

EISENBIBLIOTHEK



# Annual Report 2020

Iron Library Foundation and  
Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

# Imprint

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The photographs were taken in compliance with the COVID-19 safeguards in force at the time.



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# Preface

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to provide an account, in this Annual Report, of how we have preserved the historical and cultural heritage of GF in 2020. Challenges are there so that we can thrive on them, and the extraordinary year 2020 gave us ample opportunity to grow. The temporary state of uncertainty during the lockdown and the restricted accessibility of the Library and Archives were drivers for agility, innovation and team spirit. Even though the doors of the Iron Library were closed at times, we continued working diligently on new formats and ideas, and we are rightly proud of what we have achieved. Our digitization program, underway for some years now as part of our Open GLAM strategy, took another big step forward in 2020. By launching our own YouTube channel, we can now be found on a popular communication platform in addition to our existing digital services presence on science and research-oriented websites. The numbers show that it was a welcome idea.

But we were really only following in the footsteps of our predecessors. "Stronger than any crisis" was the title of our contribution to the special issue of the GF global employee newspaper in the summer of 2020. After all, addressing its own history comes naturally to GF and is an important part of its corporate culture. The employees of GF, which

Don't shy away from the climb - that's how the Iron Library team approached the challenge last year. In the picture, the offspring of GF staff members on a "children's holiday" in Malix, Grisons, in 1947. The view is all the more beautiful at the top.

was founded in 1802, have experienced and helped shape all four industrial revolutions since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Iron Library and the Corporate Archives are dedicated to preserving and communicating this history and these impressive achievements. Both are located in the former Klostergut Paradies convent; they report to the Corporate Secretary and are both managed by Franziska Eggimann.

## **YouTube – a new communications channel**

In August 2020, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives uploaded their first films to YouTube. Responding to topical challenges, we focused in the first three videos on how GF dealt with crises in the past and we highlighted the traces that historical pandemics have left in the Library's rare books collection. By the end of the year, we had produced eleven videos in-house that together have already attracted more than 2 000 viewers.

## **Digital services**

Increasingly, in line with the principles of Open GLAM (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums), we are putting not only catalogs and finding aids online but also the resources themselves. While the Iron Library works together mainly with cooperative platforms such as e-codices and e-rara for digitization, the Corporate Archives provide a growing volume of digital content directly in their own web-based archive database. In the year under review alone, our online presence grew by approximately 50 000 digitized book pages. As of 31 December 2020, the digital publications included 125 e-books, 1 239 digitized volumes with 104 056 pages, and 8 256 digitized photographs.

## Cooperation with the GF divisions

A focal point of activity in the past year was to step up cooperation with the research departments of the GF divisions. In this connection, the Library expanded its range of e-books to cover research literature not only in plastics development but also in other relevant material sciences and technologies. In the reporting year, internal and external demand for programs that convey the history and cultural heritage of GF continued to grow.

### Iron Library

In 2020 the Library purchased a total of 321 volumes (books) and we received 683 volumes as bequests or exchanges. In addition, the Iron Library subscribes to 64 current journals and series. Thanks to three major bequests totaling 430 titles, the holdings in plastics literature took a big step forward, growing by about 45% compared with the end of 2019 (970 titles). We also used the imposed quieter periods for cleaning up the databases, cataloguing holdings that had not yet been catalogued, upkeep of books in the stacks, and further work to preserve and maintain the Library's holdings.

### 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, we processed 155 archive inquiries (74 internal and 81 external), some requiring extensive research by the archive team. 19 users (9 internal and 10 external) also consulted the archives on site. All told, we indexed over 100 linear meters of documents, or close to 12 000 descriptive units. As of 31 December 2020, the archive database contained 114 144 descriptive units.

## Networking

GF has always been remarkably frank and approachable in preserving its cultural heritage. This also means that gaining access to the resources of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives is made as easy as possible for those involved researching the history of technology and economics. The Scholar in Residence program, which enables scientists from around the world to engage exhaustively with the holdings of the Library and the Archives, is part and parcel of this tradition. In the year under review, one Scholar in Residence from Belgium and two Wikipedians from Germany availed themselves of the opportunity of a lengthy research visit at Klostergut Paradies.

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, furthermore, members of over 30 institutions and associations. These connections are very useful for the exchange of ideas and know-how.

## Personnel

The death of Susanne Nendel following a prolonged illness in April last year deeply saddened all of us at the Iron Library. Susanne Nendel worked for Georg Fischer Ltd for 25 years. Following her retirement in 2017, she placed her enormous knowledge of the organization and history of GF at the disposal of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives as a part-time employee. We miss her warm and even-tempered personality, and send our heartfelt condolences to her family.

## Outlook for 2021

The events for the public that we had announced with much excitement in the last

Annual Report will take place with a year's delay, either as planned or with slight modifications. In July, the Iron Library is organizing a reading as part of the "Erzählzeit" Literature Festival. To mark the European Heritage Day on 11 September 2021, together with the Schaffhausen Cultural Heritage Office, we will welcome interested visitors to the former GF steel foundry in the Mühllental.

It was intended that the 41<sup>st</sup> History of Technology Conference (TGT) would inaugurate a biennial rhythm last year; now, by way of exception, the period has lengthened to three years. The TGT will be held in November 2021 on the topic "Raw Materials: Natural Resources in History". No change will be made to the program as it was developed last year. All the speakers have confirmed that they will participate this year, reflecting the fact that both the subject and the Conference itself remain topical and attractive.

The staff of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives remain involved in the updating, expansion and maintenance of the

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, while the Corporate Archives continue to make available historical photographs in the digital photo gallery.

We will keep you informed about these projects and activities with announcements in due course either on our website or at the latest in the next Annual Report.

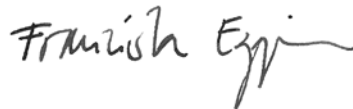
We thank all of you for your interest in the Iron Library and the historical and cultural heritage of the GF Corporation, and we look forward to being in contact with you in one way or another in the coming year.

A special word of thanks goes to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personnel and moral support it would be impossible to realize all these activities.

Schaffhausen/Schlatt, 22 February 2021



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





# Digital services

## The Iron Library on YouTube

While the doors of the Iron Library were closed, new ideas and formats were taking shape in the spring of last year. What can be done when no one knows when the public can be welcomed again at the Klostergut Paradies and the Iron Library? The time had come to realize a project that had been crystallizing in our minds for some time: local communication for a worldwide audience. In August 2020, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives uploaded their first films to YouTube. Responding to the challenges of the day, the first three videos focused on how GF dealt with crises in the past and highlighted the traces that historical pandemics have left in the Library's rare books collection.

The Iron Library team set to work equipped with a cellphone camera, a microphone, and a whole lot of enthusiasm. The aim was to produce one hundred percent homemade films – from research to script, cutting and subtitling in YouTube. These homespun clips reproduce on the viewer's screen with great authenticity the intimate atmosphere of a guided tour and the team's special know-how.

The Library and the Archives now have their own channel on this video platform where they regularly allow visitors to view the holdings and learn about the history of GF. The concept is built around short films on current topics, important or special books and ob-

jects, and interesting queries from the world of technology and industrial history.

By the end of the year, the team had produced eleven films on various topics ranging from the origin of the cross in the GF logo to the casting of the largest bell for the Vatican and the journal that gave plastics their name in German. All told, the films have already attracted more than 2 000 viewers.

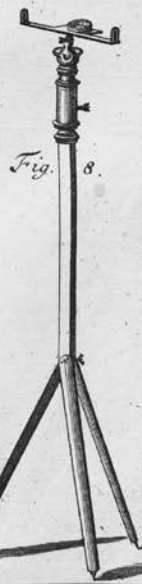
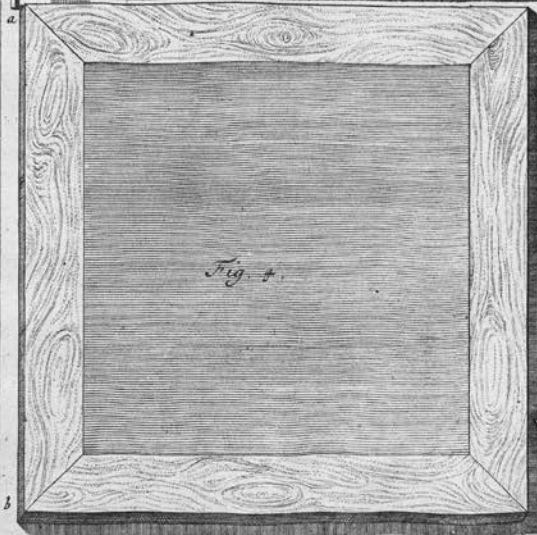
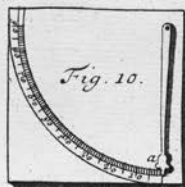
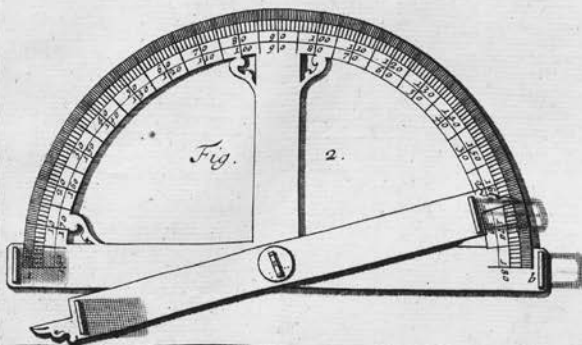
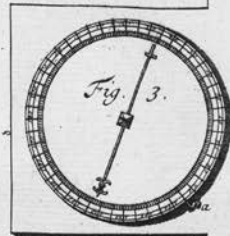
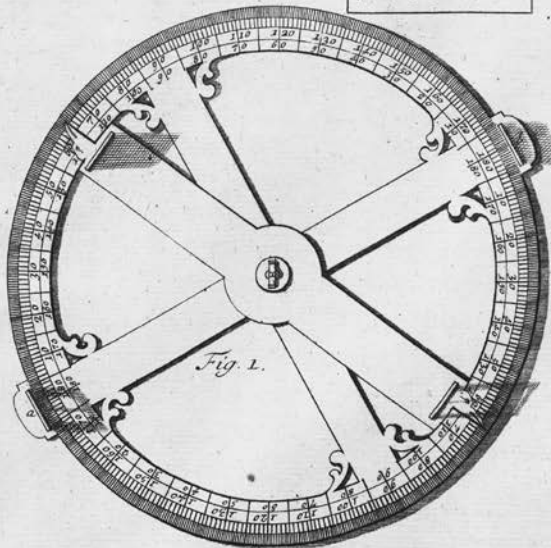
Some comments by viewers:

"Interesting, especially in these days. I'm looking forward to the next lecture!"

"Excellent video clip. The history of "GF" in a nutshell. Well explained, with humor and great sources."

"A great video with astounding content. Watch and listen!"

Roll camera! The Iron Library team is using more modest equipment today than the Swiss TV team in the 1956 film on the GF malleable iron foundry.



# Digital services

## Open GLAM

Digital services have been part of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives portfolio for many years. Increasingly, however, we are putting not only catalogs and finding aids online but also the resources themselves, in line with the principles of Open GLAM (GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). As of 31 December 2020, the digital publications included 125 e-books, 1 239 digitized volumes with 104 056 pages, and 8 256 digitized photographs.

The Corporate Archives expanded the digital content in their own archive database in the reporting year. Now that the annual reports, employee newspapers, and historical publications are available online, it was the turn of the sustainability reports that have been published since 2002: 32 reports comprising some 1 300 pages were digitized and are now accessible online and fully searchable. The timing couldn't have been better! In 2020, the Wall Street Journal included GF among the top ten of the one hundred most sustainably managed corporations in the world. This distinction acknowledges once more the efforts that GF has made to achieve its sustainability goals since it signed the ICC Charter in 1992.

Through the linking of standard data, the Archives are constantly improving the searchability of the archive database. The GF Biography Collection project was completed in the year under review. It involved entering comprehensive data for some 5 000 individ-

uals and linking the entries with Wikidata, Wikipedia, GND and Metagrid.

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

The journal "Ferrum", with the papers from the History of Technology Conference plus reports on news from the Archives and Library, is available online on the e-periodica website. This now encompasses 91 volumes from 66 years. The e-periodica website is operated by the ETH Library and makes digitized Swiss journals freely available.

The Iron Library, also in conjunction with the ETH Library, is digitizing a selection of its printed holdings and making them available on the e-rara website. The digital versions of 87 books comprising close to 25 000 pages are now available in the Library's own collection called "History of Technology and Science". The latest instalment included 19 works, including a 1547 edition of the writings of the philosopher Avicenna (980–1037) and a treatise on the mathematics of scientific instrument-making by Johann Friedrich Penther (1693–1749) published in 1738.

Example of a goniometer to be used in surveying by Johann Friedrich Penther, 1738, which can now be examined in detail on e-rara.



# Knowledge transfer/Events

## Guided tours

The guided tours of the Iron Library's rare books collection and of the Archives' photography exhibition on the history of GF and the Klostergut Paradies estate are equally popular among in-house and external visitors, and the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of GF is impressively communicated to a broad public on such occasions.

In the reporting year, tours were limited by internal and external restrictions. However, in the months during which measures were eased, the Library and the exhibition were able to welcome 323 guests on a total of 44 tours. GF colleagues from all three divisions attended tours. Visiting groups from Europe primarily came from Switzerland and Germany but also Belgium and Slovakia. Other groups welcomed on tours came from as far afield as Korea, Kuwait and even Mexico.

Of particular note was a tour for long-serving colleagues from GF, who in 2020 were celebrating 25 years (or more) with the corporation. For the first time since 1952, the Klostergut Paradies and Iron Library were the destination of the special Jubilee Trip. Among those of the visitors celebrating many years of service to GF was CEO Andreas Müller, who is also the chairman of the Iron Library Foundation.

The Museumsverein's guided tour under the motto "Women about Women" attracted not only interested female listeners, but also a wide male audience (above). For the special guests of the "Jubilarenfahrt", we even took the valuable first edition of Newton's "Principia Mathematica" in hand (below).

Special interest groups included a team from the Department of Physics at the University of Zurich, as well as the summer excursions of the teams from the Office for Cultural Heritage Conservation in Thurgau and the Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen. The latter two groups took the opportunity to tour not only the rare books library and the exhibition of GF's history in the Klostergut but also the baroque convent church and grounds of the Klostergut itself, taking in the impressive concentration of heritage found on the site.

## Special Tour: Women in Technology

In special focus this year was the too-often overlooked role of women in technology. In September, as part of the "Frauen über Frauen" (women talking about women) series of tours organized by the Museumsverein Schaffhausen, Franziska Eggimann took visitors on a walk through the history of women in science, technology and industry.

The tour included works from the holdings of the Iron Library, such as Georgius Agricola's 1556 book "De re metallica", the engravings of which depict women working in the 16<sup>th</sup> century metallurgical industry. The book first appeared in English in 1912 only through the exhaustive translation work of geologist Lou Henry Hoover together with her husband Herbert Hoover, later 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States. Also on show were photo albums from the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd, depicting in detail the vital role played by women in the casting industry during the world wars and interwar period.



A.G.  
DER EISEN v. STAHLWERKE  
VORMALS GEORG FISCHER

# Research

## Scholar in Residence program and publications

The 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, we welcomed Federica Gatto, Rudolf Böttcher and Sandra Becker.

Federica Gatto is a post-doctoral researcher at the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Her research, supported by Belgian National Fund, investigates the social and religious phenomena related to the practice of mining activities during the time of the Roman Empire, and the aim is to determine and define a “mining pantheon”, where each god is linked to their devotes by their function. Federica spent her time browsing rare volumes on ancient mining and metallurgy, through which she came to comprehend the technical needs that characterize mining activity, their evolution over time and the main methods of exploiting resources.

In September, the Library and Corporate Archives also had the pleasure hosting two Wikipedians as scholars in residence. Rudolf Böttcher, the author of over 1 900 Wikipedia articles, spent his time at the library gathering materials to produce various biographical articles, for example about the engineer John Grantham and the Polish archaeologist and metallurgist Jerzy Piaskowski. Sandra

The steel foundry, the location of the former “Plant 1” of Georg Fischer Ltd, has been developing into a new Schaffhausen city district since 2017. The striking façade, designed by Karl Moser and built in 1917, continues to define the architecture of the Mühlebühl.

Becker’s interests included the history of plastics, about which she created an article about the “Kunststoffeinband”, a type of book cover made using plastic as a material. Furthermore, she wrote an article about the Stahlgießerei, ‘Werks I’ of Georg Fischer Ltd, which since 2017 has been developed into a new district of Schaffhausen.

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:

- Die Stahlgießerei – der Film. Documentary film, Denkmalpflege Schaffhausen, 2020. (on the site of the old GF steel works in Schaffhausen)
- Franziska Eggimann: Stronger Than Any Crisis. Interactive article in Globe Special 2020, the online edition of the global magazine for GF’s employees.
- Robert Pala: Gütertransport auf dem Schaffhauser Tramnetz. In: Eisenbahn Amateur 7/2020, S. 291–299. (on cargo transport on the Schaffhausen tram network)
- Andreas Schiendorfer: 1920–2020. 100 Jahre IVS Industrie- und Wirtschafts-Vereinigung Schaffhausen. Hg. IVS Schaffhausen. Neuhausen am Rheinfall 2020. (on the centenary of the IVS Industry and Business Association Schaffhausen)
- Christopher Zoller-Blundell: Die Stiftung Eisenbibliothek der Georg Fischer AG in der Schweiz: Ein paradiesischer Ort für technikgeschichtliche Forschung. In: Stahl + Technik, 6/7 2020, S. 93–95. (profile of the Iron Library)





# 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. Altogether 253 media were lent in the year under review. While restrictions prevented the book table from visiting colleagues in Schaffhausen as in previous years, loans continued to be sent out and returned with regularity through internal mail.

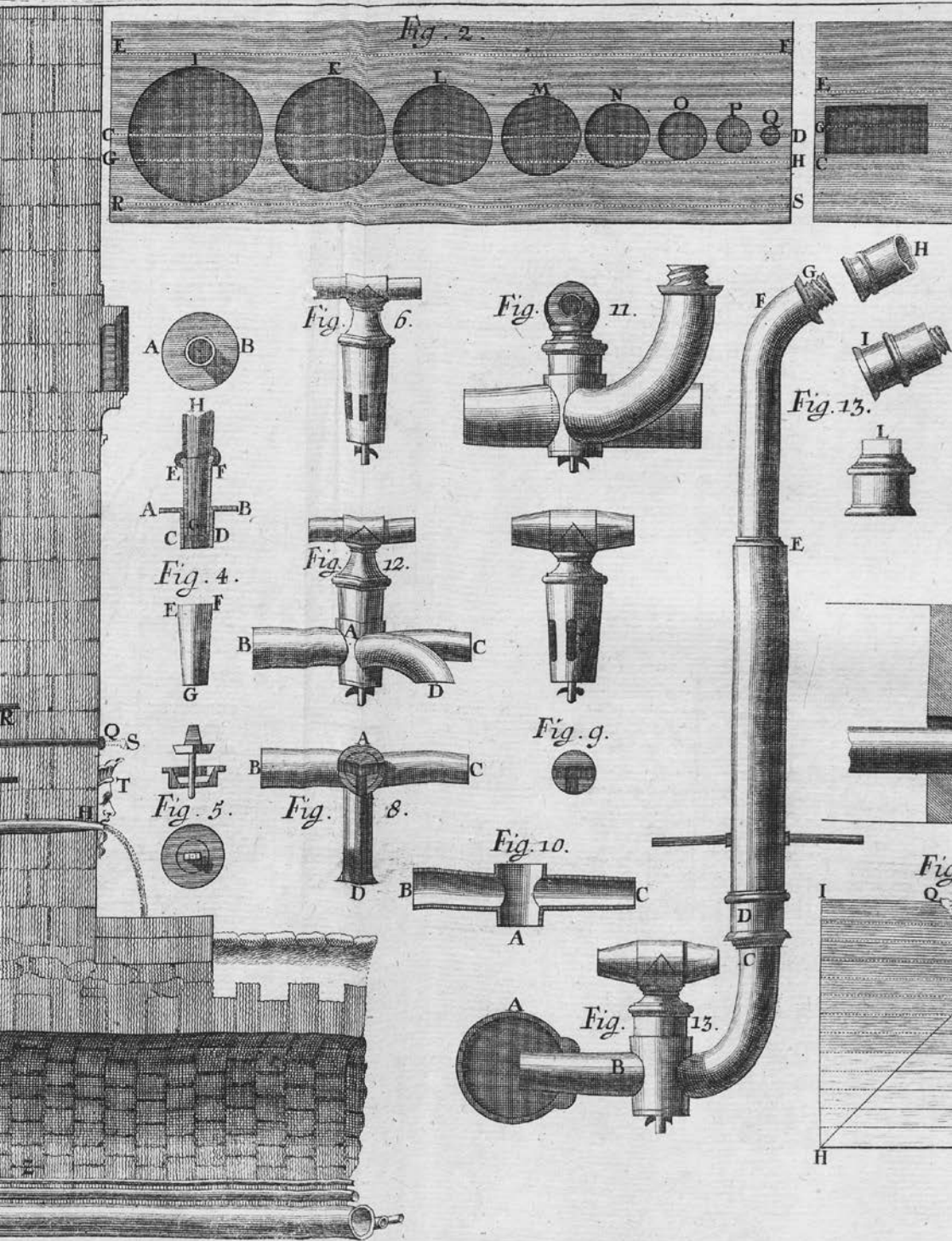
The Library received 63 inquiries in the past year. These ranged from queries about specific works in the collection to complex research questions about subjects as diverse as nickel-iron alloys or the role of hemp fibers in industrial history. The biographies of either well-known industrialists such as John Wilkinson, or figures who have dropped from view, such as the bicycle engineer Charles Challand, were also the focus of enquiries. Queries and requests about literature that is available only in the Iron Library come from all over the world. In 2020, 18 users worked in the Library's reading room on 32 days. As a rule, they used the facilities for a day; in the case of the Scholar in Residence or Wikipedians they stayed for a week.

Over the course of 2020, the Library continued to grow. It purchased 321 items (books and periodicals) and received 683 items as bequests or exchanges. Four large bequests were made. One bequest, by Dr. Bernhard Droste, former director of the Bundesanstalt

für Materialprüfung, significantly enriched the collection of works on materials testing, while donations from Tuchschnid AG, Siemens AG and Agie Charmilles Ltd. have boosted the holdings on Swiss industrial history, polymer sciences and mechanical engineering respectively.

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 to these standards. As of 31 December 2020, the catalog of the Iron Library contained 36 321 books, 1 166 periodicals, 9 884 articles, and 134 online resources.

Numerous books that have been donated to us are temporarily stored in the stacks before they are catalogued and put in their proper place.



# Library

## Cooperation with the GF divisions

While the public face of the Iron Library looks to the past and history of science and technology, it also looks at the present and future of research literature through services offered to colleagues at Georg Fischer Ltd in Switzerland and throughout the world. Any GF colleagues in need of information or specific literature need only write to the Library for assistance. If the requested literature fits with the profile of the holdings, we will acquire a copy for the holdings, and in such a way GF colleagues actively contribute to shaping the collection. Otherwise, we will organize for an interlibrary loan or digital copy through a document delivery service.

During the year under review, we received and responded to enquiries as diverse as questions about metal alloys and their chemistry, the publications of specialist researchers, and the origins of electrical discharge machining (EDM). Elsewhere, to increase the visibility of resources, the Library has continued in its project to incorporate the holdings of divisional research libraries into its catalog.

Over the course of 2020, the library has undertaken a review of its digital services for GF staff and surveyed their literature needs and requirements, so that it can better provide the corporation's researchers with the latest publications for their fields of interest. After assessing several approaches, it was decided to focus upon IRONBOOK, the

Even the fitting experts from GF Piping Systems were astounded, while on a Library tour, when they saw these technically sophisticated pipe fittings in the book "Architectura Hydraulica", by Bernard Forest de Bélidor, from 1743.

Library's in-house e-book portal, which had been running as a pilot project in cooperation with GF Piping Systems.

IRONBOOK is accessible online anywhere in the world through an individual login and offers fully licensed highly specialist reference works on industrial manufacture and the science of plastics. With highly valuable input and recommendations gathered through consultations with researchers across the Corporation's three divisions, work is now underway to expand the service beyond the subject of plastics literature and in the direction of subjects such as machine and automotive engineering.

IRONBOOK: top five most requested e-book titles:

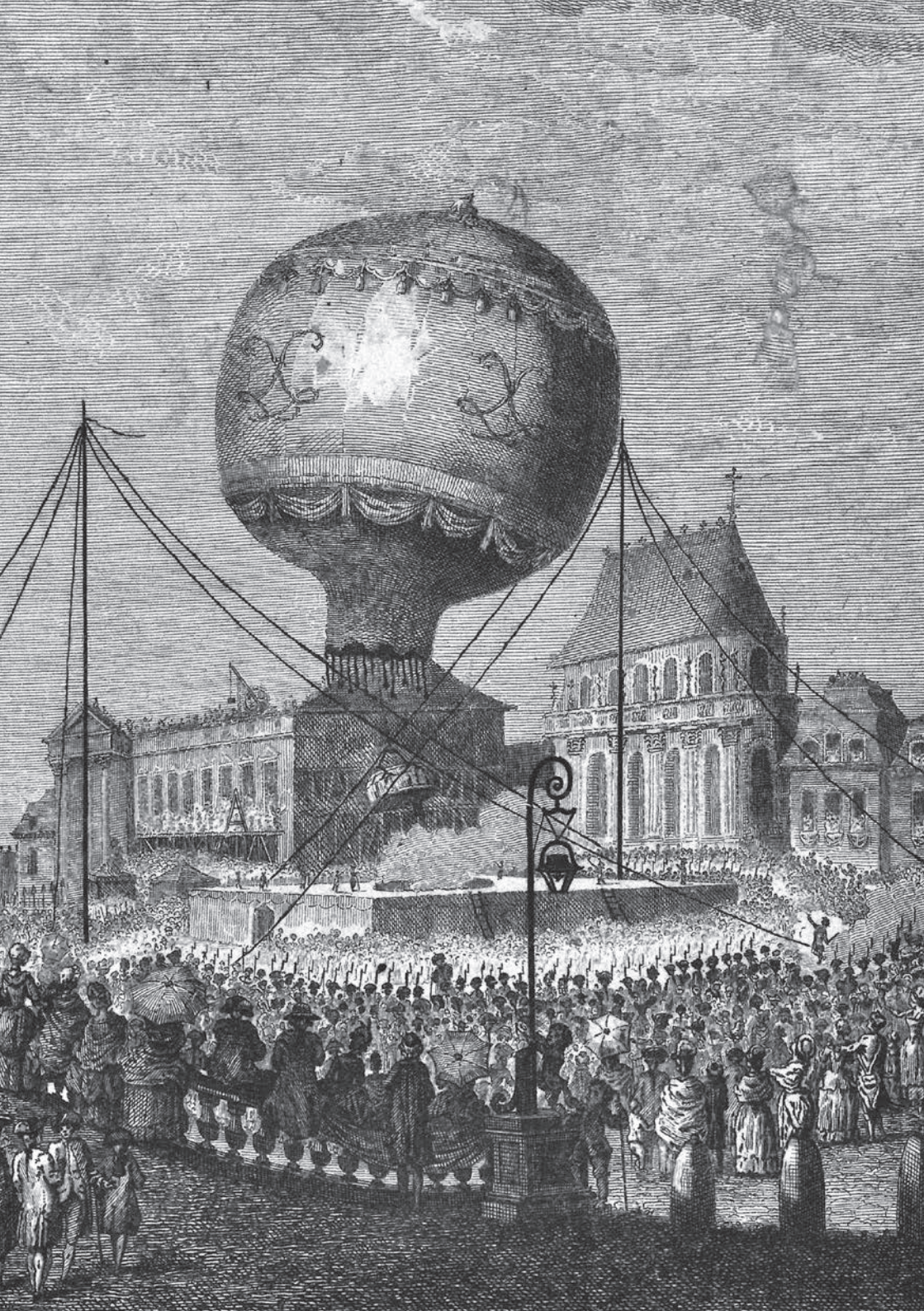
- 10 Grundregeln zur Konstruktion von Kunststoffprodukten (Hanser, 2020)
- Additive Manufacturing (Hanser, 2018)
- FEM zur Berechnung von Kunststoff- und Elastomerbauteilen (Hanser, 2019)
- Polymerwerkstoffe (Hanser, 2019)
- Verfahrenstechnik der Thermoplastextrusion (Hanser, 2019)

Latest Acquisitions:

- Biopolymere (Hanser, 2020)
- Auslegung von Anguss und Angusskanal (Hanser, 2020)
- Spritzgiessen 2020 (VDI, 2020)

Statistics:

- 40 active users (+19 since 2020)
- 14 individual logins per month average
- 125 E-Books (+41 since 2020)



# Library

## A “pièce de résistance” among the new acquisitions

**Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond: ‘Description des expériences de la machine aérostatique de MM. de Montgolfier...’ and ‘Première suite de la description des expériences aérostatiques de MM. de Montgolfier.’ (2 volumes: Paris: Cuchet, 1783 & 1784)**

This new and exciting acquisition takes our collection on the history of technology to new heights! Enclosed in the two discreet volumes are first editions of the earliest scientific treatise on the pioneering exploits of the Montgolfier brothers, whose hot air balloons are generally acknowledged as the first successful free-flying machines in history.

The story, as it goes, begins with a moment comparable to the apocryphal tale of Newton’s realization of the principles of gravity after observing an apple fall from a tree. In November 1782, Joseph-Michel Montgolfier claimed to have been sitting out in a courtyard contemplating gravity. All at once, he observed sheets billow and rise up into the air while drying on a washing line next to a fire. Thinking that this was due to a special gas in the smoke, rather than the heat, he made a device topped with a sack to capture the smoke and exploit its lifting qualities. His experiment was a success. Excitedly he wrote to his brother, Jacques-Étienne, requesting that he acquire more cloth for a larger prototype of “one of the most astonishing sights in the world.”

The first flight demonstration by the Montgolfier brothers took place in Versailles on 19 September 1783 – with a sheep, a cockerel and a duck as test pilots.

The author, Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond, is not unknown to the collection of the Iron Library. An outstanding and well-connected natural scientist, he published works on geology, mineralogy and volcanology, as well as a travelogue of his journey around Scotland. Impressed upon hearing a report of the unpiloted test of the Montgolfiers’ larger prototype – “a cloud enclosed in a sack” – at Annonay in June 1783, he contacted the brothers and became their patron, financier and chronicler.

Faujas de Saint-Fond’s two volumes were published following a demonstration at the Bois de Boulogne on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1783, where the courtiers Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and François Laurent le Vieux d’Arlandes became the first people to fly in recorded history. They are rich in detail, combining technical reviews of the balloons, descriptions and analyses of the early flights, reports of different observer perspectives and details of other theories for lighter than air flight.

The engravings are amongst the most recognizable and iconic in the history of enlightenment technology. Together, they bring an added historical depth to the Iron Library’s holdings on the history of flight technology, a large part of which has been acquired to date through closely following the work of GF Casting Solutions and GF Machining Solutions, for whom aircraft components are an area of competence.



# Corporate Archives

## Use, queries, new accessions, and indexing

The Corporate Archives are open to both employees of GF and to people outside the company. Despite restricted access at times, the facility was nevertheless well-used in the year under review. 155 archive inquiries (74 internal and 81 external) required extensive research by the archive team in many cases. 19 users (9 internal and 10 external) examined archive material on site on 27 days. The GF Piping Systems division was a frequent user of the Archives, sifting through the rich source material and photographic records as it geared up to celebrate two anniversaries. One of them was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese joint venture Chinaust in 2020 and the other the 50th anniversary of the fittings plant in Seewis, Graubünden in 2021.

The Corporate Archivist herself also undertook in-depth research for an extensive article in the GF employee magazine "Globe". Entitled "Stronger than any crisis", the article recounts how GF has coped with major economic, social and political crises throughout its history of more than 200 years.

The Sitterwerk Foundation in St. Gallen invited the Corporate Archives to document casting technology on the basis of historical instructional films issued by Georg Fischer Ltd. The film collage was part of the exhibition "HOWTO" about manufacturing processes as reflected in instructional videos. From

These three cheerful GF employees are enjoying themselves while staying at the company's holiday home "Wissliflüh" in the Swiss Alps in 1927. The social commitment of GF was the topic of an archive article in the 2020 special issue of Globe.

the countless hours of exciting film material produced at GF over the years, the Archives' team had to restrict itself to selecting a small number of video sequences illustrating processes and products.

In the area of appraisal, 20 deliveries of archive material comprising 31 linear meters were added as new accessions. The bulk of the new accessions came from the GF Machining Solutions division: on visits to the division sites in Losone and Meyrin, the Corporate Archivist sifted through holdings from the research departments, which covered in particular the early development of EDM technology. The Corporate Archives also incorporated project documentation from two milestones in GF history: the inauguration of the new Headquarters and Training Center of GF Piping Systems following intensive construction activity and the state-of-the-art Tooling Shop of GF Casting Solutions in Suzhou, China.

The task of indexing over the last year focused on three large accessions – the holdings of the former company school, the Iron Library Foundation, and Corporate Communications – which were integrated into the Archives' database. Of particular interest in this last-mentioned holding are more than 3000 Personnel Newsletters since 1974, which provide detailed information about the development and organization of the Corporation over the last 50 years. All told, about 101 linear meters, or almost 12000 descriptive units, were indexed in the year under review. As of 31 December 2020, the archive database contained 114 144 descriptive units.



The team from the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives (left to right): Pauline Zade, Giacomo Derighetti, Franziska Eggimann, Lucas Zollinger, Christopher Zoller-Blundell, Sara Penteadó



# Personnel

The death of Susanne Nendel following a prolonged illness in April last year deeply saddened all of us at the Iron Library. Susanne Nendel worked for Georg Fischer Ltd for 25 years. Following her retirement in 2017, she placed her enormous knowledge of the organization and history of GF at the disposal of the Iron Library and Corporate Archives as a part-time employee. We miss her warm and even-tempered personality.

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 Lucas Zollinger, a student employee, and Sara Penteadó, an intern. The Iron Library has for some years provided opportunities to perform civilian service. In the reporting year, Giacomo Derighetti and Fabio Bernard provided invaluable support to the Iron Library while doing their civilian service.

## **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)
- The “Alte Drucke” working group of Bibliosuisse (CZB)

## **Involvement in events**

- January, July, September and November 2020: introduction for new employees: History of GF, Schaffhausen (presentation FE)

## **Participation in events**

- February 2020: Conference on “Steering Innovation in Communication Infrastructures”, Museum for Communication, Berne (FE)
- September 2020: Conference on digital information (“Informationen – digital verpackt”) organized by the Central Library, Zurich, online (FE and CZB)
- October 2020: Annual meeting of the “Alte Drucke” working group, online (CZB)
- November 2020: Conference on cultural communication and historical disciplines (“Kulturvermittlung und Geschichtswissenschaften”) organized by infoclio, online (FE)

## **Ongoing training**

- February 2020: BSZ K10plus introductory course on cataloguing, Stuttgart (CZB)
- March 2020: Smartphone video course offered by Studio1, Zurich (FE)
- June 2020: internal workshop on archive databases, Klostersgut Paradies (entire team)
- August 2020: Introduction to the history of the Paradies Convent incl. a guided tour of the church (entire team)
- September 2020: VSA advanced training “Accession of Private Holdings – Opportunities, Risks and Side Effects”, organized by the ETH Library, Archives and Archives of Contemporary History, online (FE)



The Board of Trustees at its last physical meeting in Kloostergut Paradies in December 2019.

## Organization of the Foundation

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

## Finances

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

# The Iron Library Foundation

## **Board of Trustees**

### **Members as per 1.1.2021**

- Andreas Müller, Chairman  
CEO Georg Fischer Ltd, 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  
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Chair for History of Technology, ETH  
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- Dr. Roland E. Hofer  
State Archivist and Head of department  
for Cultural Promotion Canton of Schaff-  
hausen

## **Governing Board**

### **Members as per 1.1.2021**

- Dr. Roland Gröbli, Chairman  
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd,  
Schaffhausen
- Stefan Dahl  
Head of Operations,  
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 as well as 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> | Around 47 000 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 114 000 records</li> <li>– More than 1 400 linear meters</li> <li>– Approx. 800 objects</li> </ul> | Starting in 1693 |

| <b>Use of Library/Archives</b>         | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Library users – persons (days)         | 18 (30)      | 36 (79)     | 36          | 57          |
| Archive users – persons (days)         | 19 (27)      | 34 (70)     | 18          | 29          |
| Library inquiries                      | 63           | 61          | 89          | 85          |
| Archive inquiries                      | 155          | 145         | 104         | 116         |
| Library items lent                     | 253          | 141         | 138         | 147         |
| <b>Archive holdings</b>                | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> |
| Accessions                             | 31 Lin. m    | 93 Lin. m   | 13 Lin. m   | 44 Lin. m   |
| Holdings indexed                       | 1 013 Lin. m | 964 Lin. m  | 848 Lin. m  | 750 Lin. m  |
| Holdings not indexed                   | 408 Lin. m   | 482 Lin. m  | 396 Lin. m  | 450 Lin. m  |
| Indexing                               | 101 Lin. m   | 112 Lin. m  | 56 Lin. m   | 100 Lin. m  |
| Records in the catalog                 | 114 144      | 102 431     | 50 093      | 48 375      |
| Media in the catalog                   | 78 080       | 75 717      | 74 768      | n. a.       |
| <b>Library holdings</b>                | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> |
| New acquisitions – purchases           | 321          | 310         | 198         | 250         |
| New acquisitions – bequests, exchanges | 683          | 135         | 123         | 218         |
| Catalog entries books – titles         | 36 321       | 36 004      | 35 287      | 34 784      |
| Catalog entries books – copies         | 37 025       | 36 706      | 35 976      | 35 452      |
| Catalog entries offprints, etc.        | 9 884        | 9 884       | 9 869       | 9 861       |
| Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)      | 1 166        | 1 164       | 1 125       | 1 057       |
| Current periodicals and series         | 64           | 70          | 67          | 70          |
| Catalog entries online resources       | 134          | 134         | 134         | 117         |
| <b>Digital offerings</b>               | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> |
| E-books                                | 125          | 84          | 71          | 0           |
| Digitized books                        | 1 239        | 1 040       | 380         | n. a.       |
| Digitized pages                        | 104 056      | 55 520      | 34 016      | n. a.       |
| Digitized photographs                  | 8 250        | 8 246       | 7 853       | 0           |
| <b>Guided tours</b>                    | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> |
| Total no. of visitors                  | 323          | 1 280       | 2 155       | 1 002       |
| Total no. of tours                     | 44           | 114         | 131         | 74          |
| Tours for GF guests                    | 23           | 51          | 50          | 38          |
| Tours for external guests              | 21           | 63          | 81          | 36          |
| Ø no. persons per tour                 | 7            | 11          | 16          | 14          |

# 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 at the Schaffhausen site
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and SLSP
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings
- Subscription to FERRUM free of charge

## Digital services

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

- Digitized employee newspapers since 1944 ([www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents](http://www.archives.georgfischer.com/documents))
- YouTube channel “Eisenbibliothek/Iron Library” ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com))

## Events in 2021

July 2021

“Erzählzeit ohne Grenzen” literature festival: reading in the Iron Library

July 2021

Book table in Schaffhausen

11 September 2021

European Heritage Day “Gewusst wie” (knowing how to) in the Schaffhausen steel foundry

12–13 November 2021

History of Technology Conference “Raw Materials”

December 2021

Book table in Schaffhausen

# Contact

## Employees as of 1.3.2021

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### **Lucas Zollinger**

Student employee  
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### **Sara Penteado**

Intern  
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## Adresse

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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)