarian Horology, 43 (2022), Nr. 3, p. 374 – 386.
- Christopher Zoller-Blundell: The stuff of literature. Raw materials and the books of the Iron Library. In: Ferrum, 92 (2022), p. 138 – 149.



Library

Use, services, development, and cataloguing

As a rule, a reference library such as the Iron Library does not lend media. Exceptions are internal loans by GF employees in Switzerland and interlibrary loans for other libraries. A total of 341 media were borrowed in the year under review. The Iron Library's popular book table visited colleagues in Schaffhausen in the summer and in the run-up to Christmas; apart from that, loans continued to be sent out and returned regularly via internal mail.

145 requests were received by the library last year: another significant increase compared to the previous year. Requests were either about specific works in the collection or complex research topics such as the metal alloys used to make eighteenth century cannons, or the development of tools such as anvils, and other technologies such as steel furnaces, electroplating, and steel cables. Some requests for literature available only at the Iron Library came from as far away as Wellington, New Zealand. In 2022, 19 users worked in the reading room on 55 days. They generally used the reading room for one day, but in the case of Scholars in Residence, they stayed for several weeks.

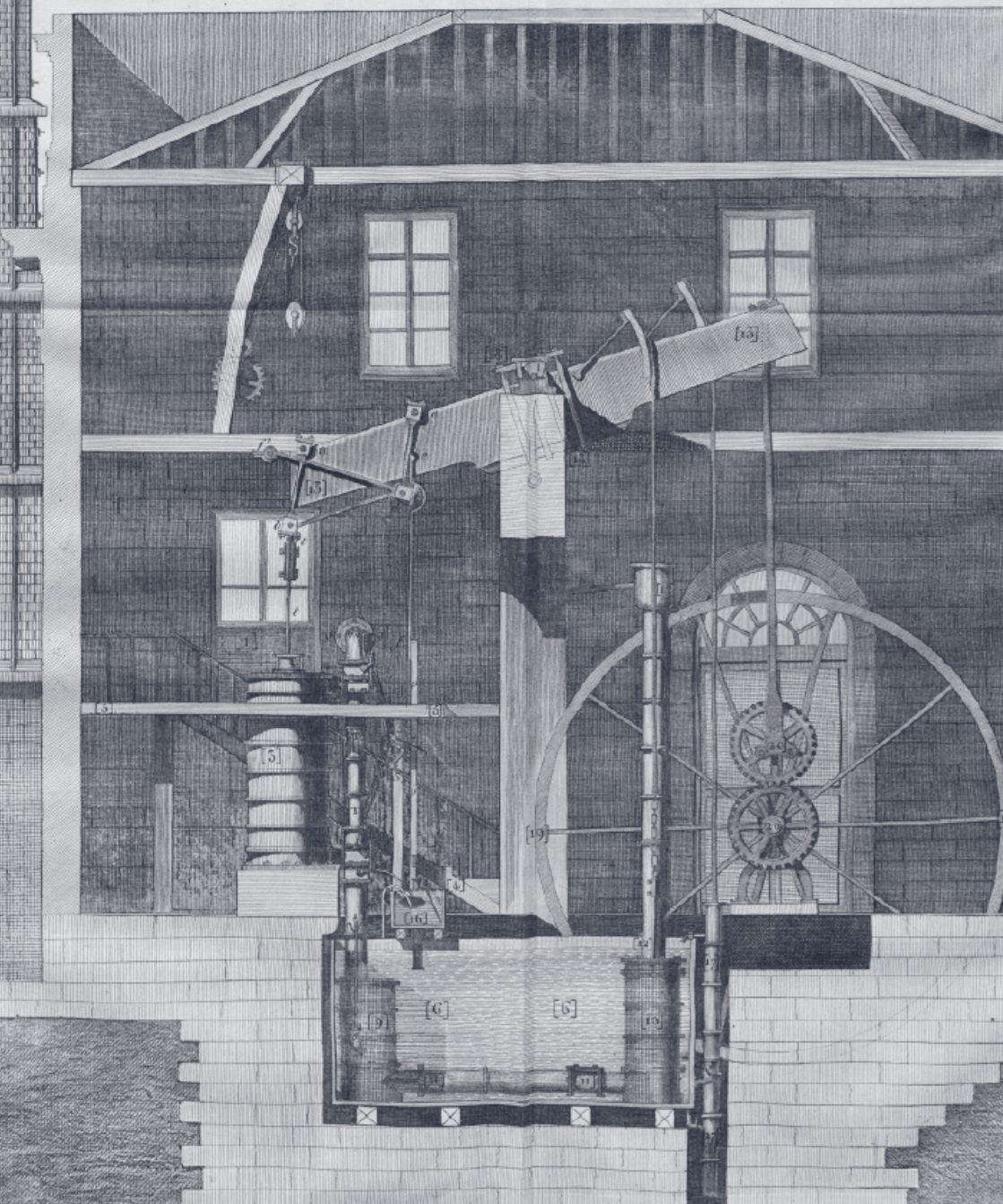
During 2022, the library continued to grow. It acquired 186 titles (books and periodicals) and received 772 titles as bequests or exchanges. The library was able to accept several large donations. Early in the year, Patrick Burgy of Schaffhausen donated about

50 volumes from the Enlightenment period, including a complete octavo edition of *Encyclopédie*. Michael Darby, a long-time friend of the Iron Library, donated a selection of new and hard-to-find literature on the industrial history of Great Britain. The year ended with two very large donations in December. One came from Langfeld AG in Frauenfeld and included periodicals and other volumes on metal construction. The other came from Oskar Nuyken of Munich and included numerous books and research papers on polymer science.

The Iron Library catalogs its holdings in the catalog of the Southwest German Library Network (SWB) and participates in cooperative formal cataloging and indexing. Since 2021, the library's holdings have been listed in WorldCat, the largest library catalog in the world. For formal cataloging, RDA (Resource Description & Access) is the binding standard; for verbal subject indexing, the Rules for Subject Catalogs (RSWK) apply, with the Integrated Standards File (GND) used in both cases. Numerous obsolete or non-standard catalog entries are still being corrected. As of December 31, 2022, the Iron Library catalog included 37 534 books, 1 178 periodicals, 9 885 articles, and 134 online resources.

Visitors browse through the selection of new books at the December book table in Schaffhausen.

Fig. 225.



Library

A showpiece from the new acquisitions

Gaspard de Prony:
“Nouvelle architecture hydraulique”
(Paris: Didot, 1790 – 1796).

De Prony’s “Nouvelle Architecture Hydraulique” is a comprehensive treatise in two volumes that brought a groundbreaking standard of approach to hydraulic engineering and architecture. This opus still marked a gap in our rare book collection, which is why the Iron Library placed a search request with various antiquarian booksellers in 2016. After six years of waiting, our patience was rewarded with two extremely well-preserved first editions.

The author, Gaspard de Prony, was a gifted mathematician and engineer. It was amidst the tumult of the French Revolution that the two volumes were published. The book, along with his record of civic engineering works, sealed his status as one of the revolutionary state’s great technological modernizers and thinkers. Indeed, his reputation was such that before commissioning any great engineering project, Napoleon Bonaparte is reported to have always asked, “And what does de Prony think?”

De Prony placed mathematics at the center of all considerations, beginning from a point of theory, defining the problem at an essential level, before shaping the solution around the results of numerous mechanical calculations. The design concepts and apparatus that feature are not always his own but those that he had evaluated and deemed

worthy of promotion. In such a way, he made his books indispensable, as they offered a practical synthesis of theories and concepts otherwise scattered throughout many other publications. Steam engines are given particular attention and feature among the 53 large engravings detailing complete technical apparatus that were published in the second volume in 1796. Here De Prony made particularly original contributions to steam engine design, including a calculus-based technique for evaluating the expansive force of an elastic fluid that has been put in motion. Such calculations allowed for the better comprehension of the power of steam engines, and were essential for devising the more powerful engine designs that were to drive mechanization in the following century.

Together, both volumes map out De Prony’s own revolution, in which he encouraged a culture of innovation that combined high science with an innate pragmatism to reshape the process of producing practical engineered solutions. In a way, his method was a precursor to design thinking. They cover a very important gap in the Iron Library’s collection of works charting major milestones in the history and evolution of hydraulic engineering concepts, from Agricola and Ramelli, through to Jakob Leupold and Caspar Walter.

High pressure: De Prony’s adapted and improved version of a Watt steam engine.



Corporate Archives

Use, queries, new accessions, and indexing

The Corporate Archives are open to both GF employees and external users. The service was actively used in the year under review. 125 archive inquiries (57 internal, 68 external) required extensive research by the archive team. 24 users (7 internal, 17 external) viewed the archive material on 41 days. A regular user of the archive is the GF real estate department, which repeatedly consults the historical plan material of the plant halls on the Ebnet for conversion and renovation projects. The author of the Schaffhausen school atlas, who reconstructed the structural development and conversion of the Mühlental in filigree detail, was also interested in the plan holdings. Not the building history, but life and work in the former steel foundry was the focus for the city guides of Schaffhausen Tourism. They sifted through a wealth of photographic material in the archives for the guided tours through the newly created urban quarter. Another visitor to the reading room rummaged through hundreds of aluminum and zinc coins with obvious pleasure: the food stamps and GF canteen vouchers formerly issued to factory workers will figure in a publication on company coins that will soon be published.

In the year under review, 14 deliveries of files, photos and objects totaling 112 linear meters were recorded. These resulted on the one hand from the clearance of corporate departments prior to the renovation of GF headquarters, and on the other hand

from the transfer of documents from GF subsidiaries and bequests. In addition, the archive received an extensive and valuable addition to the collection of objects: the GF Piping Systems division handed over some 1 500 prototypes and material samples from the development period of plastic fittings in the 1950s to 1970s.

In preparation for the anniversary “250 years of Johann Conrad Fischer” in 2023, the historical holdings of the Fischer family were checked and re-documented. Various files, books and objects were cleaned by a restorer in preparation for the planned exhibition and were given customized folders and boxes for professional storage.

Indexing focused on holdings that shed light on very different aspects of GF history: the leisure activities of employees in the holdings of the GF Sports Club; the social, cultural and political commitment of GF from 1963 to 1983 in the speech manuscripts of the then General Secretary; the investment strategies of the past 30 years in the minutes of the Investment Committee; or the commissioning, anniversaries and shutdowns of numerous plant and foundry facilities on the basis of some 80 commemorative plaques and casting plates.

A total of around 53 linear meters or just under 7 500 descriptive units were indexed in the year under review. On December 31, 2022, the archive database counted 128 991 descriptive units.

The photo of a technical draftswoman in training (1963) also interested readers of the GF employee magazine *Globe*.



Art collections

Inventorization, conservation, digitization

GF maintains the historical and cultural heritage of the region not only in the Corporate Archives and the Iron Library, but also with its art collections with a regional focus. The largest of the three collections has grown organically over the past century. With annual commissions and purchases, GF thus supports not only art production in Schaffhausen, but also art production beyond the region. The collection comprises around 500 works of art from the 17th to the 21st centuries and includes paintings, watercolors, and print works of various techniques, as well as three-dimensional objects. In addition, three decades ago GF took over the collections of 100 historical maps and 350 historical views of Schaffhausen from two private collectors in Schaffhausen in order to preserve them as integral units.

Some of the artworks from all three collections are on display in the rooms of the Iron Library and the Klostersgut Paradies. Until early last year, they also adorned the meeting rooms and offices at GF's headquarters in Schaffhausen. In view of the renovation, the Corporate Archives took all the artworks at the headquarters back into the art depot in the year under review. This was the largest transfer of around 600 objects to date. In addition to a detailed inventory check and re-description, various measures were taken to preserve the inventory. The paintings were dusted and superficially cleaned, and the printed works were removed from their frames and professionally stored in plan

drawers. A restoration studio undertook the professional removal of several works that had been mounted on cardboard or wood several decades ago according to best practice at the time, as well as other cleaning and repair work.

To ensure that GF colleagues did not have to forego the enjoyment of art during the renovation phase, the Corporate Archives curated an exhibition of contemporary works at GF's temporary headquarters. Part of this exhibition is a series of Japanese nature and landscape watercolors on loan from the artist Urs Werner, former GF Senior Manager in Asia and friend of the Iron Library.

In the year under review, the Corporate Archives also digitized the two collections of historical maps and prints. The around 400 images created in-house are now available for free viewing on the Corporate Archives website, both for scientific research and interested art lovers.

Well cared for and looked after: the art depot in the archive magazine at GF headquarters.



The Iron Library and Corporate Archives
Team (left to right): Nicolau Lutz,
Christopher Zoller-Blundell, Pauline Zade,
Franziska Eggimann, Valerija Rukavina,
Flavia Spescha, Helena Barteld.

Personnel

The core team of the library and archive comprises three employees who share 2.4 FTEs: Franziska Eggimann, Managing Director of the Iron Library Foundation, is also responsible for the GF Corporate Archives. The academic librarian Christopher Zoller-Blundell and Pauline Zade, administration, complete the team. They are supported by research assistants Nicolau Lutz and Valerija Rukavina and interns Helena Barteld and Flavia Spescha. For several years, the Iron Library has offered the opportunity for civilian service assignments. In the year under review, Raphael Krieger, Lukas Egli, Nico Bollinger and Benny Waldvogel provided valuable assistance to the Iron Library as "Zivis".

Involvement in committees/working groups

- Curatorium of the Deutsches Museum Munich (FE)
- Education Committee of the Association of Swiss Archivists VSA (FE)
- Board member Schaffhausen Museum Association (FE)
- GLAM Wiki Switzerland (FE)
- OPL-Kreis (One Person Libraries) Bodensee (CZB)
- Bibliosuisse Rare Books Working Group (CZB)

Involvement in events

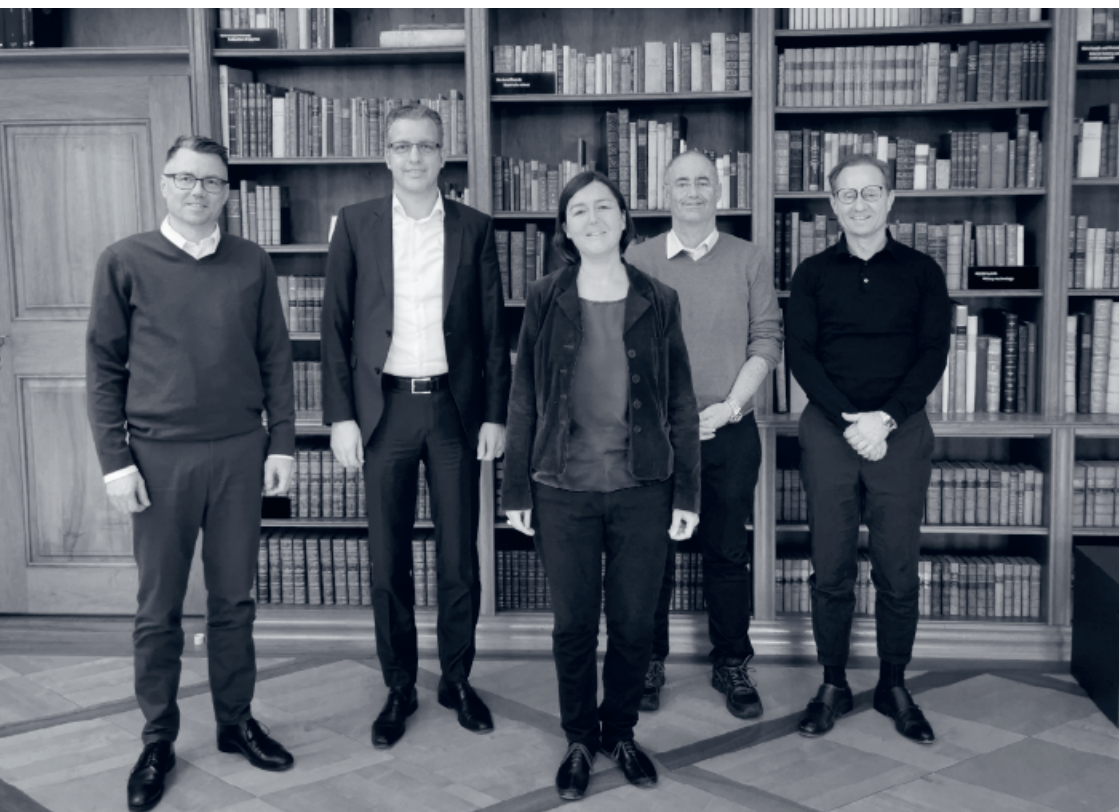
- April, July, September, November 2022: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE/CZB)
- July 2022: History of GF Machining Solutions, Biel (FE/CZB)
- September 2022: Swiss Digital Days, Wikipedia ateliers in cooperation with Schaffhausen City Library (FE/CZB)
- November 2022: Corporate Management Training CMT, "GF History & Innovation", Klostergut Paradies (presentation FE)

Participation in events

- May 2022: Verein deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare, annual conference, Basel (FE)
- May 2022: Muse.TG annual meeting, Agrotechnorama Ettenhausen (FE)
- September 2022: VSA annual meeting, Bern (FE)
- September 2022: Georg Agricola Gesellschaft, annual conference, Augsburg (CZB)
- October 2022: Lake Constance Libraries, autumn meeting (FE/CZB)

Ongoing training

- April 2022: 4 Disciplines of Execution Training, Klostergut Paradies (CZB)
- May 2022: VSA-Cycle Archive practice: Film indexing module by Memoriav and Lichtspiel, Bern (FE)
- June 2022: Bibliosuisse: Copyright in library work today, Aarau (CZB)
- June 2022: First aid course, Schaffhausen (PZ)
- June/November 2022: Women in Leadership Training, Klostergut Paradies (FE)
- July 2022: Excursion to SBB Historic, Windisch, and GF Machining Solutions, Biel (Team)
- September 2022: VSA-Cycle Archive practice: Restoration module by Fotoatelier Reding, Bern (FE)
- September 2022: Bibliosuisse Rare Books Working Group provenance study day, Solothurn (CZB)
- September 2022: BSZ: E-Book catalog training, Online (CZB)
- December 2022: 7 Habits Training, Klostergut Paradies (CZB)



The Foundation Governing Board at the Kloster-
gut Paradies (left to right): Georg Neuschütz,
Stefan Dahl, Franziska Eggimann (Managing
Director), Roland Gröbli, Noel Schreiber.

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-member Governing Board made up of representatives of the Corporation and the three GF divisions.

Finances

The operating expenses of the Iron Library, which come to about CHF 600 000 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.

Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees

Members as per 1.1.2023

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Governing Board

Members as per 1.1.2023

- Dr. Roland Gröbli, Chairman
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- Stefan Dahl
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Solutions, Biel
- Georg Neuschütz
Vice President Business Development,
GF Casting Solutions, Schaffhausen
- Noel Schreiber
Head Human Resources, GF Piping
Systems, Schaffhausen

Overview and statistics

Library

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
Literature on the history of iron, steel and plastics as well as 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 – Special collections and bequests, separately listed – Digital resources 	Around 48 000 records	13 th century to the present

Archives

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 archives – 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 120 000 records – Approx. 1 800 linear meters – Approx. 2 900 objects in the archive holdings – Approx. 1 000 objects in the art collection 	Starting in 1693

Use of Library/Archives	2022	2021	2020	2019
Library users – persons (days)	19 (55)	14 (42)	18 (30)	36 (79)
Archive users – persons (days)	24 (41)	20 (28)	19 (27)	34 (70)
Library inquiries	145	113	63	61
Archive inquiries	125	154	155	145
Library items lent	341	275	253	141
Archive holdings	2021	2020	2019	2018
Accessions	112 Lin. m	287 Lin. m	31 Lin. m	93 Lin. m
Holdings indexed	1 147 Lin. m	1 094 Lin. m	1 013 Lin. m	964 Lin. m
Holdings not indexed	619 Lin. m	597 Lin. m	408 Lin. m	482 Lin. m
Indexing	53 Lin. m	81 Lin. m	101 Lin. m	112 Lin. m
Records in the catalog	128 991	121 570	114 144	102 431
Media in the catalog	83 350	82 635	78 080	75 717
Library holdings	2022	2021	2020	2019
New acquisitions – purchases	186	223	321	310
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	772	542	683	135
Catalog entries books – titles	36 866	36 688	36 321	36 004
Catalog entries books – copies	37 534	37 356	37 025	36 706
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 885	9 885	9 884	9 884
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 178	1 173	1 166	1 164
Current periodicals and series	64	64	64	70
Catalog entries online resources	134	134	134	134
Digital offerings	2022	2021	2020	2019
E-books	167	154	125	84
Digitized books	1 392	1 309	1 239	1 040
Digitized pages	131 608	117 333	104 056	55 520
Digitized photographs	9 725	9 725	8 250	8 246
Guided tours	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total no. of visitors	646	464	323	1 280
Total no. of tours	84	69	44	114
Tours for GF guests	41	40	23	51
Tours for external guests	43	29	21	63
Ø no. persons per tour	8	7	7	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, Wi-Fi internet access
- Lending of library holdings for GF employees at the Schaffhausen site
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and SLSP
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings
- Subscription to FERRUM free of charge

Digital services

- IRONCAT: library catalogue (<http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/>)
- ANTON: archive catalogue (www.archives.georgfischer.com)
- IRONBOOK: e-book portal (requires login)
- FERRUM available digitally on e-periodica (www.e-periodica.ch)
- Selected manuscripts available digitally on e-codices (www.e-codices.unifr.ch)
- Selected old printed matter available digitally on e-rara (www.e-rara.ch)
- Photo gallery with photographs from the Corporate Archives (www.archives.georgfischer.com/gallery)
- Digitized GF annual reports since 1896 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)
- Digitized GF sustainability reports since 2002 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)

- Digitized employee newspapers since 1944 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)
- YouTube channel “Eisenbibliothek/Iron Library” (www.youtube.com/@ironlibrary)

Events in 2023

29 March 2023

Literature Festival “Erzählzeit”: Reading by Jan Faktor from his novel “Trottel”

11 June 2023

Open day at the Klostersgut Paradies and the Iron Library

June–November 2023

Exhibition on the occasion of the anniversary “250 years Johann Conrad Fischer” with supporting program

July 2023

Book Table in Schaffhausen

17 – 18 November 2023

43rd History of Technology Conference
“Good, Durable, Safe. Quality and Safety Requirements of Technology in History”

December 2023

Book Table in Schaffhausen

Contact

Employees as of 1.3.2023

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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



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Switzerland
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+GF+

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