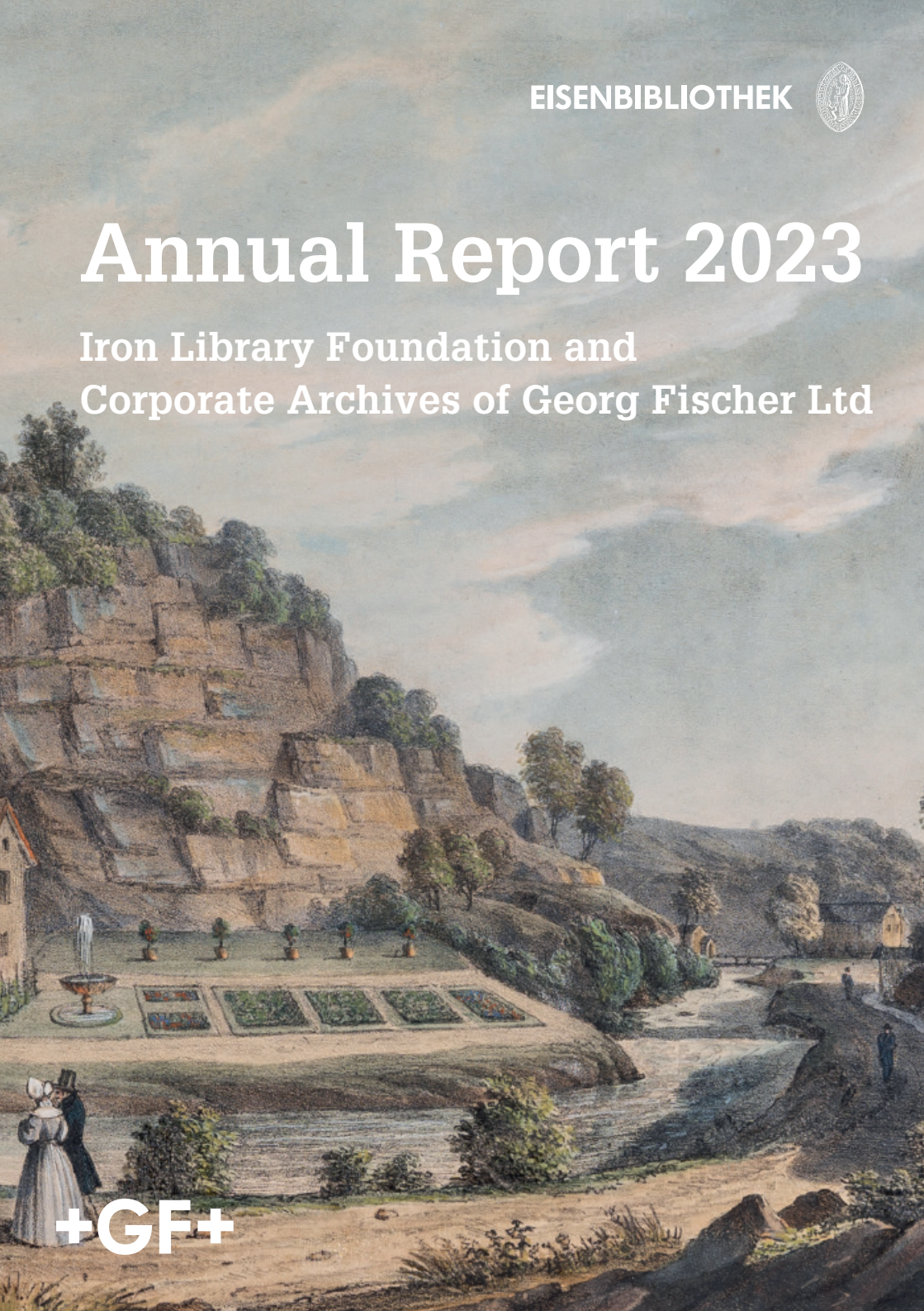


EISENBIBLIOTHEK



Annual Report 2023

Iron Library Foundation and
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd



+GF+

Imprint

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Johann Conrad Fischer's first steel works at the old Kräutermühle in Mühletal,
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Johann Lorenz Hissler Kupferstecher.
Auftrag von der Königl. Landt- u. Gränicher
Dresden d. 21^{ten} May 1793

Preface

Dear ladies and gentlemen

Dear readers

"Johann Conrad Fischer's travel journals are a treasure trove for research." Marcus Popplow, professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and guest speaker at the launch of the "250 years of Johann Conrad Fischer" anniversary, fully shares the Iron Library's opinion. And so the Iron Library team set to work in view of the 250th anniversary of Fischer's birth (1773–1854). The result of the two-year project in the form of a digital edition of the travel journals of this important witness to the Industrial Revolution entitled "Travel Reports of a Pioneer" was opened with a festive launch on June 8, 2023.

This was the prelude to a packed anniversary program. An exhibition with numerous expert tours and a family open day attracted a total of 1 654 visitors to Klostergut Paradies. On the jubilee trip, which was accompanied by a video blog, we went in search of traces of the Industrial Revolution in England. The actual highlight and conclusion of the jubilee was a festive event on the eve of Fischer's 250th birthday, hosted by Georg Fischer Ltd together with the town of Schaffhausen and the Naturforschende Gesellschaft.

Our traditional events were also very popular. As part of the "Erzählzeit" literature festival, author Jan Faktor read from his novel "Trottel" to a packed audience. And as part of the 43rd History of Technology Conference, around 50 participants made their way to Klostergut Paradies to discuss the role of quality and safety requirements in the history of technical developments.

Dressed to travel Europe: Johann Conrad Fischer the journeyman, sketched in Dresden in 1793.

In this annual report, it is with great pleasure that we once again give an account of the preservation of GF's historical and cultural heritage in 2023 by informing you on the following pages about the anniversary activities already mentioned and many other projects. Founded in 1802, GF has developed and proven itself as an agile and resilient company thanks to capable and committed employees. The Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd are dedicated to the active maintenance and communication of these impressive achievements and history. Both are based at the Klostergut Paradies, report to the General Secretariat and are managed by Franziska Eggimann. We would like to take this opportunity to express our special thanks to the motivated and enthusiastic team, without whom these many tasks and projects could not have been realized at this level of quality.

Growing digital offers

More and more, we are not only making catalogues available online, but also the resources themselves. This is entirely in the spirit of "Open GLAM" (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). The Iron Library works mainly with cooperation platforms such as e-codices and e-rara for digitization; the Corporate Archives offer a growing amount of digital content directly on their own archive website. In the reporting year alone, our online presence grew by around 18 000 digitized book pages. As of December 31, 2023, the digital offering included a total of 176 e-books, 1 562 digitized volumes with 149 410 pages and 9 725 digitized photographs.

Strengthened cooperation with all GF divisions

The Corporate Archives and Iron Library work closely with the GF Corporation and the divisions in various areas. The Iron Library is a valued point of contact for the R&D departments for literature research, advice and procurement. Demand continued to increase in the year under review, fueled by and in parallel to the Corporation-wide access to an external platform managed by the Library with around 120 000 e-books and 500 current journals of renowned specialist literature.

Iron Library grows, also thanks to donations

Over the course of 2023, the Library grew by 650 titles through acquisitions, donations and exchanges. 119 requests were received by the Library and 16 users worked in the reading room on 42 days. The Iron Library team also extensively used the holdings for researching images and definitions, which can now be found in the digital edition of Johann Conrad Fischer's travel journals. As of December 31, 2023, the Iron Library catalogue comprised 38 114 books, 1 181 journals, 9 885 articles and 134 online resources.

Johann Conrad Fischer's estate in the Corporate Archives

In addition to the Library, the Corporate Archives were also the scene of in-depth research into the journals of Johann Conrad Fischer and the associated anniversary activities. GF's historical company archives also include part of the estate of the founding family. Fischer's meticulously kept calendar helped, for example, to identify business partners and acquaintances who Fischer only mentioned by initials in his travel journals for reasons of discretion.

The "day-to-day business" also kept us on our toes. In the year under review, we processed 148 archive enquiries (84 internal, 64 external). 11 users (3 internal, 8 external) also inspected the archive material on site. In addition to this, we were able to index around 36 linear meters of files or just under 3 000 units. On December 31, 2023, the GF archive database contained 131 769 index units.

Dense network for research and communication

GF has always cultivated its cultural heritage with remarkable openness. Access to the sources of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives for research into the history of technology and business is a matter of course for us. We also offer the Scholar in Residence program in this spirit. In the reporting year, three scholars from Luxembourg and Switzerland took advantage of the opportunity to spend an extended period of research at the Klostergut Paradies.

Networking also includes co-operation with other institutions in the context of outreach work. In the year under review, the Iron Library even lent objects to three high-profile exhibitions. The oldest work from our holdings, the Albertus Magnus Aristotle manuscript, was on display in the "Trésors enluminés de Suisse" exhibition at the Fondation Martin Bodmer in Cologne (Geneva). The Obere Stube cultural center in Stein am Rhein regularly displays works from the Iron Library in its permanent exhibition "Stein am Rhein im Spiegel der Zeit – das 17. Jahrhundert".

In the reporting year, these were two books by Descartes and Della Porta. They will be replaced by two new works from our rare book collections in 2024. The first issue of the magazine "Kunststoffe" travelled with the exhibition "Plastic: Remaking Our World" from

the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein via the V&A Museum in Dundee to the MAAT in Lisbon, and will now make a stop at the National Museum of Singapore in 2024.

Outlook 2024

The "Erzählzeit" literature festival is returning to the Klostergut Paradies again this year: on April 11, 2024, the Iron Library is organizing a reading by author Christian Haller from his award-winning novel "Sich lichtende Nebel". After last year's history of technology conference, the 14 speakers set to work on their papers: their extremely diverse contributions on the topic of the "Quality and safety requirements of technology in history" will be published in the 93rd issue of our journal "Ferrum" in summer 2024.

The well-established internal collaboration with the R&D and communication departments of the GF Corporation and the divisions will be further expanded this year. The aim is to familiarize each other with the GF Uponor division, which joined GF late in 2023, and to make our services known to the new subsidiaries.

The Iron Library and Corporate Archives team also continues to process, expand and maintain the collections. The digital offerings are also being continuously expanded. This year, the Iron Library is once again expanding its "History of Technology and Science" collection on e-rara, and the Corporate Archives are tackling further digitization projects for various source materials.

We will be happy to inform you about all these initiatives and activities in due course on our website 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 keeping in touch with you in one form or another over the course of the year.

A big thank you goes to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personal and moral support the realization of all these activities would not be possible.

Schaffhausen/Schlatt, February 23, 2024



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



Jubilee 2023

250 Years of Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 – 1854)

Johann Conrad Fischer was born 250 years ago, on September 14, 1773. As the first town president of Schaffhausen and founder of the Naturforschende Gesellschaft and today's Georg Fischer Ltd, he shaped the history of the town. However, Fischer was not only a politician and entrepreneur, but also a respected metallurgist, scientist, networker and traveler known throughout Europe – Fischer was a "homo universalis" of the industrial age. Reason enough for the Iron Library to celebrate the 250th birthday of this pioneer and contemporary witness to the Industrial Revolution.

The largest project entitled "Travel Reports of a Pioneer" will outlast the jubilee year: with joy, enthusiasm and perseverance, the Iron Library has realized an extensively illustrated and annotated digital edition of Fischer's seven travel journals. These remarkable sources, which provide the reader with an expert's view of the industrializing world, are now available in English for the first time.

The jubilee commenced at the beginning of June with the launch of the digital edition and the accompanying exhibition at the Klostergut Paradies. Guest speaker Marcus Popplow, Professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), identified in Fischer's writings current research questions in the history of technology and emphasized the topicality and relevance of these "treasure troves". On the following Sunday, the Library and the Kloster-

gut opened their doors to around five hundred guests. There was plenty to see and experience both inside and out. Visitors were able to view the new exhibition on Fischer's travels, mint a commemorative medal, operate an original Fischer fire pump from the early 19th century, take a trip on a steamboat or try their hand at blacksmithing.

Inspired by the world and the journeys recorded in the diaries, we also set off. On our "Jubilee trip" in June, we followed Fischer's footsteps all the way to England and reported on the extraordinary remains of industrial marvels in a video blog, which is available on our YouTube channel.

On September 13, the eve of Fischer's 250th birthday, the actual highlight and conclusion of the anniversary took place: Under the title "Pioneer – Citizen – Entrepreneur, 250 years of Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 – 1854)", Georg Fischer Ltd, the Naturforschende Gesellschaft Schaffhausen and the City of Schaffhausen jointly hosted a festive "birthday party". The keynote speech by Franziska Eggmann took the audience on a journey through Fischer's fascinating life. This was followed by a panel discussion in which Andreas Müller (CEO GF), Peter Neukomm (Town President) and Iwan Stössel (Naturforschende Gesellschaft) discussed the impact of Fischer's contribution to technology, business and politics up to the present day.

Johann Conrad's descendant Andreas Fischer ringing in the jubilee (above) and happy travelers on a steam boat at the open day (below).

Jubilee 2023

Digital Edition “Travel Reports of a Pioneer”

Long before the railway made its way through Europe, Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 – 1854) was already on the move. The founder of GF and pioneer of the Industrial Revolution travelled extensively and cultivated a network of scientists, entrepreneurs and personalities throughout Europe. From his journeyman's travels to Scandinavia at the age of 19 to his last trip to London 60 years later, he covered over 30 000 kilometers and he kept a record of everything he experienced: the coronation of the last German emperor in Frankfurt, the secret steam engines of Boulton & Watt in Soho, theatre life in Paris, the monumental construction site of the Thames Tunnel and the first World Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London. He reported on his technological, artistic and social discoveries in seven journals.

To mark Fischer's 250th birthday in 2023, the Iron Library has published a freely accessible digital edition of these journals under the title “Travel Reports of a Pioneer”. For the first time, they have been translated from German into English to make these highly original testimonies to industrial change in Europe accessible to an international readership. Fischer's encounters and experiences as well as his detailed observations and trenchant commentaries on technical, economic, political and social developments are invaluable for historical research.

In around two years of research, the project team identified 2 400 people, institutions, places, events and terms. Some of this register data is explained with short descriptive

texts and images, provided with metadata and linked to standardized data and Wikipedia. The itineraries of the journeys can be followed and experienced interactively. Around 900 images provide an insight into everyday life, industry, travelling and social life in Fischer's time.

Fischer published his journals himself during his lifetime in order to share his technological findings and contribute to a scientific discussion. In this spirit and in the best scientific manner, the Iron Library decided in favor of open access and open source access. The visualization is based on images under Creative Commons license. The edition uses TEI Publisher as its technical basis. The database of the Corporate Archives, which uses the Anton system, is used to maintain the register data and the images used thanks to valuable functions such as the integration of standardized data and external links.

But see for yourself: Immerse yourself in the early days of modernity and travel with Fischer to the sites of the Industrial Revolution in the digital edition at www.johann-conradfischer.com.

A practical chart for navigators: the soundings, distances and coasts defining the Pas de Calais.



Jubilee 2023

Jubilee Trip “On the Trail of Johann Conrad Fischer in England”

Are the foundations of the Crystal Palace still to be seen? Is it still possible to use the 1843 Thames Tunnel, cross the Black Country by steam engine, or visit a foundry in Sheffield? While working on Johann Conrad Fischer's diaries, we were driven by numerous questions. The world he described fascinated us. We decided to look for the answers on site and with our own eyes. So off we went to England!

Fischer wrote his journals not just as an aide-mémoire of his experiences but also as a means of communicating to his peers the industrial innovations and technological marvels that he observed along the way. We followed in Fischer's footsteps, visited highlights from his journals and inspected the remains of the sights. However, we did not document our impressions with pencil on paper, but with a mobile phone camera and laptop. In the spirit of Fischer, we chose a contemporary form of "journal": a video blog.

After careful planning, the journey began in Zurich on June 12, with the day's destination as London by train. The first stop was Paris to take in the Place Vendôme and see Napoleon's bas relief column about which Fischer wrote so admiringly. From then on, the journey continued via Eurostar to London, where we filmed in the corridor before the rush of the tunnel made white noise of the video's soundtrack. This was followed by eleven days full of "action!" on forays through London, interspersed with excursions to the in-

dustrial north. The itineraries and daily routines were as Fischer himself would have known them. The only difference was that no wealthy industrialists awaited us for factory tours or family tea parties. Instead, we were busy with scripts, locations, filming and post-production for the daily video blogs on YouTube.

Our travels took in Woolwich and the still-standing brass foundry where Fischer's father worked, the City, to see what remained of his Shoe Lane residence, the shaft of the Thames tunnel built by Brunel and, as a highlight, Michael Faraday's laboratory, a place to which Fischer was invited to test the properties of his alloys. In Leeds we saw the Gott Mansion (now golf course) and Armley Mills, owned by Fischer's friends, as well as the remains of the steel works he visited in Sheffield. In Birmingham we saw the same steam engine that is recorded in the journals, before meeting colleagues at GF's fabrication center in Coventry. After around 3 000 kilometers on 78 different trains, buses, taxis or by foot, we arrived back in Switzerland on June 22.

It was a great privilege to have been able to take this trip. Indeed, there was far too much to even summarize here. See for yourself on the Iron Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@ironlibrary.

Setting up to film at the Prince Albert memorial. We travelled light and filmed only using mobile phones.



Events

History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library

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

On November 17 and 18, 2023, the Iron Library hosted its 43rd History of Technology Conference. Around 50 participants from Europe and the USA made their way to Klostergut Paradies to discuss the role of quality and safety requirements in the history of technical developments.

In keeping with tradition, many of the guests gathered in the Rathauslaube on Thursday evening for a public lecture organized in collaboration with the Schaffhausen Vortragsgemeinschaft. Frank Dittmann's presentation on electricity and safety sparked a lively discussion that continued on to the reception in the Hotel Kronenhof.

On Friday morning, Georg Neuschütz, Vice President Business Development at GF Casting Solutions and board member of the Iron Library, welcomed the guests to the Klostergut and officially opened the conference.

Over the next two days, 14 speakers gave presentations on the many ways in which the seemingly abstract or modern concepts of safety and quality have played a role in technical development over many centuries: from the testing of technologies at the Saxon electoral court in the 16th century (Marius Mutz) to the development of functional prostheses during the First World War (Sybilla Nikolow) and the safety considerations in the Franco-

Several days of fascinating exchanges, including a tour of the GF Casting Solutions test laboratory.

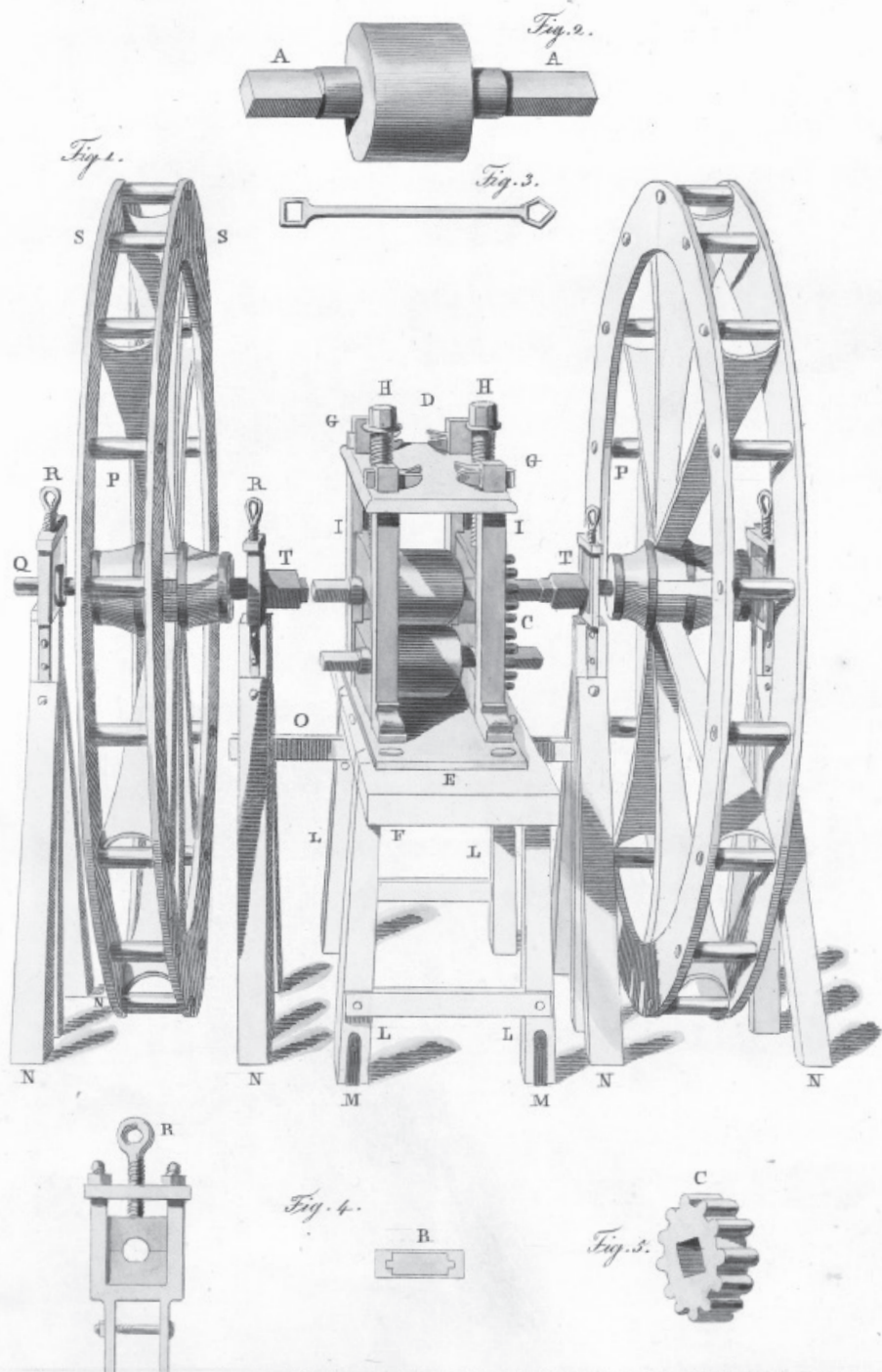
British co-operation in the development of the Concorde (Guillaume de Syon). Sandra Schiller-Mauz from GF Piping Systems gave an insight into the role that safety plays in industrial product development in a global manufacturing company.

The excursion led to the newly renovated GF headquarters, where the guests were able to take a look behind the scenes of the GF Casting Solutions test laboratory and gain an insight into the Corporate Archives.

Change in the Scientific Advisory Board

The conference dinner took place in the Pavillon im Park. In this festive setting, Friedrich Steinle was bid farewell as a member of the conference's Scientific Advisory Board – a role he had performed with great dedication for thirteen years. His successor on the advisory board is Matthias Heymann, Professor at the University of Aarhus, who played an active role in the conference with his summarizing remarks. Together with Gisela Hürlimann (TU Dresden) and Marcus Popplow (KIT Karlsruhe), the other members of the advisory board, he will help shape the content of the next conference.

The participants are now hard at work on their articles, which are due to be published later in 2024 in the 93rd issue of Ferrum, the Iron Library's journal.



Research

Scholar in Residence program, digitization and publications

The Scholar in Residence program is an invitation to researchers to engage intensively with the rich holdings of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives of GF. In the reporting year, we welcomed Karin Priem, Melanie Mock and Andrea Keller.

Following her first visit in 2022, Karin Priem returned to the Library and archives in spring and November 2023. A professor at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, her research focuses on the mediatization of social change and industrial leadership after the Second World War. Karin focuses on the question of how photography was used to promote socio-educational reform and to shape identities. During her visit this year, she immersed herself in the archive's extensive photo collections, which provided her with a comprehensive and nuanced basis for her work.

In the autumn, Melanie Mock, scenographer and communicator, and her colleague Andrea Keller, author, researched the library's holdings as part of the preparations for a special staged tour of the 125-year-old Winterthur nail factory. Their time at the Library was spent gaining insights into the self-image and global approach of local industrial pioneers at the time of the Winterthur factory's founding.

Digitization and publications

Digitization has been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. In line with the principles of Open GLAM

(GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) we are committed to making more resources available online. As of December 31, 2023, the digital publications included 176 e-books, 1 562 digitized volumes with 149 410 pages, and 9 725 digitized photographs. Of the newly digitized volumes, 15 were part of the Library's continued participation in the e-rara project, and include Giuseppe Valadier's seminal work "L'architettura pratica" and its beautifully hand-colored books of plates.

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:

- Jochen Hesse: Jakob Egli (1812 – 1880) – ein Wandermaler aus dem Zürcher Weinland. In: Schaffhauser Beiträge zur Geschichte Bd 95 (2023) p. 9 – 52.
- Travel Reports of a Pioneer: Digital edition of the travel journals of Johann Conrad Fischer 1794 – 1851. Published by Franziska Eggmann. Edited by Franziska Eggmann, Nicolau Lutz, Valerija Rukavina and Christopher Zoller-Blundell. Schlatt 2023, Version 1.2, <https://johannconradfischer.com>
- Juraj Spiritza: Zvony a zvonolejárstvo na Slovensku. [Bells and Bell Foundries of Slovakia]. Bratislava 2023.
- Pascal Tschudi: AtlaSH Schaffhauser Kartengeschichten. Schaffhausen 2023.

Newly digitized and available on e-rara:
a metal roller in "L'Architettura Pratica"
by Giuseppe Valadier.

HERMANN KIEHNE
KUNSTSTATT CÖLN



Wiedergewinnung

von flüchtigen Lösungsmitteln

wie Benzin, Benzol, Aether, Alkohol, Aceton, u.s.w.

FRANZ HERRMANN ^{AM} _{BM} CÖLN-BAYENTHAL

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 in Switzerland and interlibrary loan requests from other libraries. Altogether 397 media were lent in the year under review. The popular Iron Library Book Table once again visited colleagues in Schaffhausen before Christmas, while loans continued to be sent out and returned with regularity through the internal mail. Colleagues worldwide meanwhile have continued to take advantage of access to the Springer Professional digital library of over 120 000 e-books and 500 current journals, for which there are now 952 regular users.

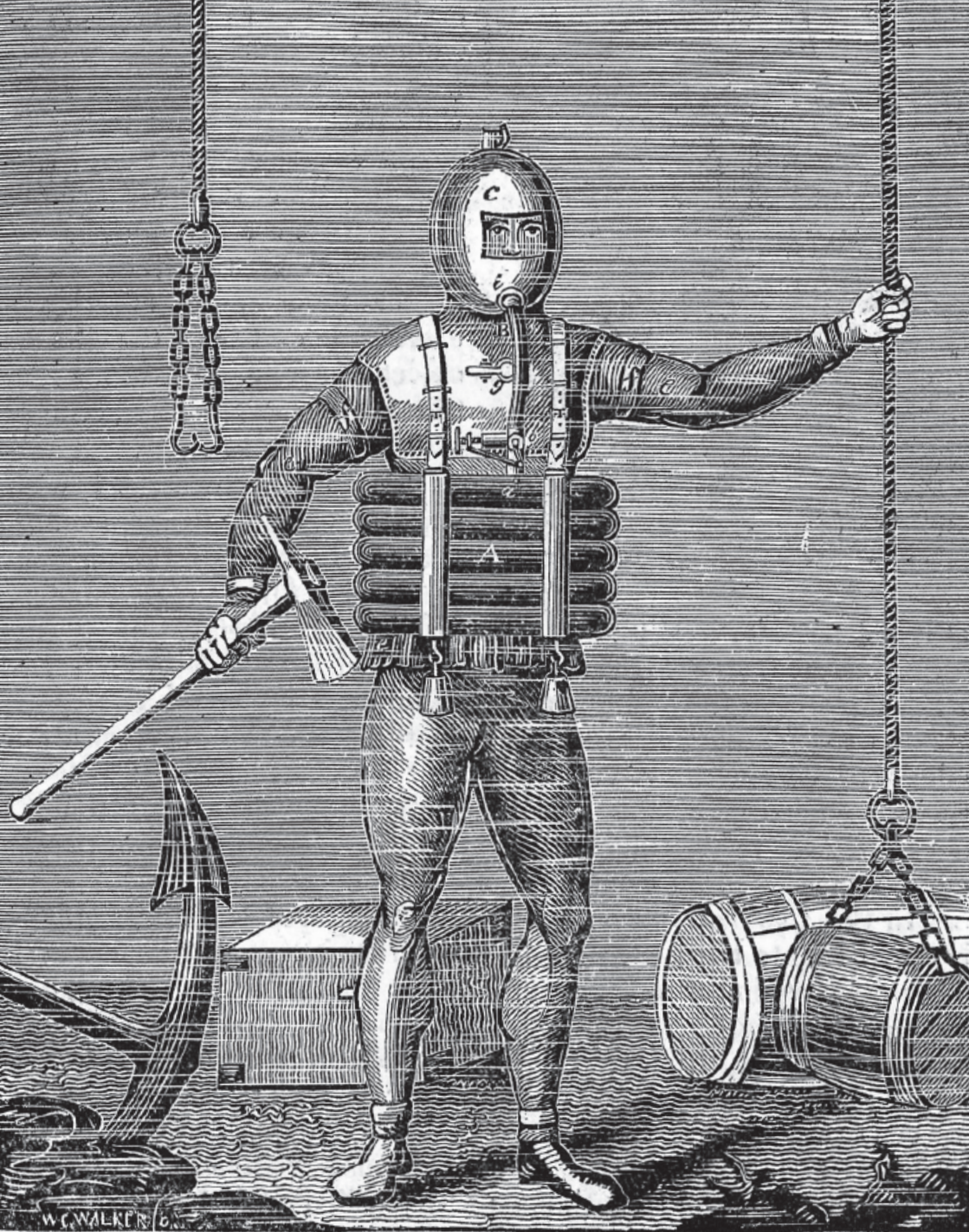
The Library received 119 inquiries in the past year. These ranged from enquiries about particular works in the collection, such as the earliest book detailing the research of Nicola Tesla, to complex research questions, covering topics ranging from the earliest plastics used in industry, alchemy, or industrial sites as tourist attractions. These questions about literature that is available only in the Iron Library reached us from as far away as Ontario in Canada. In 2023, 16 users worked in the reading room on 42 days. Most users remained for a day, while scholars in Residence stayed for several weeks. The holdings were also used extensively by the Iron Library team for images and definitions that are now to be found in the digital edition of Johann Conrad Fischer's travel journals.

Over the course of 2023, the Library continued to grow. It purchased 214 items (books and periodicals) and received 436 items as

bequests or exchanges. Several bequests were made. Langfeld AG of Frauenfeld, Switzerland, donated further works on metal in construction. Later in the year a further donation arrived from Dr. Bernhard Droste of Teltow, Germany. The donation comprised numerous books and research papers about materials sciences and testing from his time as the director of the Bundesamt für Materialprüfung.

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 December 31, 2023, the catalog of the Iron Library contained 38 114 books, 1 181 periodicals, 9 885 articles, and 134 online resources.

In high demand: The plastics industry advertizes its specialized services in the journal "Kunststoffe".



JAMES'S PATENT DIVING APPARATUS.

Library

A showpiece from the new acquisitions

“Register of The Arts and Sciences, Improvements & Discoveries, containing a correct account of several hundred of the most important and interesting inventions, discoveries and processes, illustrated with upwards of one hundred engravings” edited by G. Hebert (London: G. Hebert of Cheapside, 1823–1827)

In turbulent and fast paced times, how does one establish a name for oneself as an inventor or scientist, particularly in the field of engineering? For an inventor working in the 1820s one answer could have been to take out a patent or caveat. However, for many this was not enough, as it was only with investment that an idea on paper could have the hope of being translated into commercial success. As such, the early decades of the 19th century saw the founding of new magazines to drum up the attention that brought financing. Among these publications, all conveniently printed in coat pocket-sized octavo, were “Mechanics Magazine” (Iron Library Per 254) and the “Register of The Arts and Sciences”. The complete run of the latter of these, published biweekly from 1823 to 1827, is now to be found in the collection of the Iron Library.

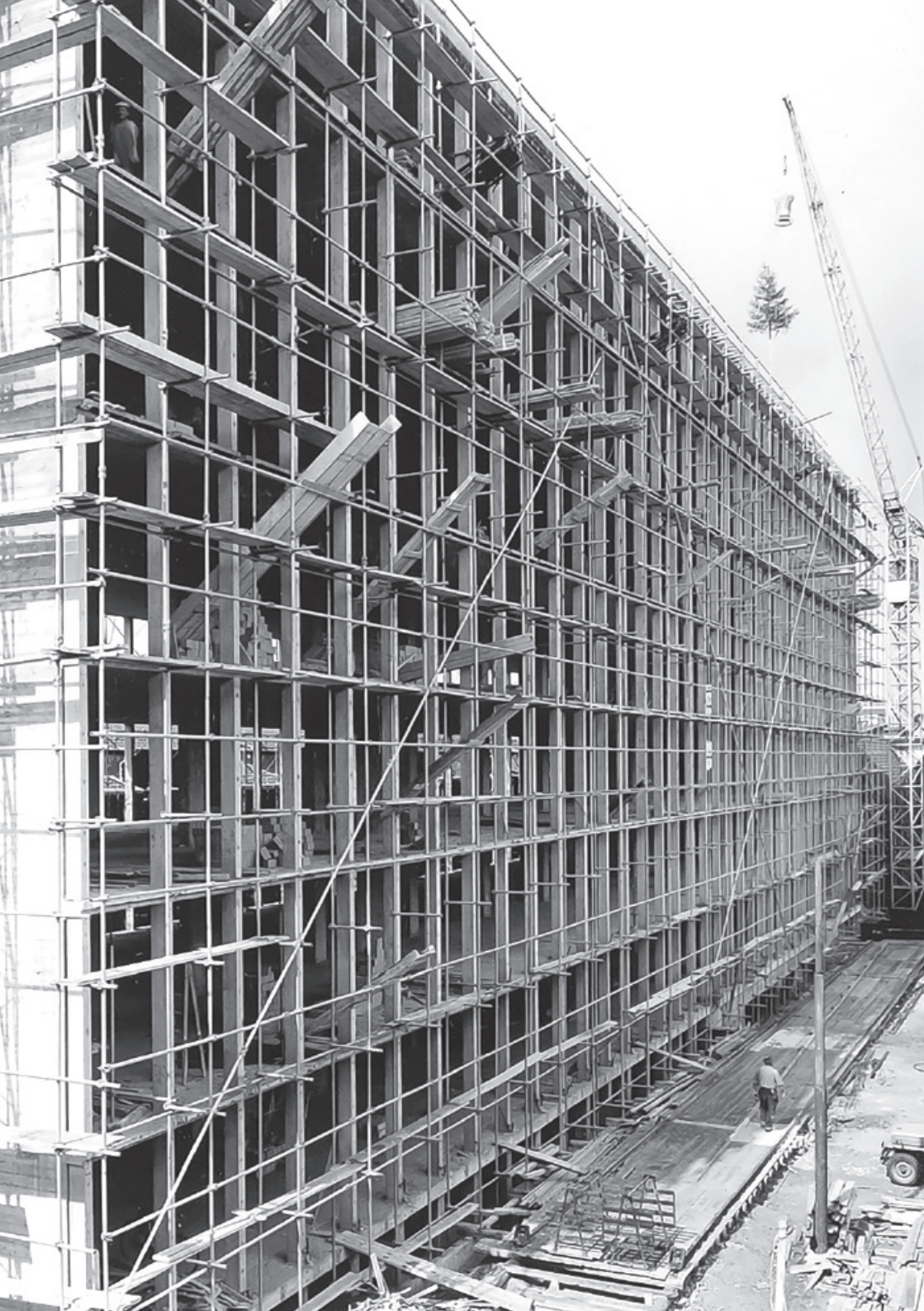
The convenience of magazines of its type for advertising new ideas from established as well as aspiring industrialists, meant that in very little time they had become part of the required reading for all who held influence over business and industry in what statesman Benjamin Disraeli later termed the “Workshop

of the World”. Indeed, while he was visiting London in 1827, GF’s founder Johann Conrad Fischer bought himself a stack of issues of the Register too.

The Register was dedicated to the specifications of patented inventions, technical descriptions of engineering innovations, and commentaries upon the practical scientific applications of discoveries amidst the unprecedented manufacturing feats of the Industrial Revolution. The publication’s interests were by no means limited to steam engines and their components, however. Alongside suggestions for the improvement of railway infrastructure, urban planning, sewers, and chemical apparatus are to be found tracts against the treadmill as physical punishment, designs for a diving suit, and reports on experiments for ensuring the vivid greenness of vegetables.

Its plurality of interests at a time when other journals were specializing, means that it counts among the last of the publications targeted at the polymaths who had dominated and shaped science and technology in the preceding century. It highlights the tremendous breadth of the Industrial Revolution as an epoch of multiple revolutions in manifold fields, many of them new, and a time since which the pace of technology’s change and development has never slowed.

Astoundingly modern yet designed in the 1820s:
James’s Patent Diving Apparatus in the Register.



Corporate Archives

Use, queries, new accessions and indexing

What was the RAL number of the green paint on the old EDM machines from AGIE? Are there any documents on Spanish foreign workers in Schaffhausen? Who was the most famous VIP visitor in the history of the company? How and from when did GF's foreign business in Finland develop?

The requests to the GF Corporate Archives are as varied as the company's more than two hundred years of complex and intricate history - and occasionally present the Iron Library team with major challenges. The archive is open to both GF employees and external persons, and the service is actively used by both sides. 148 archive inquiries (84 internal, 64 external) required some time-consuming research by the archive team in the reporting year. 11 users (3 internal, 8 external) visited the archives on 22 days.

One regular user of the archive is GF's real estate department, which repeatedly consults the historical plans of the factory buildings on the Ebnat for conversion and renovation projects. Two inquiries in connection with renovations also came from abroad: a listed public building in Karlsruhe was clad with GF aluminum façade elements in the 1960s, which now need to be replaced. And in a private house in Amsterdam, the architects discovered GF cast-temperature fittings from the 19th century that were still in use in the sanitary installations. The archive provided a wealth of information and sources to GF's

communications department for use in the employee magazine, in company presentations or on social media, such as the details of GF's IPO 120 years ago on November 5, 1903.

Over the past two years, the Corporate Archives have dealt with numerous and very extensive consignments in preparation for renovations and new buildings at various GF locations. After this twofold tour de force, the year under review remained quiet and manageable in the area of archiving. Only the annual deliveries of the minutes of the Corporate Executive Committee and Board of Directors as well as the corporate publications, employee magazines and employee information were taken over by the archive team and entered directly into the archive database.

Further indexing focused on the history of AGIE in Losone and Charmilles Technologies in Geneva, two pioneers in EDM technology and now subsidiaries of GF Machining Solutions. Six deliveries of files dating back to the 1950s were merged into a new collection.

In total, around 36 linear meters or just under 3000 indexing units were indexed in the reporting year. On December 31, 2023, the archive database contained 131 769 indexing units.

Then being newly built in 1961 and in 2023 renovated for the future: the GF Corporate Headquarters on Ebnat.



The team of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives (left to right): Jörg Spinatsch, Barbara Zanetti, Franziska Eggimann, Christopher Zoller-Blundell, Viviane Mee, Niklaus Müller.

Participation in events

- June 2023: SGG/SAGW conference "Editionsförderung im 21. Jahrhundert", Bern (FE)
- September 2023: VSA symposium "Archives in Context", Sarnen (FE)
- September 2023: ICA/SBA conference "Engaging with our audiences", Edinburgh (FE)
- October 2023: Autumn Meeting of the Lake Constance Libraries, Konstanz (CZB)

Personnel

The core team of the library and archives comprises three employees who share 2.4 FTEs: Franziska Eggimann, Managing Director of the Iron Library Foundation, is also responsible for the GF Corporate Archives. Academic librarian Christopher Zoller-Blundell is responsible for the specialist aspects of the Iron Library. There was a change in the administration department in the reporting year: Pauline Zade left the Kloostergut Paradies in summer 2023 after seven years. She was succeeded by Barbara Zanetti on August 1, 2023, who completes the core team as a new colleague.

Two familiar faces returned for the scientific collaboration as part of the extensive anniversary project: Valerija Rukavina and Nicolau Lutz had previously supported the team as an intern and "Zivi" respectively. Flavia Spescha was replaced by new interns Niklaus Müller and Jörg Spinatsch at the beginning of November 2023. Vivian Mee also spent six months helping to clear cataloging backlogs in the Corporate Archives. For several years now, the Iron Library has offered the opportunity to do civilian service assignments. In the reporting year, Lorenzo Persi provided valuable assistance in the Iron Library as a "Zivi".

Involvement in committees/working groups

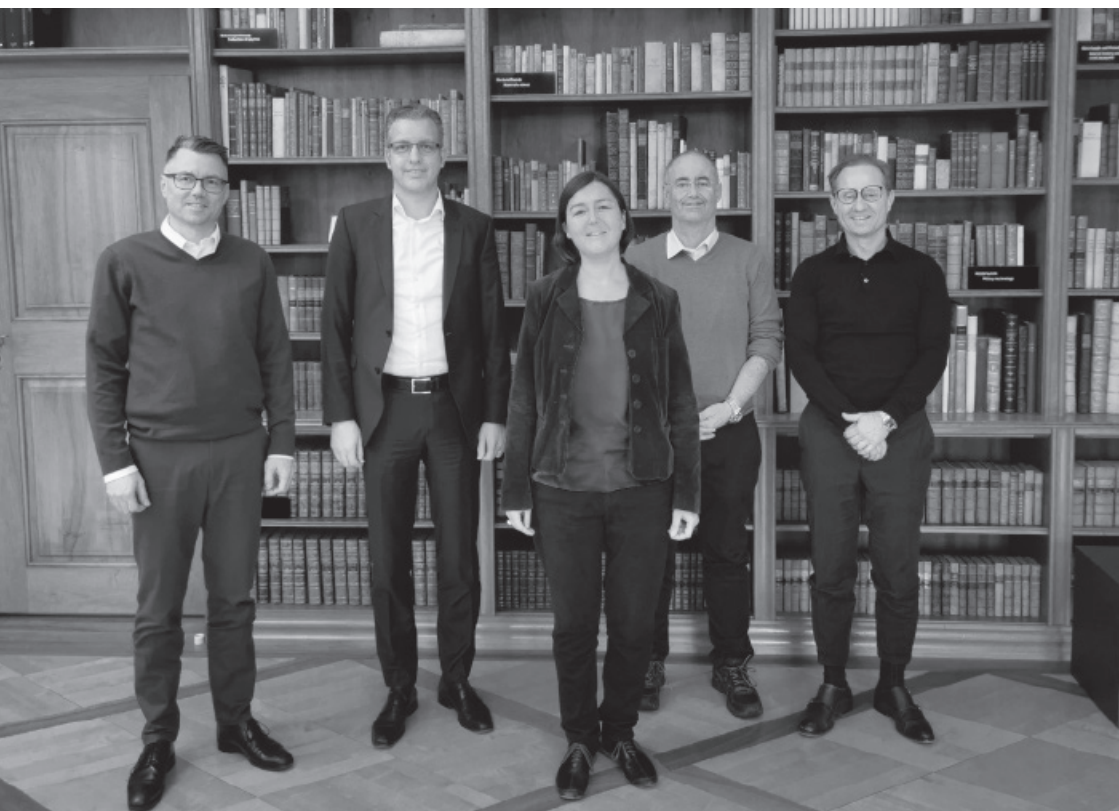
- Curatorium of the Deutsches Museum in Munich (FE)
- Education Committee of the Association of Swiss Archivists VSA (FE)
- Board member Schaffhausen Museum Association (FE)
- GLAM Wiki Switzerland (FE)
- OPL-Kreis (One Person Libraries) Bodensee (CZB)
- Bibliosuisse Old Prints Working Group (CZB)

Involvement in events

- March, June, September, November 2023: Induction for new employees, history of GF, Schaffhausen (FE unit)
- March 2023: "Grosse Werke der wissenschaftlichen Revolution in der Eisenbibliothek", Kulturhaus Obere Stube, Stein am Rhein (presentation FE/CZB)
- June 2023: e-editions Community Meeting "Travel by mouse click: the digital edition of the travel journals of Johann Conrad Fischer 1794-1851", online (presentation FE)
- June 2023: Technikgeschichte über Mittag "Reisen per Mausclick: die digitale Edition der Reisetagebücher Johann Conrad Fischers (1773–1854)", online (Unit FE)
- September 2023: Jubilee event 250 Jahre Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 – 1854)", Schaffhausen (presentation FE)
- November 2023: Corporate Management Training CMT, "GF History & Innovation", Kloostergut Paradies (presentation FE)

Ongoing training

- January-August 2023: PLP Professional Leader Program, Kloostergut Paradies (FE)
- May 2023: AAA Staff Representation Fundamentals Seminar, Sarnen (CZB)
- June 2023: First aid course and defibrillator training, Kloostergut Paradies (Team)
- October 2023: GF Talent Campus, Kloostergut Paradies (FE)
- October 2023: E-Book Cataloguing, online (CZB)



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

Organization of the Foundation

The Board of Trustees consists of public figures from the world of business, science, research, culture and partner institutions, in particular universities, libraries and museums in Switzerland and elsewhere. The supervisory obligation is entrusted to a five-member Governing Board made up of representatives of the Corporation and the GF divisions.

Finances

The operating expenses of the Iron Library, which come to about CHF 600 000 per annum, are covered by an annual contribution from Georg Fischer Ltd to the Iron Library Foundation and by compensation for services rendered to the Corporation. The Corporate Archives have a separate cost center within GF.

Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees Members as per 1.1.2024

- Andreas Müller, Chairman
CEO Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen,
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Director Library, Deutsches Museum,
Munich, Germany
- Dr. Roland E. Hofer
State Archivist and Head of Department
for Cultural Promotion Canton of
Schaffhausen, Switzerland

Governing Board Members as per 1.1.2024

- Dr. Roland Gröbli, Chairman
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd,
Schaffhausen
- Stefan Dahl
Chief Operating Officer, GF Machining
Solutions, Biel
- Georg Neuschütz
Vice President Business Development,
GF Casting Solutions, Schaffhausen
- Noel Schreiber
Head Human Resources, GF Piping
Systems, Schaffhausen

Overview and statistics

Library

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
Literature on the history of iron, steel and plastics as well as on the history of technology shelved according to a classification system developed by the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Books/monographs - Journals and periodicals - Company publications and product catalogs - Articles and offprints - Separately listed collections and bequests - Digital resources 	Around 48 000 records	13th century to the present

Archives

Contents:	Form:	Scope:	Period:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fischer family bequest - Management and administration files of Georg Fischer Ltd and divisions - Files of corporate subsidiaries and holdings in Switzerland and elsewhere - Photographic and film archives - Collection of objects - Art collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative documents - Project documentation - Correspondence - Promotional material - Minutes - Patents - Objects - Photographs - Films - Building plans etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 130 000 records - More than 1 800 linear meters - Approx. 2 900 objects in the archive holdings - Approx. 1 000 objects in the art collection 	16th century to the present

Use of Library/Archives	2023	2022	2021	2020
Library users – persons (days)	16 (42)	19 (55)	14 (42)	18 (30)
Archive users – persons (days)	11 (22)	24 (41)	20 (28)	19 (27)
Library inquiries	119	145	113	63
Archive inquiries	148	125	154	155
Library items lent	397	341	275	253
Archive holdings	2023	2022	2021	2020
Accessions	5 Lin. m	112 Lin. m	287 Lin. m	31 Lin. m
Holdings indexed	1 171 Lin. m	1 147 Lin. m	1 094 Lin. m	1 013 Lin. m
Holdings not indexed	583 Lin. m	619 Lin. m	597 Lin. m	408 Lin. m
Indexing	36 Lin. m	53 Lin. m	81 Lin. m	101 Lin. m
Records in the catalog	131 769	128 991	121 570	114 144
Media in the catalog	84 956	83 350	82 635	78 080
Library holdings	2023	2022	2021	2020
New acquisitions – purchases	214	186	223	321
New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges	436	772	542	683
Catalog entries books – titles	37 437	36 866	36 688	36 321
Catalog entries books – copies	38 114	37 534	37 356	37 025
Catalog entries offprints, etc.	9 885	9 885	9 885	9 884
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	1 181	1 178	1 173	1 166
Current periodicals and series	64	64	64	64
Catalog entries online resources	134	134	134	134
Digital offerings	2023	2022	2021	2020
E-books	176	167	154	125
Digitized books	1 562	1 392	1 309	1 239
Digitized pages	149 410	131 608	117 333	104 056
Digitized photographs	9 725	9 725	9 725	8 250
Guided tours	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total no. of visitors	1 654	646	464	323
Total no. of tours	128	84	69	44
Tours for GF guests	63	41	40	23
Tours for external guests	65	43	29	21
Ø no. persons per tour	13	8	7	7

Useful information

Services

- Guided tours of the historical premises of the Iron Library
- Use of the Library and Archive holdings on site
- Advice to users and replies to inquiries
- Public reading room with several workplaces, Wi-Fi internet access
- Lending of Library holdings for GF employees
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and SLSP
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings
- Subscription to FERRUM free of charge

Digital services

- IRONCAT: library catalogue (<http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/>)
- ANTON: archive catalogue (www.archives.georgfischer.com)
- IRONBOOK: e-book portal (requires login)
- FERRUM available digitally on e-periodica (www.e-periodica.ch)
- Selected manuscripts available digitally on e-codices (www.e-codices.unifr.ch)
- Selected old printed matter available digitally on e-rara (www.e-rara.ch)
- Image gallery with digitized photographs (www.archives.georgfischer.com/gallery)
- GF annual reports since 1896 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)
- GF sustainability reports since 2002 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)
- Employee newspapers since 1944 (www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents)
- YouTube channel "Eisenbibliothek / Iron Library" (www.youtube.com/@ironlibrary)
- Digital Edition "Travel Reports of a Pioneer" (www.johannconradfischer.com)

Events in 2024

- April 11, 2024
Literature Festival "Erzählzeit":
Reading by Christian Haller from his novel "Sich lichtende Nebel"
- July 2024
Book Table in Schaffhausen
- December 2024
Book Table in Schaffhausen

Contact

Employees as of 1.3.2024

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Barbara Zanetti

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Nicolau Lutz

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Niklaus Müller

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Jörg Spinatsch

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eisenbibliothek@georgfischer.com
www.eisenbibliothek.ch

Opening times and directions

Monday to Friday by appointment

Travel by train:

S8 train from Schaffhausen, direction
Stein am Rhein, to Langwiesen or
Schlatt station, then 10 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
Schweiz
www.eisenbibliothek.ch

+GF+

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