

EISENBIBLIOTHEK



# Annual Report 2025

Iron Library Foundation and  
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

# Imprint

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Cover image: Now hanging at GF's Seewis location: "April", a 2020 oil painting by Prättigau artist Kathi Valär.

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# AGUA



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**Tubos y Hierros Industriales, S. A.**  
Madrid   Barcelona   Bilbao   Valencia

# Preface

Dear ladies and gentlemen  
Dear readers

Since last year, "Excellence in Flow" has been the promise of the GF Corporation in its strategic transformation. The focus and realignment in the area of Flow Solutions is the continuation of an industrial tradition spanning more than two hundred years. The Iron Library accompanies its founder on this journey and can draw on the rich resources of the GF Corporate Archives.

We are pleased to introduce the report on the preservation of GF's historical and cultural heritage with the accompanying example of the tradition of "Excellence in Flow". Founded in 1802, GF has repeatedly developed and proven itself as an agile and resilient company thanks to its capable and committed employees.

The Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd are dedicated to actively preserving and communicating these impressive achievements and history. Both are based at the Paradies monastery estate, report to the General Secretariat and are managed by Franziska Eggmann. We would like to express our special thanks to the motivated, even enthusiastic team, without whom these many tasks and projects could not have been realized to such a high standard.

## **Handover of the presidency of the foundation**

After 12 Years of strategic leadership, Roland Gröbli handed over the presidency of the foundation to Matthias Blumentrath at the end of

"Excellence in Flow": Fitting advertising leaflet for the Spanish market from 1935.

April 2025. Thanks to Roland Gröbli's support, the Iron Library was able to further consolidate its position as an outstanding specialized library for the history of technology and science. Important milestones during his tenure included the establishment of a collection focus on the history of plastics and the reorientation of the traditional History of Technology Conference in an international context. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Roland for his great commitment and his prudent and forward-looking leadership of the Foundation. His era will have a lasting impact.

As part of the 2024 amendment to the statutes, the possibility of an advisory board was enshrined in the statutes. In the reporting year, three figures from the world of archives, libraries and museums – Irene Amstutz, Helmut Hilz and Oliver Thiele – were recruited to sit on this new body.

## **Oral history opens up new perspectives on our own history**

With the launch of the Oral History Project in 2025, we have taken an important step towards systematically preserving our company history. The method has long been established in historical research. It supplements written sources with subjective perspectives and makes it possible to reveal experiences, interpretations and informal knowledge that are often missing from official documents. In the pilot year, we conducted 22 interviews in Asia and Schaffhausen. The project will continue over the coming years.

## **International focus of our conference**

In the reporting year, around 50 guests attended the 44th History of Technology Conference at the Iron Library. With "Low Tech",

the event focused on a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant in light of global technological dynamics. For the first time, English was the sole conference language. This reflects the increasingly international orientation of the format. Readers of the journal *Ferum* can look forward to a rich edition this year with 15 conference contributions.

### **Growing digital offerings**

We are increasingly making not only the catalogues but also the sources themselves available online. This is entirely in line with the spirit of "Open GLAM" (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). In the reporting year, our online presence grew by more than 60 000 digitized book pages. As of 31 December 2025, the offering comprised 8 305 digital volumes and files with 232 965 pages, as well as 72 079 digitized and born-digital photographs.

### **Close cooperation with GF divisions**

The Corporate Archives and Iron Library work closely with the GF Corporation and its divisions in various areas. The library is a valued partner for R&D departments in the areas of literature research, consulting and procurement. Demand continued to grow in the reporting year, driven by and parallel to the company-wide access to an external platform with 165 000 e-books and 500 current journals of renowned specialist literature, which is managed by the library.

### **Two large donations enrich the library**

In the reporting year, the library recorded one of the largest expansions of its holdings since its foundation. The donations included two large research libraries from Huntsman Advanced Materials in Basel and the Technorama in Winterthur. We will continue to process

these donations this year. In the course of 2025, the library has grown by 5015 titles through purchases, donations and exchanges. The library received 100 enquiries (38 internal, 62 external) and 10 users (2 internal, 8 external) worked in the reading room on 13 days. On 31 December 2025, the Iron Library catalogue comprised 39 211 books, 1278 journals and 9885 articles.

### **Corporate Archives celebrates 10 years of the Anton archive database**

In the reporting year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Anton archive database. It is now established as a research platform. Around 90 000 digitized photos, films and documents can be viewed and searched online in the new media gallery. In the reporting year, we processed 160 archive requests (69 internal, 91 external). 16 users (4 internal, 12 external) also viewed the archive material on site. On 31 December 2025, the archive database contained 137 738 catalogue entries. In the reporting year, the catalogued inventory thus grew by 13 linear meters of files or around 2100 catalogue entries.

### **Close-knit network for research and communication**

GF has always cultivated its cultural heritage with remarkable openness. We consider it a matter of course to provide the lowest possible barrier to accessing sources for research into technological and economic history. In this spirit, we have been offering the Scholar in Residence program for over ten years. In the reporting year, a researcher from Germany took advantage of the opportunity to spend an extended research stay at the Paradies monastery estate. As part of her publication project "The Market Entry of Global Corporations in Russia," she examined GF's connections to the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

## Golden GF anniversary

In March 2025, we celebrated a "golden anniversary" at the Iron Library: 50 years of Hugo Rechsteiner at Georg Fischer. Hugo started as an apprentice and draughtsman in 1962, later designing ski lifts in the Alps. Back at GF, he contributed to revolutionizing gas distribution with polyethylene, pioneered double pipe systems and headed Global Sales Support before retiring in 2011. Since 2014, Hugo has been guiding visitors through the Iron Library and the Paradies monastery estate. Hugo is full of stories and an example of what you can make of your (working) life. We are very grateful to him.

## Outlook for 2026

The Paradies monastery estate is growing: in March 2026, the new hotel and the carefully renovated Restaurant 1802 on the banks of the Rhine will open their doors. Various public activities will take place over the summer, including an open day on 5 July 2026.

A new highlight is also the arboretum in the monastery park, with its 60 or so tree species which largely dates back to the upgrading of the grounds in the 1950s. In the summer, experts will offer insights into this unique tree collection on several guided tours.



Matthias Blumentrath  
President of the Board of Trustees  
of the Iron Library Foundation and  
Corporate Secretary of Georg Fischer Ltd

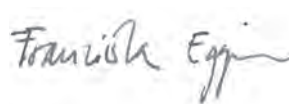
The Iron Library now offers a free public tour every Thursday at 2 p.m. The offer is aimed at individuals and spontaneous visitors.

The team at the Iron Library will also continue to work on the ongoing processing, expansion and maintenance of the collections. One focus this year will be the integration of the donated research libraries into our collections. The digital offerings are also being continuously expanded. The archives will be completing several years of digitization projects involving various source collections.

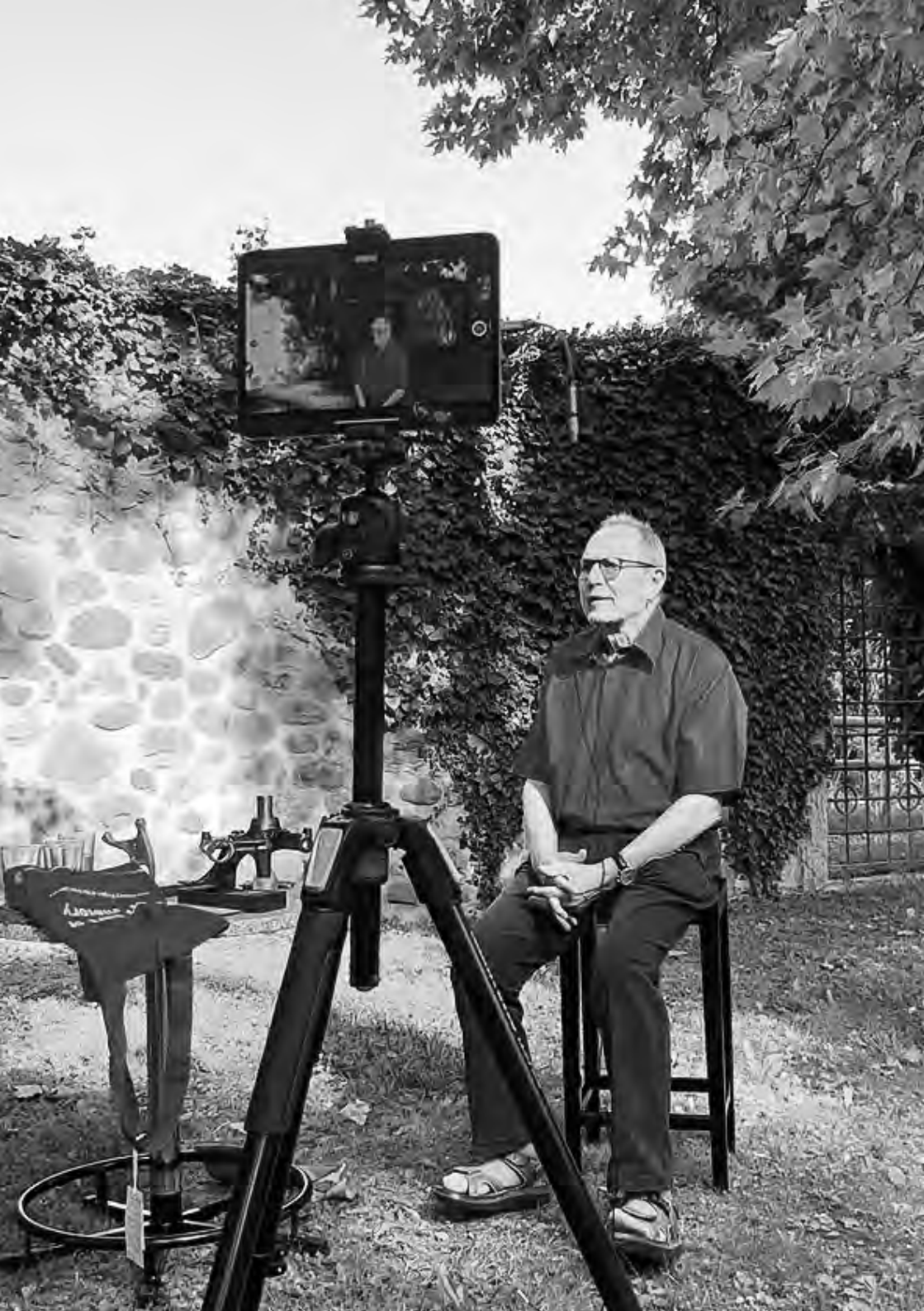
We will be happy to keep you informed about all these initiatives and activities in due course on our website [www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch) or in the next annual report at the latest.

We would like to thank you all for your interest in the Iron Library and the historical and cultural heritage of the GF Corporation, and we look forward to being in touch with you over the course of the year. A big thank you goes to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personnel and conceptual support the implementation of all these activities would not be possible.

Schaffhausen/Schlatt      February 17, 2026



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



# Oral history

## Employees and retirees tell their stories

With the launch of the Oral History Project in 2025, the Iron Library took a significant step towards systematically preserving our company history. In film interviews, long-standing employees, most of whom are now retired, talk about their experiences, perceptions and personal contributions to the development of GF. In 2025, the project focused on internationalization, which has had a lasting impact on the company since the 1970s.

The oral history method has been established in historical research for decades. It supplements written sources with subjective perspectives and makes it possible to reveal experiences, interpretations and informal knowledge that are often missing from official documents. Transformation processes such as internationalization can be captured in a particularly nuanced way: in addition to strategic decisions, cultural challenges, personal learning processes and emotional dimensions become tangible.

The current project builds on earlier initiatives by GF. The importance of personal memories has already been recognized in the past and documented in various ways. These include a large number of memoirs written by former employees, audio recordings with personal reflections on the occasion of the company's 150th anniversary in 1952, and audio interviews conducted in 2008 as part of the 90th and 60th anniversaries of the Paradies monastery estate and the Iron Library Foundation. Although these formats pursued dif-

ferent goals and methodological approaches, they are united by the desire to preserve individual experiences and expert knowledge as part of the company's history.

The current oral history project continues this tradition and develops it further. The medium of film conveys not only content, but also gestures, facial expressions and manner of speaking, which makes the interviews particularly rich historical sources. At the same time, the project follows clear methodological standards. The selection of interviewees, the thematic structure and the long-term archiving are based on best practices in historical and archival science.

In 2025, the Iron Library team conducted 22 interviews. Nine interviews took place in Japan and China, 13 in Schaffhausen. Editing and transcription work has begun and will continue in 2026. Also in 2026, we will begin transferring the films and transcribed texts to a long-term digital archive. After an intensive start-up phase in 2025, ten interviews per year are planned for the future.

This will create a growing audiovisual archive that documents the internationalization and further developments of GF from various perspectives and makes it accessible to future generations.

Werner Menk, former GF executive and expert in the field of metallurgy, tells us his story at GF in the monastery park.

# Pumping system



# Mediation/Events

## History of Technology Conference "Low Tech"

On 14 and 15 November 2025, the Iron Library held its 44th History of Technology Conference at the Paradies monastery estate in Schlatt. The conference, which has been established for many years, once again brought together experts in the history of technology and representatives from related disciplines. Under the title "Low Tech: Procedures, Actors, Concepts," the event focused on a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant in light of global technological dynamics.

Around 50 researchers, practitioners and other interested parties took part in the two-day conference. The focus was on the historical, social and ideological dimensions of "low tech". The aim was to approach the term analytically rather than normatively and to explore its different meanings in various cultural, political and temporal contexts.

The content of the conference was organized by the scientific advisory board, which includes lecturers from universities in Dresden, Karlsruhe and Aarhus. The program covered a wide range of topics. The presentations ranged from the analysis of historical technologies to energy and environmental issues to political and cultural interpretations. Topics covered included bridge building in Japan, textile craft practices in northern India, ideologies in the IT industry, and the significance of everyday objects in the context of historical research into technology.

A special feature of this year's edition was that the conference was held entirely in Eng-

lish for the first time. This reflected the increasingly international orientation of the format. The speakers travelled from Singapore, India, the USA and several European countries, including Poland, Germany and England. The audience was also international; in addition to guests from Switzerland and Germany, participants came from Belgium and Ukraine, among other countries.

The scientific program was complemented by a carefully curated supporting program. It kicked off with a pre-conference event featuring architect and artist Thomas Horvath, who provided a vivid introduction to low tech innovations with his contribution on the zero-wind kites he developed. During the conference, participants also gained insights into the Moser watch factory in Neuhausen and the Iron Library. Guided tours, evening events and coffee and lunch breaks at the Paradies monastery provided opportunities for exchange and in-depth discussion.

With the 44th Conference on the History of Technology, the Iron Library Foundation once again succeeded in creating an internationally oriented forum that combines scientific quality, thematic diversity and personal exchange, underscoring the importance of reflection on the history of technology.

Fascinating exchanges on the topic of "low-tech" at the 44th History of Technology Conference.



# Mediation/Events

## Erzählzeit and customized tours

The Iron Library and Corporate Archives are not only committed to making digital access to their holdings as broad as possible but also cultivate a culture of easy accessibility as physical places. They are open to both GF employees and external visitors. In addition to the biennial History of Technology Conference, each year the Iron Library hosts a reading as part of the Erzählzeit literature festival. In spring 2025, the library welcomed Anna Katharina Hahn as the eighth guest author. To one of the largest audiences in several years, she read from her novel "Der Chor".

Our wide selection of customized tours met with great interest again in 2025. Our visitor's geographic and linguistic backgrounds play just as important a role as their profession and personal interests. On this basis, we lay out specially selected books from the library, or a small exhibition with documents, objects and other finds from the archives that complement the classic features of the tours.

An increasingly popular format are the half-day tours, where a larger party splits into smaller groups and experience a series of separate visits to the Iron Library and Klostergut exhibitions, as well as to our neighbors either at the monastery church or for a crash course at the Eligius Black-

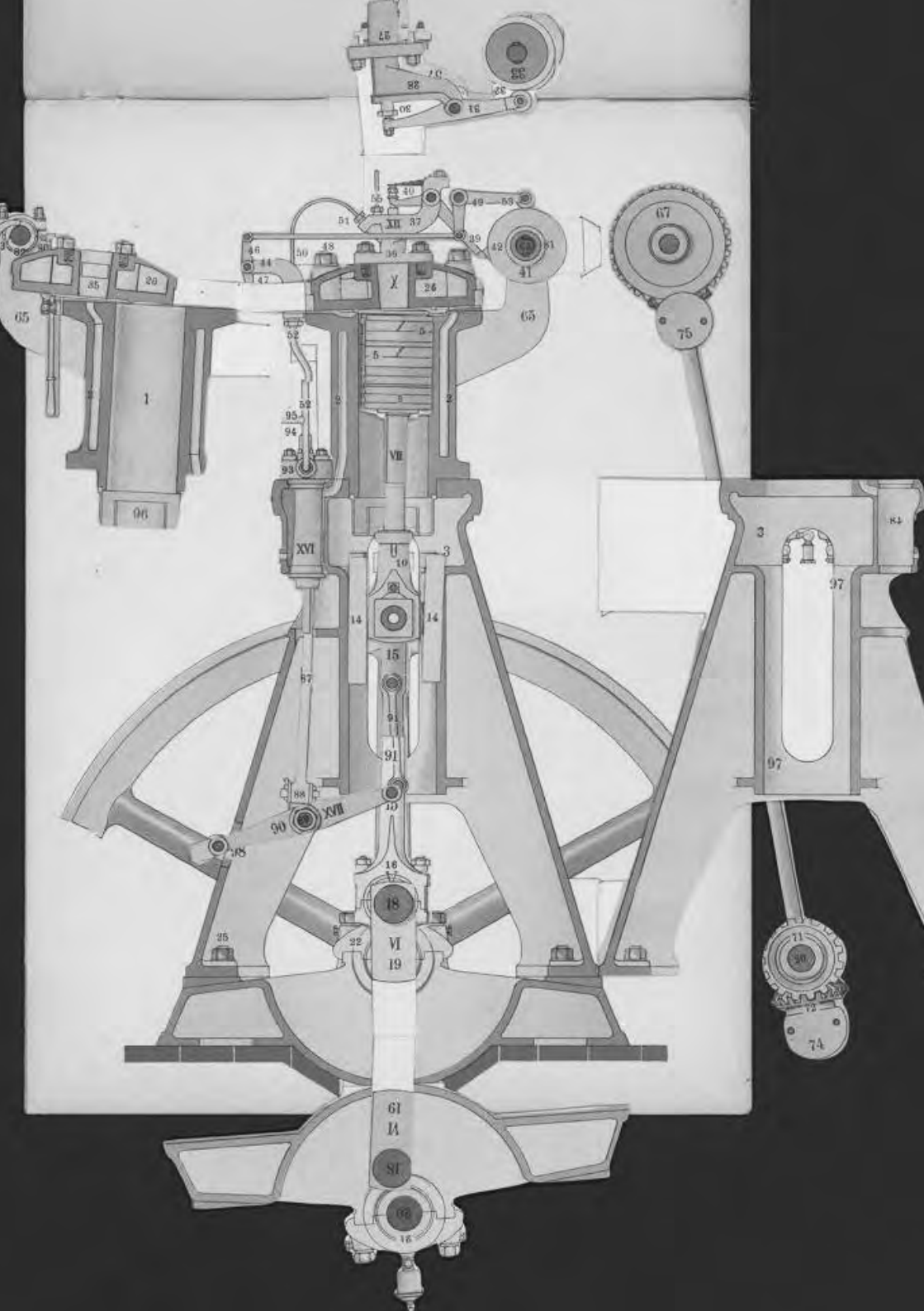
smiths' Guild. In this way we welcomed the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Materialkunde (German Society for Materials Science) in March and the members of the Schaffhausen Oratorio Choir in September. Our long-term collaboration with the Eligius Blacksmith's Guild was also commemorated in 2025 by a series of special tours to accompany the guild's open days and other festivities that were held to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary.

A total of 84 tours were held with 818 guests. The guests came from all over the world, among them groups from Colombia, Dubai and the United States. In addition to visits to the Iron Library, tours of the two exhibitions at the Klostergut Paradies were also very popular, as well the archives at GF's headquarters, which in 2025 were visited among others by a large group from Schaffhausen's Niklausen neighborhood association and museum association.

Tours are often held for colleagues at Georg Fischer as a part of their welcome to the company, or as a part of training courses, such as the Women in Leadership group. As a part of the process of the company's recent changes we welcomed new colleagues from VAG. It was also a time of departures and in a poignant tour in October we said a fond farewell to colleagues from GF Casting Solutions who are to join Nematik.

Top: The audience enjoys the reading and the conversation between author Anna Katharina Hahn and presenter Roland Gröbli.

Bottom: Werner Menk guides visitors to the Eligius jubilee through the Iron Library.



# Research

## Digital services, Scholar in Residence program, publications

Whether in the reading room or far away, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives provide support for researchers from many different fields, from academia to industry. Digital services have been part of the portfolio of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives for many years. In the spirit of "Open GLAM" (GLAM = galleries, libraries, archives, museums), we are committed to free digital access to cultural heritage and make numerous resources available online ourselves.

As of December 31, 2025, the digital collection of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives comprised a total of 8305 digital volumes and files with 232 965 pages and 72 079 digitized and born-digital photos. Films and audio tracks complete the digital offering of the archives.

Continued participation in the e-rara project saw a further 27 volumes digitized, including Jacques-Eugène Armengaud's authoritative and influential 1845 review of the state of the art of industrial machinery, as well as a series of collapsible models of engines from the early 1900s, which are currently the oldest pop-up works on the platform.

### Scholar in Residence

Meanwhile the Scholar in Residence program is designed as an invitation to researchers to engage in-depth in person with the rich holdings at the Klostergut Paradies and the archives in Schaffhausen. In the year under review, we welcomed Ljuba Günther. Using case studies of different corporations, Ljuba's research focus-

es on how international enterprises engaged with the market conditions of the Soviet and post-Soviet eras.

### Publications

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

- Franziska Eggimann: Johann Conrad Fischer unterwegs – und online: Eine digitale Edition zwischen Wissenschaft, Vermittlung und Open Access. In: Archiv und Wirtschaft 3 (2025), p. 120-127.
- GF Health: 100 Jahre GF Health (2025).
- René Hostenstein: Sonderfall Vielvölkerstaat. Gastarbeiter und Flüchtlinge aus dem ehemaligen Jugoslawien. In: Schaffhauser Beiträge zur Geschichte, Volume 97 (2025), p. 439-464.
- Adrian Knoepfli: Darf das Hausmädchen auch servieren? Die ausländischen Arbeitskräfte – unentbehrliche Stütze der Schaffhauser Wirtschaft. In: Schaffhauser Beiträge zur Geschichte, Volume 97 (2025), p. 275-312.
- Gregor Szyndler & Zeno Casella: Was, wenn es 40 Prozent weniger Zivis gäbe? In: Le Monde Civil 3 (2025), p. 4-5.
- Matthias Wipf and Alex Blunski: Pioniercast. Bedeutende Wirtschaftspioniere aus Schaffhausen. 2<sup>nd</sup> expanded edition, 2025.

A pop-up diagram of a steam brake from the early 20th century, now available on e-rara.



# 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 in Switzerland and interlibrary loan requests from other libraries around the world. Altogether 450 media were lent in 2025. In addition to the popular Iron Library Book Table that visited colleagues in Schaffhausen before the summer and Christmas holidays, a new and well-received "Mystery Book" format launched in time for World Book Day, where colleagues could pick a category and be sent a surprise title to read. Usage of the Springer Professional digital library of over 165 000 ebooks and 540 current journals, organized by the Iron Library and colleagues from GF's research teams, has hit over 1155 visits and 6581 downloads.

The library received 100 inquiries in the past year. Enquiries covered diverse topics, from the designs of the ex libri in the collection of rare books, to details about artillery manuscripts, the history of plastics and the clothing of miners in the 16th century. In particular focus for one visitor was the history of Amsler testing machines and industry in Japan, which became the basis for a presentation given in Sapporo in September 2025. These requests about literature that is available only in the Iron Library came from all over the world and as far away as China and the US. In 2025, 10 users worked in the reading room on 13 days.

Over the course of 2025, 174 items (books and periodicals) were purchased while 4841 items

were received through bequests or exchanges. This is one of the largest periods of growth in the collection since the library's founding. Among these donations were two research libraries: the greater part of the former research library of Huntsman Advanced Materials in Basel, and a substantial number of works from the library of Technorama in Winterthur. The Huntsman books cover diverse and specialist topics in the field of advanced polymer sciences, and the donation makes the Iron Library one of the world's largest private collections in this field. The books from Technorama reflect the history of the sciences and technology in Switzerland, from electronics to rail transport.

The Iron Library lists its holdings as part of the catalog of the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund (SWB) and participates in cooperative formal cataloging and indexing. Since 2021, the holdings of the library have been available on WorldCat, the world's largest library catalogue. Resource Description & Access (RDA) is the binding standard for formal cataloging, 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 to these standards. As of 31 December 2025, the catalog of the Iron Library contained 39 211 books, 1278 periodicals, and 9885 articles.

All 82 journals from the Huntsman Advanced Materials research library are now searchable in the catalogue and available for research.



ISAACUS NEVVTON

*EQUES Anno. Aetat. 84. An. Chr. 1726.*

APUD

MARCUM-MICHAELEM BOUSQUET

*ET SOCIOS MDCCXI.*

# Library

## A showpiece from the new acquisitions

**Isaac Newton "Optice: sive de reflexionibus, refractionibus, inflexionibus et coloribus lucis, libri tres ... Latine reddidit Samuel Clarke. Editio novissima." (Lausanne, Bousquet & Cie, 1740)**

In 2025 a remarkable scientific treasure was added to the collection: the 1740 Latin edition of "Optice" by Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1726). It is one of the great works of the Scientific Revolution and the library's second title by Newton. Published in Lausanne by Bousquet & Cie, this edition is a landmark work that helped shape the spread of Enlightenment science across Europe.

In magnitude, the book in many ways rivalled the contribution made by Newton in "Principia" as it did nothing less than provide a new understanding of light. "Optice" explores phenomena such as the behavior of light through prisms, provides an explanation of the rainbow, and also the strikingly beautiful patterns known, because of the author, as "Newton's Rings."

This 1740 edition (the second Latin and third overall), lavishly printed with an engraved frontispiece portrait of the author, has twelve folding copperplates that were not found in earlier editions, while significantly also containing mathematical treatises omitted from later printings—texts that reflect Newton's desire to assert priority in the development of calculus amidst his dispute with Leibniz. The book also includes a printed dedication to the Swiss mathematician Johann Bernoulli

(father of Daniel), underscoring its importance to the growing Continental scientific community.

Its engravings, together with the Latin text, increased the accessibility of Newton's thoughts and allowed readers with the means to set up and repeat his experiments for themselves. This was often in the context of salons where likeminded polymaths would meet to mutually observe and discuss their insights. Through its pedagogical clarity and elegant synthesis of experimental observation and mathematical reasoning it became a standard for future scientific publishing and therefore a touchstone for scientific education well into the late 18th century.

Today, the legacy of Newton's writings lives on not only in theoretical physics but also in advanced day-to-day technologies. His fundamental insights into the nature of light underpin, for instance, the function of the optical sensor systems that are critical components in the control and maintenance of special flow systems developed by Georg Fischer for use in home, industrial and environmental settings. This book connects the legacy of Enlightenment science with the cutting-edge technologies of today, embodying the enduring relevance of Newton's vision.

A late portrait of Newton embellishes the frontispiece of "Optice".



# Corporate Archives

## 10 years of Anton archive database and fundamental work

The GF Corporate Archives preserves, catalogues and communicates the company's history spanning more than 220 years. Its diverse holdings of written documents, printed materials, photographs, films, plans and objects offer valuable insights into the company's development and at the same time provide important references to current issues. The archive is open to GF employees as well as external visitors and researchers. In addition, the web-based archive database Anton offers location-independent access to extensive digital holdings.

In the reporting year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Anton archive database. What began as a pure archive offering has now established itself as a research platform. Around 90 000 digitized photos, films and written documents can be viewed and searched online in the media gallery, which was newly set up in 2025. Anton also enables structured research into all aspects of the company's history. Online usage continued its positive trend, reaching a new high of 24 803 visits. This figure is an estimate, as AI visits are not counted.

The use of physical holdings continued to rise slightly. In 2025, 16 people visited the archives on 35 days to view the holdings. In addition, the archive team processed a total of 160 internal and external enquiries. Many of the internal enquiries came from Schaffhausen, but also from other Swiss locations

as well as from France, Japan, China and the USA. The external enquiries came from former employees and their relatives, historians and engineers, among others. In addition, universities and institutions from the GLAM sector contacted the Corporate Archives, including the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), the IWC Museum, the Deutsches Museum and the Swiss Economic Archive. Regional media such as the Schaffhauser Nachrichten, the Schaffhauser AZ and the Andelfinger Zeitung also showed interest in our holdings.

The basic archival tasks of collection development and cataloguing remained a focus of the archive's work in 2025. In the area of collection development, the Corporate Archives took on nine analogue acquisitions with a total volume of 85 linear meters in 2025. A large part of this came from the GF Industry and Infrastructure Flow Solutions division (formerly GF Piping Systems). At the same time, the proportion of digital acquisitions continued to increase. In the area of cataloguing, the focus was on the processing of digital and digitized media. At the end of the year, the archive database contained 137 738 catalogue entries and 91 010 digital media. The total volume of catalogued holdings was 1209 linear meters.

Through digitization, the Corporate Archives protects historical photos and makes them accessible online, such as this view of the Betatron room from 1958.



de

Linda

# Art collection

## Promotion of Swiss artists

GF preserves the historical and cultural heritage of the region not only in its Corporate Archives and Iron Library, but also in its art collections with an emphasis on regional art. The largest of the three collections has grown organically over the course of the last century. Through annual commissions and acquisitions, GF has supported not only Schaffhausen-based artists, but also artists from other regions. The collection comprises 450 works of art from the 16th to the 21st century and includes paintings, watercolors, prints using a wide variety of techniques, and three-dimensional objects.

In addition, three decades ago GF acquired the collections of two private collectors from Schaffhausen in order to preserve them as integral units. One of these collections comprises 98 historical maps of the Canton of Schaffhausen, the other 366 prints (woodcuts, copperplate engravings, etchings, steel engravings, aquatints, lithographs, etc.) of the Schaffhausen region from the 16th to 19th centuries.

These three collections are supplemented by the Iron Library's graphic collection of around 170 works (prints, maps, sketches, photographs, drawings, documents) on the subjects of metallurgy and the history of technology.

The art collections are catalogued and described in detail in the Corporate Archives' database. Until now, inventory photos taken in-house have been used for identification

purposes. In a multi-year digitization project, all works are now being professionally photographed to make them accessible to the public online. In the reporting year, we digitized the approximately 100 sheets of the historical map collection "Rohr." The historical maps were unframed and partially restored in order to store them properly.

In addition to digitization, the focus in the reporting year was on two new art concepts, one for the recently renovated GF headquarters in Schaffhausen and the other for the expanded reception and office space at the production plant in Seewis in Prättigau (GR). All rooms at both locations were assessed for their "art suitability" and areas for permanent displays were defined. Based on these concepts, new permanent exhibitions featuring around 40 and 20 works of art respectively were curated and hung in the summer and autumn. In line with the previous sponsorship philosophy, various works by an artist from Schaffhausen and a female artist from Prättigau were purchased.

Interest in the art collections remains high both internally and externally. Since the end of 2024, visitors have been able to discover the approximately 100 works of art on display at the Paradies monastery estate and the Iron Library for themselves and access background information about them using Smartify, an art recognition app. The app is easy to use and works without registration. It also allows visitors to view and browse the art at Paradies remotely online.

"Seewis Produktion 1" from a watercolor series by artist Linda Grädel.



The team at the Iron Library and Corporate Archives (from left to right): Franziska Eggimann, Jörg Spinatsch, Andrina Ernst, Barbara Zanetti, Christopher Zoller-Blundell.

### Event participation

- September 2025: "Archive als Dritter Ort", VSA symposium, Muttenz (FE)
- October 2025: Austrian Archives Day, Vienna (FE)
- October 2025: Conference of the Honorable Society of Lake Constance Archivists, Constance (JS)
- November 2025: Swiss Cultural Heritage Forum, Winterthur (FE)

### Further training

- January 2025: Course on "Conservation and Identification of Photographs," Bern (JS)
- March 2025: Course on "Audiovisual Media," Basel (JS)
- April 2025: Workshop on "Narrative of GF History," Schaffhausen (team)
- May 2025: VSA Basic Course, Bern (JS)
- June 2025: Digitization training, Klosters Paradise (team)
- June 2025: Vocational trainer course, Schaffhausen (JS)
- September 2025: Workshop on "New Digitization Concepts," Olten (CZB/JS)
- September 2025: Workshop on "One Paradise," Klosters Paradise (team)

# Personnel

## Continuity in the team

The core team at the library and archives comprises 330 percent full-time equivalent positions. Franziska Eggimann, Managing Director of the Iron Library, is responsible for managing the entire “GF Heritage” department. Academic librarian Christopher Zoller-Blundell and scientific archivist Jörg Spinatsch are each responsible for their respective areas of expertise. Barbara Zanetti is responsible for organizing tours and events as well as for administration. The team is supported by intern Andrina Ernst, who replaced Maryam Joseph in this role. In the reporting year, media trainee Enya Conesa assisted for three months, while Cyril Zimmermann, Timon Moser, and Laurin Egger also provided valuable help as “Zivis” (civilian service volunteers). The latter will continue to work with us as a student assistant.

## Involvement in committees/working groups

- Board of Trustees of the Deutsches Museum Munich (FE)
- Steering Committee Section Business Archives SBA of the International Council on Archives ICA (FE)
- Co-President of the Association of Swiss Archivists VSA (FE)
- Board of the Schaffhausen Museum Association (FE)
- GLAM Wiki Switzerland (FE)
- Lake Constance One Person Libraries Association (CZB)
- Bibliosuisse Old Prints working group (CZB)
- Bibliosuisse commission on “AI in libraries” (CZB)

## Event engagement

- March 2025: “750 Jahre Literatur aus Technik und Wissenschaft in der Eisenbibliothek”, Odd Fellows, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- March 2025: “Johann Conrad Fischer: Der erste Pionier von GF”, Lions Club Werd (presentation FE)
- April, August 2025: Introduction for new employees, history of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- May 2025: “GF – a history of innovation since 1802”, UAA Symposium, Schaffhausen (presentation FE/JS)
- June 2025: “KI: Einsatz und aktuellen Möglichkeiten im Geschichts- und Politikunterricht”, Bildungszentrum für Wirtschaft Weinfelden (workshop CZB)
- June, August, September 2025: “50 Jahre Schmiedezunft Eligius”, open days, Klostersgut Paradies (tours Team)
- August 2025: Jubiläum “100 Jahre GF Health”, Klostersgut Paradies (intervention FE)
- September 2025: GF auf dem Ebnat, Besuch Quartierverein Niklausen und Museumsverein SH (tours FE/JS)
- October 2025: “AI and libraries: Practical implications and potential”, Swiss Library Congress, Bern (workshop CZB)
- December 2025: “Von Schaffhausen in die Welt. Die Internationalisierung von GF seit den 1970er-Jahren – und schon früher”, Historischer Verein, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)



Handover at the foundation's board at the Iron Library (from left to right): Thomas Fuhr, Roland Gröbli (resigning president), Franziska Eggimann (managing director), Matthias Blumentrath (new president), Noel Schreiber.

# Iron Library Foundation

## Handover at the Foundation Board of Trustees

After 12 years of strategic leadership, Roland Gröbli handed over the presidency of the foundation to his successor Matthias Blumentrath at the end of April. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Roland Gröbli for his tremendous commitment and his prudent and forward-looking leadership of the foundation.

Matthias Blumentrath, Corporate Secretary of Georg Fischer Ltd, can count on the support of the current Foundation board members Thomas Fuhr, Chief Technology Officer of GF Building Flow Solutions, and Noel Schreiber, Head of Human Resources at GF Industry and Infrastructure Flow Solutions, in his new role as President of the Foundation.

As part of the 2024 amendment to the statutes, the possibility of creating an advisory board was enshrined in the statutes. In the reporting year, three figures from the world of archives, libraries, and museums – Irene Amstutz, Helmut Hiltz, and Oliver Thiele – were recruited to sit on this new body. Two of them are former members of the Iron Library Foundation Board, thus ensuring welcome continuity.

## Finances

The Iron Library's operating expenses of around CHF 600 000 are covered by an annual contribution from Georg Fischer Ltd to the Iron Library Foundation and by compensation for services rendered to the company. The Corporate Archives keeps separate accounts within GF.

## Foundation Board of Trustees: Members as of 1.1.2026

- Matthias Blumentrath, President  
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd,  
Schaffhouse
- Thomas Fuhr  
Chief Technology Officer, GF Building Flow  
Solutions, Frankfurt am Main
- Noel Schreiber  
Head of Human Resources, GF Industry and  
Infrastructure Flow Solutions, Schaffhouse

## Advisory Board: Members as of 1.1.2026

- Irene Amstutz  
Director of the Swiss Business Archives and  
University Library for Economics, Basel
- Helmut Hiltz  
Director of the Library of the Deutsches  
Museum, Munich, Germany
- Oliver Thiele  
Director of Public Libraries, Schaffhouse

# Overview and statistics

## Library

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
Literature on the history of iron, steel and plastics as well as on the history of science and technology shelved according to a classification system developed by the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Books/monographs</li> <li>- Journals and periodicals</li> <li>- Company publications and product catalogs</li> <li>- Articles and offprints</li> <li>- Separately listed collections and bequests</li> <li>- Digital resources</li> </ul>	Around 50 000 items	13th century to the present

## Archive

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fischer family bequest</li> <li>- Management and administration files of Geo g Fischer Ltd and divisions</li> <li>- Files of corporate subsidiaries and holdings in Switzerland and elsewhere</li> <li>- Photographic and film archives</li> <li>- Collection of objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative documents</li> <li>- Project documentation</li> <li>- Correspondence</li> <li>- Promotional material</li> <li>- Minutes</li> <li>- Patents</li> <li>- Objects</li> <li>- Photographs</li> <li>- Films</li> <li>- Building plans etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than 135 000 records</li> <li>- More than 1800 linear meters</li> <li>- Approx. 3000 three dimensional objects</li> </ul>	16th century to the present

## Art collections

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection of historical and contemporary art from the Schaffhausen region</li> <li>- Historical maps of the Canton of Schaffhausen</li> <li>- Historical prints of the Schaffhausen region</li> <li>- Works on the topics of metallurgy, mining and smelting and metal processing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paintings</li> <li>- Watercolors</li> <li>- Prints</li> <li>- Cards</li> <li>- Sketches/drawings</li> <li>- Three-dimensional objects etc.</li> </ul>	- Approx. 1000 works	15th century to the present

<b>Use of Library/Archives</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Library users – persons (days)	10 (13)	15 (27)	16 (42)	19 (55)
Archive users – persons (days)	16 (35)	14 (15)	11 (22)	24 (41)
Library inquiries	100	105	119	145
Archive inquiries	160	144	148	125
Library items lent	450	342	397	341
Visits to digital offerings*	39 404	37 261	29 542	25 688
Springer Professional downloads	6 581	8 525	1 751	1 663
<b>Archive holdings</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Accessions	85 LM	23 LM	5 LM	112 LM
Holdings indexed	1 209 LM	1 196 LM	1 171 LM	1 147 LM
Holdings not indexed	655 LM	574 LM	583 LM	619 LM
Indexing	13 LM	25 LM	36 LM	53 LM
Records in the catalog	137 738	135 631	131 769	128 991
Media in the catalog	91 010	89 012	84 956	83 350
Data storage usage	1.7 TB	1.7 TB	1.6 TB	1.4 TB
<b>Library holdings</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
New acquisitions – purchases	174	243	214	186
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	4 841	178	436	772
Catalog entries books – titles	38 508	37 748	37 437	36 866
Catalog entries books – copies	39 211	38 438	38 114	37 534
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 885	9 885	9 885	9 885
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 278	1 206	1 181	1 178
Current periodicals and series	73	73	64	64
<b>Digital offerings</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Digital and digitized volumes/files	8 305	6 397	1 562	1 392
Digital and digitized pages	232 965	171 544	149 410	131 608
Digital and digitized photographs	72 079	38 236	9 725	9 725
Archive database actors	6 909	6 575	6 269	6 153
Archive database keywords	2 152	2 111	2 091	2 328
Archive database places	1 810	1 723	1 674	1 586
<b>Guided tours</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total no. of visitors	818	758	1 654	646
Total no. of tours	84	98	128	84
Tours for GF guests	33	64	63	41
Tours for external guests	51	34	65	43
Ø no. persons per tour	10	8	13	8

\* Visits in 2025 estimated for the second semester, as new AI accesses have influenced the statistics.

# 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 work-places, Wi-Fi internet access
- Lending of Library holdings for GF employees
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and SLSP
- Workshops for schools and universities
- Subscription to Ferrum journal free of charge

## Digital services

- IRONCAT: library catalogue (<http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/>)
- ANTON: archive catalogue ([www.archives.georgfische.com](http://www.archives.georgfische.com))
- FERRUM available digitally on e-periodica ([www.e-periodica.ch](http://www.e-periodica.ch))
- Selected manuscripts available digitally on e-codices ([www.e-codices.unifr.ch](http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch))
- Selected old print works available digitally on e-rara ([www.e-rara.ch](http://www.e-rara.ch))
- Corporate Archives Media Gallery ([www.archives.georgfische.com/gallery](http://www.archives.georgfische.com/gallery))
- Digital Edition "Travel Reports of a Pioneer" ([www.johannconradfische.com](http://www.johannconradfische.com))
- Smartify (<https://smartify.org>)
- YouTube channel "Eisenbibliothek / Iron Library" ([www.youtube.com/@ironlibrary](http://www.youtube.com/@ironlibrary))
- LinkedIn (<https://ch.linkedin.com/company/eisenbibliothek>)

## Events 2026

The Iron Library now offers a free public guided tour every Thursday at 2 p.m. No registration is required. First date: April 9, 2026.

- May 30, 2026: Guided tour of the arboretum in the monastery park
- June 12, 2026: Bookbinding with Sandra Merten, Course 1: Notebook based on historical design
- June 27, 2026: Guided tour of the arboretum in the monastery park
- July 5, 2026: Open day at Klostergut Paradies and the Iron Library
- July 9, 2026: Schaffhausen holiday pass: Cyanotype workshop
- July 2026: Book table in Schaffhouse
- July 25, 2026: Guided tour of the arboretum in the monastery park
- August 29, 2026: Guided tour of the arboretum in the monastery park
- September 7, 2026: Cinema in the park under the stars
- September 25, 2026: Bookbinding with Sandra Merten, Course 2: Artist's book "Arboretum"
- September 26, 2026: Guided tour of the arboretum in the monastery park
- December 2026: Book table in Schaffhouse

# Contact

## Employees as of 1.1.2026

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## Opening times and directions

Reading room and guided tours:  
Monday to Friday by appointment

Public guided tour:  
Every Thursday at 2 p.m. (from April 9, 2026)

Travel by train:  
S8 train from Schaffhausen, direction Stein am Rhein, to Langwiesen or Schlatt station, then 10 minutes' walk to Klostergut Paradies

Travel by car:  
Parking spaces are available on the banks of the Rhine opposite Restaurant 1802 and the landing stage.



Iron Library  
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[www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch)

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