

EISENBIBLIOTHEK



# Annual Report 2019

Iron Library Foundation and  
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

# Imprint

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# Foreword

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2019, 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 Klostersgut Paradies convent; they report to the Corporate Secretary and are both managed by Franziska Eggimann.

## **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iron Library Foundation**

Following the anniversary celebrations at Klostersgut Paradies the previous year, the Iron Library also had a reason to celebrate in 2019. To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iron Library Foundation, the exhibition “From Convent to Cloud: Two Libraries in Paradies Convent and their Books” was held on the Library’s premises. Visitors had the opportunity of admiring the splendid manuscripts from the former Paradies convent library, now kept in the Schaffhausen Municipal Library, as well as the Iron Library’s own treasures. A rich program of events and an Open House family day rounded off the show. The exhibition opened in May with a Sunday matinee accompanied by the launch of the new art guide on the Paradies convent, which GF has published in conjunction with the Society of Swiss Art History (GSK). The guide’s authors, Peter Niederhäuser and Walter

What would a library be without the invention of book printing? Johannes Gutenberg watches over his most important invention in the Iron Library exhibition: a hand-held casting tool for mass production of movable type.

Bersorger, are specialists in their field, and they knowledgeably throw light on a wealth of unfamiliar details on the convent’s history.

## **Activities and knowledge transfer**

In the year under review, the Iron Library welcomed some 1300 guests from around the world on a total of 114 tours through the Library and the anniversary exhibition. The tours, aimed at a broad public, imparted knowledge about technology and materials and related the history of GF. The Corporate Archives expanded its internal program of “talking about history”. Taking “GF History on Tour” as the motto, the Corporate Archivist visited GF locations worldwide – including the USA in 2019 – to awaken the interest and enthusiasm of employees abroad for the Corporation’s history and roots.

## **Wikipedia GLAM on Tour**

The Iron Library and the GF Corporate Archives hosted the sixth Wikipedia GLAM on Tour event in Switzerland. Twelve experienced Wikipedians delved in depth into the Library and Archives holdings to produce a number of new articles for the online encyclopedia. The outcome is a total of 20 new and 160 expanded and amended Wikipedia articles plus some 150 new photographs in Wikimedia Commons. The third Wikipedia event at the Iron Library also contributed significantly to making the knowledge available at GF more visible to the public.

## **Iron Library**

In 2019 the Library continued to grow: it purchased 310 volumes (books) and received a further 135 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Iron Library subscribes to 70 current journals and series. A number of acquisitions made in 2019 contributed to expanding the plastics collection focus. Following a substantial initial bequest in 2016, Prof. Dietrich Braun, the former Director of the German Plastics Institute, donated a further 150 volumes to the Library, including the journal "Kunststoffe", from the first issue in 1911 through to 1960.

## **Corporate Archives**

The Corporate Archives are open to employees of GF and to people outside the Corporation. They may consult the archives on the Iron Library premises. In the reporting period, 145 archive inquiries (78 internal and 67 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the archive team. 34 users (6 internal and 28 external) also consulted the archives on site. All told, over 100 linear meters of documents, or close to 50 000 records, were indexed. As of 31 December 2019, the archive database contained 102 431 records.

## **Digital services**

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. The Corporate Archives had put the GF annual reports and publications relating to the Corporation's history online the previous year; in 2019, it digitized GF employee newspapers and corporate magazines dating back to 1944. As of 31 December 2019, the digital publications included 84 e-books, 1040 digitized volumes with 55 520 pages, and 8246 digitized photographs.

## **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 2019 the Iron Library approved two applications from Switzerland and one from Bulgaria, thus enabling three scholars to spend several weeks doing research in the Library.

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

## **Personnel**

Both the Library team and the Foundation's official bodies underwent various personnel changes in the past year. We wish to cordially thank Academic Librarian Florian Ruhland, trustees Yves Serra, Gerold Bühner and Gabriele Zuna-Kratky, as well as Governing Board members Dirk Lindemann, Nabil El Barbari and Urs Werner for their many years of dedication and commitment to the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the GF Corporation. We likewise welcome the new people on board and wish them much success and satisfaction in their work.

## **Outlook for 2020**

2020 is a "TGT Year" once again. Following the 41st History of Technology Conference in November 2018, the TGT switched over to a biennial schedule, which means that the 42<sup>nd</sup> TGT will be held in November 2020 on the topical subject of "Raw Materials. Natural Resources in History". Our Call for Papers

elicited more than 60 applications, reflecting the attractiveness of both the topic and the Conference itself.

The Iron Library is, in addition, planning to participate in other events such as the “Erzählzeit” literature festival in the spring and the European Heritage Day on 12 September 2020, in conjunction with the Schaffhausen Office for the Preservation of Monuments.

Furthermore, the staff of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are involved in the ongoing updating, expansion and maintenance of their holdings. Digital services are also being constantly built up. The Iron Library is this year again expanding its “Technology and Science History” collection on e-rara.ch, while the Corporate Archives continue to digitize photographs for the digital photo gallery.

We will keep you informed about these projects and activities with announcements in due course either on our website [www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch) or at the latest in the next Annual Report.

We thank all of you for your interest in the Iron Library, the historical and cultural heritage of the 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, 17 February 2020



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





# Anniversary

## 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iron Library Foundation

“From Convent to Cloud”: That was the title of an unforgettable matinee held on the first Sunday in May 2019 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iron Library Foundation. The matinee provided the setting for a dual event: the launch of the new art guidebook on the Paradies convent and the special exhibition in the Iron Library. In his keynote address, Andreas Müller, CEO of GF, stressed the Iron Library’s importance for the corporate culture and historical traditions of GF. The panel discussion, with top-flight experts Peter Niederhäuser, medieval historian, Christoph Flüeler, head of e-codices, and Oliver Thiele, Schaffhausen municipal librarian, under the guidance of moderator Hildegard Keller, talked about book production in the Middle Ages and the challenges facing libraries in the digital age.

The Iron Library Foundation was established 70 years ago, on 31 December 1948, at the initiative of GF Director Ernst Müller. The anniversary exhibition “From Convent to Cloud: Two Libraries in Paradies Convent and their Books” ran from May to July, presenting highlights from the two collections and explaining the materials and technologies embodied in the books. A carefully researched “Provenance display” told visitors about the origin of some of the volumes.

The exhibition also set itself the task of searching for traces of the former convent

The panel of top-flight experts discusses medieval and digital libraries (above); Florian Ruhland explains the working of the hand-held casting tool to visitors – this was Johannes Gutenberg’s pioneering invention (below).

library. For the first time in almost 500 years of “exile” in Schaffhausen, several splendid manuscripts from the former Poor Clares’ convent were welcomed at Klostergut Paradies. When the convent was dissolved in the course of the Reformation, its library was taken to Schaffhausen and integrated in the “Ministerialbibliothek”, which is now part of the Schaffhausen Municipal Library. The valuable codices from the 13th century remained in Schaffhausen even after the Paradies convent was revived in 1578. Schaffhausen’s Reformers wanted to prevent the library’s volumes from being used to serve what they saw as the nuns’ heretical carryings-on. This special loan was made possible by the friendly relations between the Iron Library and the Schaffhausen Municipal Library. A special word of thanks to municipal librarian Oliver Thiele for the excellent cooperation.

An attractive supporting program with tours for the public and for specialists, as well as workshops, accompanied the exhibition. The highlight was an Open Day held on a lovely Sunday in June. Both the Klostergut Paradies and the Iron Library, as well as the Eligius Blacksmiths Guild, opened their doors to more than 500 visitors. The event was a great hit with young and old: families, pensioners, GF employees and people on a Sunday outing flocked to the former convent grounds. The exhibitions in the convent and the Iron Library were open to visitors, who had the opportunity of running an old printing press belonging to the Gutenberg Guild – just like in the times of Zwingli and Froschauer – or forging nails in the guild forge.



# Anniversary

## An exciting new publication

**Walter Bersorger, Peter Niederhäuser: Kloster Paradies. Berne: Gesellschaft für Schweizerische Kunstgeschichte, 2019 (= Schweizerische Kunstführer 103, No. 1035).**

This is the column where we usually present a new library acquisition, a "pièce de résistance" that stands out because it is rare, original, topical or simply a curiosity. For the second time, though, we're not presenting a new acquisition, since the occasion demands that we introduce a new publication instead. In last year's Annual Report, we presented the photo book "Vibrant Industry: Visualizing the Corporate Archive of Georg Fischer Ltd"; now we add a second publication that has emerged from the dual anniversaries of the Iron Library and Klostersgut Paradies. In cooperation with the Society of Swiss Art History (GSK), GF has cooperated in publishing a volume on "Kloster Paradies" in the series of Swiss art guidebooks, which appeared in May 2019 to conclude the celebration "100 Years of GF at Klostersgut Paradies".

When GF purchased the properties on the Rhine in 1918, it took on the challenge and the obligation to maintain and care for Klostersgut Paradies, a building complex of historical significance. The investments made by GF over the last hundred years have led to the revival of the convent site, an achievement that has gained recognition in professional circles, too. In 2004 the Canton of Thurgau's

cultural heritage organization awarded its "Heimatschutz" prize to GF and the Paradies and Iron Library Foundations: "The site is known far beyond the region as a pioneering example of how to conserve and invigorate cultural monuments and can serve as a model for other such properties." The entire convent site has been classified as a class A property in the Swiss Inventory of Cultural Property and therefore enjoys the highest level of protection as a property of national significance.

Under these circumstances, it was logical to mark the anniversary by appropriately appraising and documenting the architectural history of Klostersgut Paradies, an idea that the GSK immediately welcomed. The GSK has been documenting, investigating and publicizing the architectural heritage of Switzerland since 1880, thereby contributing to its long-term preservation. The historians Walter Bersorger and Peter Niederhäuser, two acknowledged experts, were engaged as authors to meticulously research and present the history of the convent and its architecture. In the course of their research, they brought to light new details and previously unknown images that are published in the guidebook for the first time, such as the colorful and dynamic drawing of the huge fire in 1587 from the Wickiana, a 16th century Zurich collection of news reports.

GF Director Ernst Muller opens the Iron Library in 1952. The official ceremony was preceded by extensive renovation of the convent buildings, and these are described in detail in the guidebook.



# 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. The preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of GF is impressively communicated to a broad public on such occasions. In the reporting year, the special exhibition gave guests two good reasons to enjoy their visit: not only were they able to admire the Iron Library's books, which are themselves exciting and enthrall even cool-headed engineers but they could also marvel at the splendid manuscripts of the former Paradies convent library, which the Schaffhausen Municipal Library returned on loan for the duration of the exhibition to the place where they were once used. The Library and the exhibition welcomed 1280 guests from around the world on a total of 114 tours.

### Talking about the history of GF

The history of the GF Corporation and its commitment to maintaining interest in this legacy in the present day is a topic that is discussed, to varying extents, on every tour of the Iron Library. The Corporate Archivist also 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 Sissach, Subingen, Seewis and Schaff-

hausen provides the ideal framework for this brief history. Taking "GF History on Tour" as the motto, the Corporate Archivist has been visiting GF locations worldwide – including the USA in 2019 – in order to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of employees abroad in the Corporation's roots and historical development.

First the tour, then the write-up: The Wikipedians first gather information on a tour of the modern production facilities of GF Piping Systems in Schaffhausen (above) and then integrate the new knowledge and historical facts into Wikipedia (below).

hausen provides the ideal framework for this brief history. Taking "GF History on Tour" as the motto, the Corporate Archivist has been visiting GF locations worldwide – including the USA in 2019 – in order to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of employees abroad in the Corporation's roots and historical development.

### Wikipedia GLAM on Tour

Following the positive experience with two Wikipedia writing workshops in previous years, the Iron Library continued its cooperation with Wikimedia Switzerland in 2019. In summer, it hosted the sixth "GLAM on Tour" event in Switzerland. Twelve experienced Wikipedians delved into the Iron Library and Corporate Archives holdings in depth for four days to produce Wikipedia content galore. In this short time, they created 20 completely new Wikipedia articles and revised and expanded 160 existing articles. For instance, the GF managers Ernst Homberger and Ernst Müller now have their own Wikipedia articles, and users can read about the Schaffhausen neighborhood Ebnat or the GF company railroad in the online encyclopedia. Even the GF Corporate Archives – as a cultural asset of national importance – have received their own Wikipedia entry. The Corporate Archives have, moreover, placed some 150 photographs in Wikimedia Commons, thus putting them in the public domain. The third Wikipedia event at the Iron Library also contributed significantly to making the knowledge available at GF more readily accessible to the public.

# Die Metallwaaren-Industrie

und ihre

**Betriebs-Einrichtungen**

auf dem Höhepunkte jetziger Vervollkommnung.

Ein Buch des Fortschritts

für Gütler, Glocken-, Gieß-, Kess- und Zinngießer,  
Plattirer, Neusilber-, Britanniametall-, Bronze- und  
Bleiarbeiter, Klempner und Kupferschmiede.

Enthaltend

alle in der Neuzeit erfundenen Gieß-, Glüh- und Löthöfen, Gießformen, technisch gebrauchten Metalllegirungen, Löthungsmethoden, Löthrohre, Löthkolben, Löthfette, Weich- und Hartlöße; alle verbesserte Verfahrungsweisen zur Verzierung, Vermohrung, sowie zur Färbung der Metallflächen, zum Gelbbrennen des Messings und Brüniren des Kupfers; ingleichen auch zum Vergolden, Versilbern, Platiniren, Bronciren, Verzinnen, Verzinken und Verbleien des Kupfers und Messings; noch wenig bekannte Kunstgriffe zur Anfertigung von Tafelgeräthschaften mittels Drückens auf der Drehbank, sowie zu sogenannter getriebener Arbeit; ferner zur Anfertigung von Schmucksachen, zum Gießen von Luxusartikeln, flachgängigen Schrauben, gepreßten Blei- und Zinnröhren zc.

Zusammengestellt und herausgegeben

von

**Ulrich Höstlin**

Metallwaarenfabrikant.

Mit 5 Tafeln, enthaltend 109 Abbildungen.

**Weimar, 1863.**

Bernhard Friedrich Voigt.

# Research

## Scholar in Residence program and publications

The Iron Library's Scholar in Residence program is designed as an invitation to research scientists to engage in depth with the rich holdings of the library and the archives. In the year under review, the Iron Library welcomed three scholars.

Julia Lütolf, responsible for the Materials Archive at the Sitterwerk Foundation in St. Gallen, did research early in the year on the various methods of treating metal surfaces. Her findings were instrumental in developing the exhibition "edel unedel" about staining and coating of metal surfaces, which was shown in the Materials Archive in summer 2019.

Iordan Avramov, a researcher at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, came to the Iron Library with the aim of studying the mineralogical interests of the natural historian Robert Boyle, who was a founding member of the Royal Society in London. Drawing on the historical literature on metallurgy in the Library, he investigated the sources that Boyle used in 1666 as the basis for his extensive questionnaire "Articles of Inquiries Touching Mines".

Iris Staubesand worked on a descriptive analysis that provides a lively picture of the everyday life of Schaffhausen industrial workers in the first half of the 20th century and contributes to the topical discussion on Corporate Social Responsibility. A sociologist and granddaughter of a GF lathe operator, she was particularly interested in the social responsibility of GF toward its employees and their families.

Pickling and burnishing: an important resource for metal staining technique in 1863 and for our scholar in residence in 2019.

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

- Walter Bersorger, Peter Niederhäuser: Kloster Paradies. Bern: Gesellschaft für Schweizerische Kunstgeschichte, 2019 (= Schweizerische Kunstführer 103, No. 1035). [history & architecture of Kloster Paradies]
- Franziska Eggmann: Die Statisten der Technik. In: Ferrum. Technology's Workforce, 91/2019, S. 114–124. [on industrial photography at GF]
- Franziska Eggmann: «Mitarbeiten heisst mitdenken». Die Geschichte des Vorschlagswesens bei GF. In: Ferrum. Technology's Workforce, 91/2019, S. 134–139. [on the employee suggestion system at GF]
- Adrian Knoepfli: Alle Kriegsparteien beliebt. Die Schweizer Stahlindustrie im Ersten Weltkrieg. In: Stahl + Technik 4 (1/2019), S. 84–88. [WW1 Swiss Steel Industry]
- Nicolau Lutz: «Wir sind eines Herzens, Lieber Fischer!». Die Beziehung von Johann Conrad Fischer und Erzherzog Johann von Österreich zwischen Metallurgie, Standesdenken und Restauration. In: Ferrum. Technology's Workforce, 91/2019, S. 126–131. [J.C. Fischer and Archduke John of Austria]
- Josef Moos: Als Architekten noch das gesamte Bauen beherrschten. Vorlagenwerk Giuseppe Valadriers. In: Hephaistos 6/2019, S. 22–23. [on architects as all-rounders]
- Dirk Neumann: Spuren im Stein. Der Hegau. SWR documentary, 2019, 45 minutes. [on the Hegau, an extinct volcanic landscape]
- Florian Ruhland: Wo kommen unsere Bücher her? Provenienzen in der Eisenbibliothek. In: Ferrum. Technology's Workforce, 91/2019, S. 142–148. [Iron Library book provenance]







# Digital services

## Presence on digital platforms

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. Increasingly, however, it is not only catalogs and finding aids but also the resources themselves that are being put online, in accordance with the principles of Open GLAM (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). As of 31 December 2019, the digital publications included 84 e-books, 1040 digitized volumes with 55 520 pages, and 8246 digitized photographs.

The Corporate Archives expanded the digital content in the own archive database in the reporting year. The Archives have put the GF annual reports and historical publications online the previous year and in 2019 it digitized GF employee magazines dating back to 1944: 650 magazine issues with some 19 000 pages were indexed and are now also available online and are full-text searchable. Through the linking of standard data, the Archives are constantly improving the researchability of its archive database. In the year under review, about 600 geographic keywords were linked with Wikidata and Geonames. You will be able to read more next year about current efforts to link several thousand entity data with Metagrid.

The digitized manuscripts from the Corporate Archives and Iron Library can be found on the e-codices website, which is managed and developed by the University of Fribourg. The e-codices website is Switzerland's vir-

tual manuscripts library. The Corporate Archives contributed three manuscripts in the reporting period: The first is the diary of Johann Conrad Fischer entitled "Meine Unterredungen mit Fürsten", rediscovered in 2018, describing Fischer's encounters with Archduke Johann of Austria between 1826 and 1842. The second manuscript, also from Johann Conrad Fischer, is a book of business correspondence covering the years 1811 to 1817. The third is a memory album that belonged to his son Eduard Fischer, with entries by family and friends.

The journal Ferrum, which publishes the papers from the History of Technology Conference and reports on topics from the Iron Library and Corporate Archives, is online and accessible through the e-periodica website. Ferrum has now published 90 volumes in 65 years. The e-periodica portal is operated by the Library of the ETH Zurich and makes digitized Swiss journals freely available.

The Iron Library, also in conjunction with the ETH Library, is currently digitizing a selection of its printed holdings and making them available on the e-rara website. The digital versions of 68 books are now available in the Library's own collection called "Historical Technical and Scientific Literature". These are mainly books relating to the general history of technology and science from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

"GF Mitteilungen", like all employee newspapers, is a valuable and rich resource for the company's history. All GF in-house journals dating back to 1944 are now available digitally in full text.

# KUNSTSTOFFE

Zeitschrift für Erzeugung und Verwendung  
veredelter oder chemisch hergestellter Stoffe

mit besonderer Berücksichtigung von Kunstseide und anderen Kunstfasern, von vulkanisiertem, devulkanisiertem (wiedergewonnenem) und künstlichem Kautschuk, Guttapercha usw. sowie Ersatzstoffen von Zellhorn (Zelluloid) und ähnlichen Zellstoffserzeugnissen, von künstlichem Leder und Ledertuchen (Linoleum), von Kunstharzen, Kasein-Erzeugnissen usw.

mit Unterstützung von

Dr. Paul **Alexander** (Berlin), Dr. L. H. **Baekeland** (Yonkers, N. Y.), Professor Dr. M. **Bamberger** (Wien), Francis J. G. **Betzer** (Paris), Dr. Ludwig **Berend** (Wiesbaden), Dozent Dr. Ernst **Berl** (Tubize), Professor Max **Bottler** (Würzburg), Professor Dr. E. **Bronnert** (Dornach i. E.), Dr. Rudolf **Ditmar** (Graz), Dozent Dr. Karl **Dieterich** (Helfenberg-Dresden), Dr. Arthur **Eichengrün** (Berlin), Dr. H. **Fuchs** (Berlin), Dozent Reg.-Baumeister M. **Gerstmeyer** (Berlin), Geh. Reg.-Rat Professor Dr. **Harries** (Kiel), Professor Dr. Alois **Herzog** (Sorau), Professor Dr. F. W. **Hinrichsen** (Berlin), Direktor Julius **Hübner** (Manchester), Chefchemiker H. **Jentgen** (Pawlowski-Possad), Professor Dr. A. **Jungbahn** (Berlin), Regierungsrat Dr. O. **Kausch** (Berlin), Dr. Arthur **Klein** (Pest), Arthur D. **Little** (Boston, Mass.), Dr. Graf H. **Luxburg** (Stettin), Dr. J. **Marcusson** (Berlin), Professor Dr. W. **Massot** (Krefeld), Dr. Karl **Piest** (Hanau), Professor Dr. Karl G. **Schwalbe** (Darmstadt), Professor Dr. Wilhelm **Suida** (Wien), Regierungsrat Dr. Karl **Sävern** (Berlin), Dr. W. **Vieweg** (Hanau), Geh. Reg.-Rat Professor Dr. H. **Wichelhaus** (Berlin), Edward C. **Worden** (Milburn, N.-J.) und anderen Sonderfachleuten

herausgegeben von

Dr. Richard Escales.

I. Jahrgang.



München 1911  
J. F. Lehmann's Verlag.

# Library

## Use, services, development, and cataloging

A reference library such as the Iron Library does not lend media, except for internal borrowing by GF employees at the Schaffhausen site and interlibrary loan requests from other libraries. All told, 141 media were lent in the year under review. The book table visited employees in Schaffhausen in December, offering them a selection of the new acquisitions for direct borrowing.

The Library received 61 inquiries in the past year. They ranged from concrete queries about literature to complex research questions about technical objects such as old types of crucibles or the biography of well-known industrialists such as John Baidon. Queries and requests about literature that is available only in the Iron Library come from all over the world. In 2019, 36 users worked in the Library's reading room on 79 days. As a rule, they used the facilities for a day; in the case of the Scholars in Residence they stayed between one and four weeks.

In 2019 the Library continued to grow: it purchased 310 volumes (books) and received 135 volumes as bequests or exchanges. Some acquisitions in 2019 contributed to the development of the newly established plastics collection focus. Following an initial substantial bequest in 2016, at the end of 2019 Prof. Dietrich Braun, the former Director of the German Plastics Institute, donated a further 150 volumes to the Library, including the journal "Kunststoffe", from the first is-

ssue in 1911 through to 1960, from his private collection. The bequest of "Kunststoffe", the oldest German-language journal on plastics and one of the world's leading plastics journals, fills a significant gap in the Library's holdings on the history of plastics.

In the reporting period, the Library partly caught up with the cataloging backlog and entered some bequests of recent years in the catalog. All the books from the Baldinger estate, the bequests of AluSuisse, the Institute of Plastics Technology (Stuttgart), the Biel/Bienne municipal archive and John Morgan, and the library of JRG Gunzenhauser Ltd have now been completely cataloged and are researchable and usable by researchers.

The Iron Library lists its holdings as part of the catalog of the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund (SWB) and participates in cooperative formal cataloging and indexing. 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 with the standards. As of 31 December 2019, the catalog of the Iron Library contained 36 004 books, 1164 periodicals, 9884 articles, and 134 online resources.

The first issue of the journal "Kunststoffe" appeared in 1911. Thanks to a bequest from Prof. Dietrich Braun, the Iron Library now owns a full set of the journal up to the present day.



BUSS

# Corporate Archives

## Use, queries, new accessions, and indexing

In the reporting period, 145 archive inquiries (78 internal and 67 external) were processed, some requiring several hours of research by the archive team. 29 users (7 internal and 22 external) also used the Archives on site. A regular user of the GF Archives is the Schaffhausen Office for Preservation of Monuments, which is gradually compiling the architectural history of industrial buildings in Schaffhausen. The Office's research in 2019 focused mainly on documents relating to the gas works in the Mühlental, the Hombergerhaus building, and the Rauschenbach engineering works on the Ebnat. Genealogical research has become an increasingly common topic in the Corporate Archives, with queries being received about former employees at all levels and in all plants. One query came from the GF Executive Committee concerning the managing directors of GF since the founding of the company in 1802. The Corporate Archives took up the challenge and, after some in-depth research and advanced statistics, presented the impressive figure of 888 managing directors of all GF companies worldwide in the past two hundred years.

Several searches were made in the archival holdings of the former subsidiary Buss AG in Pratteln. The successor company bearing the same name examined the early photographs on record in order to illustrate the company's history on its new website. A student at the University of Lausanne analyzed all the annual reports of Buss, GF, and Maschinen-

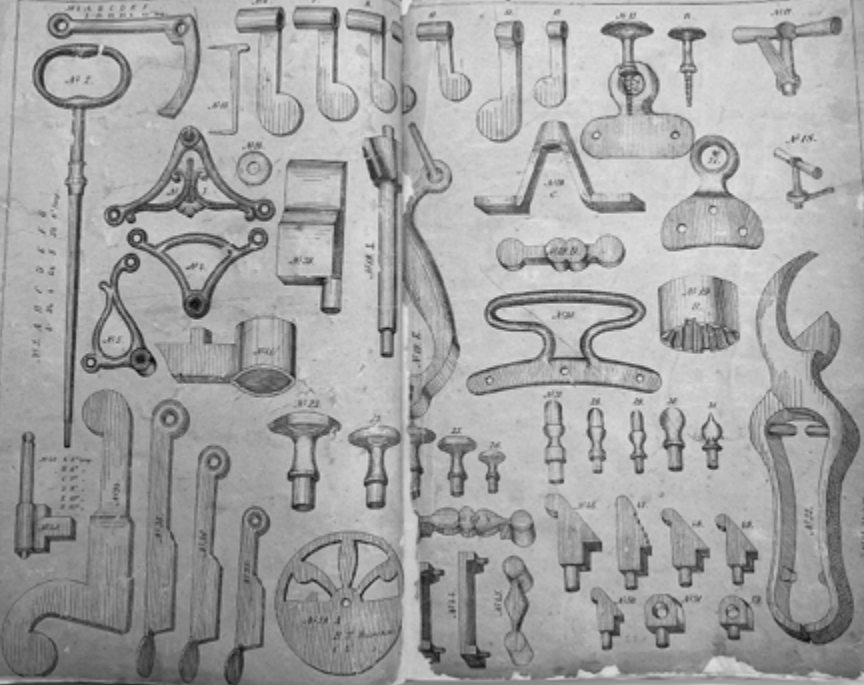
Construction of the pressure pipeline for the compensating reservoir Lago di Robièi in 1966. Buss AG was also active in hydraulic steel construction.

fabrik Rauschenbach for his master's diploma thesis. The Corporate Archives contributed two exhibits from the Buss holdings to the new permanent exhibition in the Pratteln town museum. GF is also present in the new permanent exhibition of the Swiss National Museum in Zurich with a representative photograph illustrating 19<sup>th</sup> century Swiss industrial and economic history.

In the year under review, 26 deliveries of archive material comprising 93 linear meters were added as new accessions. The most extensive of the new accessions came from the GF divisions: GF Piping Systems handed over to the Archives the minutes of the division and Executive Committee meetings of the last 30 years. Mikron, Step-Tec, and AGIE, companies that now belong to GF Machining Solutions, delivered valuable files, photographic material and some objects from their history. Following the sale of the GF Casting Solutions plant in Singen, the substantial archive from this traditional site was enriched with documents such as the minutes from the latest meetings of the supervisory board and works council.

Indexing focused mainly on deepening the detail of existing holdings. Reference numbers on photographic negatives up to 1988 were checked and imported, while company newspapers dating back to 1944 were indexed by individual issue and at the same time digitized. All told, about 110 linear meters, or a good 50 000 records, were indexed in the year under review. As of 31 December 2019, the archive database contained 102 431 records.

Gussstahlwarenfabrik & Weicheisengiesserei von Georg Fischer in Schaffhausen. Blatt N<sup>o</sup> 2 C.



# Corporate Archives

## Restoration of a product catalog from 1870

The holdings in the Corporate Archives cover a period of more than 300 years. The oldest documents belong to the estate of the founding Fischer, but even the company's business correspondence and administrative documents date far back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Promotion of the company's own products also initially took place through personal correspondence. The first printed prospectus for the company's recently launched malleable cast iron fittings dates from around 1865–1867. It promoted "gas pipe connectors and utensils" for the pipes being introduced to supply gas to light the streets and public places in urban centers – and it ushered in the era of modern and widely used marketing at GF.

Almost at the same time there appeared a large product catalog in folio format that extolled the huge range of cast iron parts for tools, handles, keys, screws or bolts produced by the "cast steel goods factory and soft iron foundry of G. Fischer in Schaffhausen (Switzerland)". The company name used on the catalog dates it to between 1868 and 1876. The catalog was obviously used often and without much heed, and it looked its age – it was in a dire state. The cover and the binding were falling apart, the pages were completely stuck together, and the catalog itself was caked in dirt and soot. The Corporate Archives decided in the year under review to implement extensive conservation measures in order to preserve this model of

professionally designed and produced product advertising at GF.

The restorer Meret Bächler took on this arduous task, which required great skill and precision. The volume first had to be dry cleaned and then the pages that had stuck together had to be separated. The page to be detached was first wetted with an ethanol-water solution and then treated with steam and methyl cellulose gel. Owing to the various qualities of glue, it was not possible to separate all the pages equally well, and preserving some of them was very labor-intensive. The detached pages were backed with Japan paper using wheat starch paste; they were then bound together and fitted with a conservation binding made of age-resistant paper and cardboard. The initial estimate of 25 pages stuck together proved to be wildly off the mark – ultimately 45 pages plus various paper fragments emerged. Between the printed catalog pages the restorer brought to light some sheets of paper with handwritten pencil and ink drawings. The restoration thus revealed quite a few surprises along with some new information. The restorer carried out her work with great care and a sure hand, thus giving the object a new lease on life.

The restoration of the product catalog from 1870 (above in its finished state) required skill and a sure hand in detaching the pages stuck together (below).





The team from the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives (left to right): Valerija Rukavina, Christopher Zoller-Blundell, Lucas Zollinger, Pauline Zade, Franziska Eggimann (not in the picture: Susanne Nendel and Tamara Haefeli).



# Personnel

The past year saw a change in the Iron Library team: The academic librarian Florian Ruhland left Paradies at the end of July 2019 after six years to move down the Rhine to Basel, where he has taken on a new library challenge. His successor as the new academic librarian is Christopher Zoller-Blundell, who started work on 1 November 2019. In the intervening period, part-time librarian Susanne Goby kept the library running with great expertise and commitment.

The core team of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives comprises 2.4 FTEs, shared by three employees: Franziska Eggimann, Managing Director of the Iron Library Foundation, is at the same time responsible for the Corporate Archives of GF. Christopher Zoller-Blundell, academic librarian, and Pauline Zade, administrator, complete the team. They are supported by Susanne Nendel, part-time employee, Lucas Zollinger and Tamara Haefeli, student employees, and Valerija Rukavina, intern. The Iron Library has for some years provided opportunities to perform civil service. In 2019 Nicolau Lutz, Benny Waldvogel and Fabio Bernard made a valuable contribution to the Iron 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)
- OPL-Kreis (One Person Libraries) Bodensee (CZB)

## **Involvement in events**

- January, March, July, September and November 2019: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- September 2019: NZZ History on Tour “Mechanical engineering industry”, panel discussion in Schaffhausen (participant FE)
- September 2019: ICA/SBA conference “Business Archives and the next Gold Rush”, Levi Strauss & Co, San Francisco (presentation FE)
- September 2019: GF History on Tour, El Monte (CA), Irvine (CA), Dallas (TX), Lincolnshire (IL), USA (presentations FE)
- November 2019: Fall meeting of the Lake Constance libraries, Konstanz (presentation FE)
- November 2019: History & Innovation at GF, GF Corporate Management Training, Klostersgut Paradies (presentation FE)

## **Participation in events**

- May 2019: Plastics Heritage Conference, Lisbon (FR)
- September 2019: Annual meeting of VSA, Schwyz (FE)
- November 2019: OPL-Arbeitskreis Bodensee, Singen (CZB)
- November 2019: “Technology History on Tour”, depot of the Museum of Communication and PTT Archives, Schwarzenburg/Köniz BE (FE)

## **Ongoing training**

- October 2019: Bookbinding, North Bennett Street School, Boston USA (FE)
- November 2019: CMS training for new website, Schaffhausen/Klostersgut Paradies (entire team)



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-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 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

## Changes in the official bodies

Several changes on the official bodies occurred in the reporting year. On his retirement as CEO of Georg Fischer Ltd, Yves Serra handed over the chairmanship of the Foundation to his successor Andreas Müller. Gerold Bühler retired from the Board of Directors of Georg Fischer Ltd at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting in April and at the same time stepped down as a trustee of the Iron Library Foundation. Gabriele Zuna-Kratky, Director of the Vienna Technical Museum, stepped down as a trustee on her retirement at the end of the year.

Former members of the Governing Board Nabil El Barbari, Dirk Lindemann, and Urs Werner stepped down at the end of the year on reaching retirement age or leaving the company. Their successors as of 1 January 2020 are Noel Schreiber, GF Piping Systems, and Joerg Hannsen, GF Casting Solutions.

## Board of Trustees

### Members as per 1.1.2020

- Andreas Müller, Chairman  
CEO Georg Fischer AG, Schaffhausen
- Irene Amstutz  
Director Swiss Economic Archives and  
University Library Economics, Basel
- Prof. Dr. Ing. Martin Bastian  
CEO German Plastics Center SKZ, Würzburg
- Prof. Dr. Ing. Andreas Bührig-Polaczek  
Head of the department, Chair for comprehensive Foundry Science and Foundry Institute, RWTH Aachen

- Calvin Grieder  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of  
Bühler AG, Uzwil
- Prof. Dr. David Gugerli  
Chair for History of Technology, ETH Zürich
- Dr. Helmut Hilz  
Director Library, Deutsches Museum,  
Munich
- Dr. Roland E. Hofer  
State Archivist and Head of department for Cultural Promotion Canton of  
Schaffhausen

## Governing Board

### Members as per 1.1.2020

- Dr. Roland Gröbli, Chairman  
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer AG,  
Schaffhausen
- Stefan Dahl  
Head Advanced Manufacturing,  
GF Machining Solutions, Biel
- Joerg Hannsen  
Head Human Resources,  
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, on the history of 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>	More than 45 000 catalog records	13 <sup>th</sup> century to the present

## Archives

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fischer family bequest</li> <li>– Management and administration files of Georg 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> <li>– Art collections</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 100 000 records</li> <li>– More than 1400 linear meters</li> <li>– Approx. 800 objects</li> </ul>	Starting in 1693

<b>Use of Library/Archives</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Library users – persons (days)	36 (79)	36	57	54
Archive users – persons (days)	34 (70)	18	29	18
Library inquiries	61	89	85	56
Archive inquiries	145	104	116	79
Library items lent	141	138	147	108
<b>Archive holdings</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Accessions	93 lin. m	13 lin. m	44 lin. m	23 lin. m
Holdings indexed	964 lin. m	848 lin. m	750 lin. m	620 lin. m
Holdings not indexed	482 lin. m	396 lin. m	450 lin. m	400 lin. m
Indexing	112 lin. m	56 lin. m	100 lin. m	50 lin. m
Records in the catalog	102 431	50 093	48 375	31 306
Media in the catalog	75 717	74 768	–	–
<b>Library holdings</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
New acquisitions – purchases	310	198	250	760
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	135	123	218	227
Catalog entries books – titles	36 004	35 287	34 784	33 900
Catalog entries books – copies	36 706	35 976	35 452	34 513
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 884	9 869	9 861	9 751
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 164	1 125	1 057	970
Current periodicals and series	70	67	70	66
Catalog entries online resources	134	134	117	69
<b>Digital offerings</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
E-books	84	71	0	0
Digitized books	1 040	380	–	–
Digitized pages	55 520	34 016	–	–
Digitized photographs	8 246	7 853	0	0
<b>Guided tours</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total no. of visitors	1 280	2 155	1 002	1 098
Total no. of tours	114	131	74	85
Tours for GF guests	51	50	38	50
Tours for external guests	63	81	36	35
Avg. no. persons per tour	11	16	14	13

# 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, wifi internet access
- Lending of library holdings for GF employees at the Schaffhausen sites
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and NEBIS
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings
- 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](http://archives.georgfischer.com))
- IRONBOOK: E-book portal (only with login)
- 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 prints available digitally on e-rara ([www.e-rara.ch](http://www.e-rara.ch))
- Picture gallery with historical photographs from the Corporate Archives ([archives.georgfischer.com/gallery](http://archives.georgfischer.com/gallery))
- Annual reports of GF since 1896 digitally available ([www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents](http://www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents))
- Corporate magazines since 1944 digitally available ([www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents](http://www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents))

## Events in 2020

July 2020

Book table in Schaffhausen

12 September 2020

European Heritage Day “Building Past and Future” in the Schaffhausen steel foundry

13–14 November 2020

History of Technology Conference “Raw Materials”

December 2020

Book table in Schaffhausen

# Contact

## Employees as of 1.3.2020

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### **Valerija Rukavina**

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## Adress

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T +41 52 631 27 44  
eisenbibliothek@georgfischer.com  
www.eisenbibliothek.ch

## Opening times and directions

Monday to Friday by appointment

Travel by train:

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

Travel by car:

Metered parking available across from the Paradies Restaurant and landing stage

Iron Library  
Klostergut Paradies  
8252 Schlatt  
Switzerland  
[www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch)

