

Annual Report 2014

Iron Library Foundation
and Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd

+GF+

Imprint

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Foreword

A year of consolidation and confirmation

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

It gives us great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2014 which describes how we have preserved and fostered the historical and cultural legacy at GF. The main bodies involved in this task are the Iron Library Foundation and the Corporate Archives. Located in the former Clarissan convent Klostergut Paradies, they report to the Corporate Secretary and are managed by Franziska Eggimann.

Personnel matters

In the year under review, five new members joined the Board of Trustees of the Iron Library Foundation. At the same time, three long-serving members retired on reaching the retirement age. One member of the Governing Board stepped down. We thank these members for their many years of service and welcome the new members of the Board of Trustees.

Plastics: a new collection focus at the Iron Library

The Iron Library is a prominent player among the world's scientific and technical libraries. Some 40,000 publications focusing on iron are available to readers at Klostergut Paradies.

On the set:
the film on the Iron Library in the making.

At its biennial meeting, the Board of Trustees decided to expand the Library beyond its traditional collection focus and actively begin to "acquire and collect historical and current literature in the field (...) of modern engineering materials such as plastics and polymer solids." With this step, the Iron Library takes account of the fact that Georg Fischer has been working with plastics for almost 60 years and that GF Piping Systems is GF's largest division in terms of sales.

Disseminating knowledge on site and virtually

In 2014, the Iron Library welcomed more than 1'100 visitors (previous year: 705) from some 20 different countries. This large increase was due in good measure to a workshop held in spring 2014 at which, with the support of an external consultant, we revised the visitor concept for tours of the Library's historical rooms. Our aim is to stabilize the annual number of visitors at around a thousand so that we can give appropriate attention to the Library's other tasks.

While preserving, imparting and disseminating knowledge remains a central undertaking, the Iron Library is increasingly also present on the Internet. The 13th century manuscript containing works by Aristotle and Albertus Magnus has been available online since 2006; in 2008 the Library joined the online catalog of the Southwestern German Library Network (SWB); and, starting in 2014,

all the articles in our scientific journal, Ferrum, can be downloaded from the online platform of the ETH library retro.seals.ch. This is the best gift for the 60th anniversary of Ferrum that we could imagine in 2014.

After a one-year interruption, last July and December the Library team reactivated the book tables for internal lending at the Schaffhausen site and now the Singen site too, and the response was very positive.

37th Conference on the History of Technology "Products and Product Innovations"

Some 60 researchers from Switzerland and abroad participated in the 37th Conference on the History of Technology. The Conference topic – Products and Product Innovations – is currently of very great significance; it was addressed in three subject areas from a variety of different approaches.

The Conference was managed by the Scientific Advisory Board: Prof. Friedrich Steinle (Technical University Berlin), Prof. Reinhold Reith (University of Salzburg), and Kilian T. Elsasser (Museumsfabrik Lucerne). They were responsible for the overall idea input and for the selection and support of the speakers. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for their excellent work.

Corporate Archives: an industrial archive of national importance

The Georg Fischer Corporate Archives, a corporate archive of national significance, has holdings of more than 1,000 linear meters. The oldest records in the Archive go back to the 18th century.

In the year under review, work started on transferring the holdings, recorded in very different ways, to a new database. A lot remains to be done on harmonizing the heterogeneous records and thereby simplifying electronic searches. In addition to the nitty-gritty archive work, we held two events that focused primarily on the history of GF. Some 140 guests attended the festive New Year's Matinee on 19 January 2014. The event marked the two hundredth anniversary of the visit to Schaffhausen by Tsar Alexander I in January 1814. The Tsar also visited the smelter and foundry in the Mühlental that belonged to Johann Conrad Fischer, the founder of the present-day Georg Fischer Corporation.

The theme of our open house day, held on Mother's Day, was "Iron Ladies". An estimated 150 visitors of all ages took the opportunity to have a good look at the impressive rooms and the treasures exhibited there. A highlight was the exhibition of holdings from the Corporate Archive featuring kitchen utensils, which some decades ago figured prominently in the GF product range.

Networking at all levels

Georg Fischer, in particular the Iron Library, has valuable and fruitful connections with institutions and individuals in Switzerland and its German-speaking neighboring countries. Thanks in particular to the efforts of Urs Werner, a member of the Foundation's Governing Board, we have developed new contacts in Asia, particularly in Japan and China.

In the past business year, the Iron Library joined the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH), which is the largest information portal devoted to Europe's industrial history and also a tourism information network of industrial heritage in Europe. It has more than a thousand sites in 44 countries. The Iron Li-

brary is located on the European Theme Route Iron and Steel. The Library has forged initial contacts in its new focal point plastics by joining the Plastics Historical Society and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kunststoffgeschichte. At end-2014, we held memberships in over 30 institutions and societies.

…and action!

As part of a school project, students of the Technical Documentation vocational college of the Hohentwiel Commercial School in Singen, with their teacher Berthold Gantner, produced a visual portrait of the Iron Library. In the course of this project, the students filmed the rooms of the Iron Library and its surroundings for several days. The laborious editing work was done by Berthold Gantner who gave the film its finishing touch. We at the Iron Library are very grateful to him.

Outlook for 2015

Starting in 2015, the Iron Library will twice a year offer a scholar the possibility of intensive study of our holdings as Scholar in Residence. The program is addressed to both established researchers and younger scholars or advanced students from Switzerland and abroad.

In addition, the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives will foreground their own activities and will represent GF at promotional events in the Schaffhausen region. We are also laying the groundwork for the next Conference on the History of Technology, which will be held on 13-14 November 2015 on the subject "Just in Time: Logistics in Historical Perspective". Moreover, several activities and initiatives are being planned about which we will inform you in due course on our website www.eisenbibliothek.ch.

We thank all of you for your interest in the Iron Library, the historical and cultural heritage of the Georg Fischer 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 to the GF Corporation, without whose financial, personnel and moral support it would be impossible to realize all these activities.

Schaffhausen / Schlatt, 24 February 2014



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


BASKETBALL

Events

Russian Nobility and Iron Ladies

The Iron Library and the Corporate Archive together organized two well attended public events that enriched the diversity of cultural life in the Schaffhausen region.

The first function was a festive New Year's Matinee and cocktail party in the Klostergut Paradies attended by 140 guests, including representatives of the Russian Embassy in Berne. The event marked the anniversary of the visit to Schaffhausen by Tsar Alexander I exactly two hundred years ago in January 1814. The Tsar and his sister Catherine also visited the steel foundry in the Mühlental that belonged to Johann Conrad Fischer, the founder of the present-day GF Corporation. After introductory addresses by Dr. Roland Hofer, the State Archivist of the Canton of Schaffhausen, and Franziska Eggimann, Head of the Iron Library and Corporate Archivist of GF, the visitors were carried off into the world of the Tsarist court with a house concert of Russian music. Heini Stamm, President of the Musik-Collegium Schaffhausen, put together the musical program accompanying the event.

The theme of our Open House Day, held on Mother's Day, was "Iron Ladies". The event spotlighted books and exhibits about women and mothers. An estimated 150 visitors of all ages took the opportunity to have a good look at the impressive rooms and the treasures exhibited there. Highlights included the exhibition of holdings from the Corporate Archive featuring kitchen utensils, which some decades ago figured prominently in the GF product range, and the Mother's Day crossword puzzle.

Beside organizing these events, the Iron Library also engaged in developing and supporting young scientists. As part of a project week on the subject of "Epidemics" at the Schaffhausen High School (Kantonsschule), we organized two workshops at which the students were introduced to working with original sources and reading early printed books. The focus was on publications about water supply and testing water quality that were printed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In October the One Person Library Network Bodensee held one of its two annual meetings in the Iron Library. Librarians from one person libraries in Liechtenstein, Germany and Switzerland took this opportunity to have a close look at the activities of the Library and the GF Corporate Archive and to exchange ideas on current topics of interest in library science.

Open House Day: young visitors
were also interested in the GF pretzel irons.


All about you


Training Center

Events

Conference on the History of Technology "Products and Product Innovations"

On 14-15 November, the Iron Library held the 37th Conference on the History of Technology, which was devoted to the topic "Products and Product Innovations". Some 60 participants from Switzerland and abroad participated in the 2014 Conference, the first day of which took place in the GF Piping Systems Training Center in Schaffhausen. Hardly any other venue could have done greater justice to the subject of the Conference since the Training Center is housed in the same building as the production facility of GF Piping Systems. The speakers on the first day approached the topic from very different angles: while Wolfgang König (Berlin), for instance, argued for giving greater weight to the role of consumers in "product innovations in the consumer society", Marco Boccadoro (Losone) stressed the importance of "research cooperation among universities" for innovation at GF Machining Solutions.

On the second day of the Conference, participants met in the traditional conference site, the Klostergut Paradies. The topics ranged from Kilian Elsasser's (Lucerne) talk about the "international history of the roadbed and track system of the SBB" (with the cryptic-sounding title "Ta dam ta dam") to Nabil El Barbari's (Schaffhausen) paper on the subject "From malleable cast iron to plastic fittings – a 150-year success story", which also marked the anniversary of the production of malleable cast iron fittings in Schaffhausen exactly 150 years ago. The Conference program was enriched by a tour of the GF Piping Systems plant and the showing of Iwan Schumacher's film "Feuer & Flamme" about the Kunstgiesserei (art foundry) in St. Gallen.

Since 1978, the Conference has been an annual venue for the exchange of views between research, teaching and practice. The speakers and the invited guests come from universities, libraries, collections and museums or contribute their business and industrial experience. The breadth of the papers read and their topicality are typical of this international and interdisciplinary event. Responsibility for the content of the conference is in the hands of a scientific advisory board consisting of Kilian T. Elsasser (Museumsfabrik Lucerne), Prof. Reinhold Reith (University of Salzburg) and Prof. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin).

The participants in the Conference on the History of Technology tour the GF site.

FERRUM

Nachrichten aus der Stiftung Eisenbibliothek der Georg Fischer Aktiengesellschaft, Schaffhausen · Nr. 49



Publications

Ferrum 60 years old and Cooperation with retro.seals.ch

Face-lifting for the grand old lady of the history of technology: As it celebrated its 60th anniversary, the journal Ferrum was revamped in the new GF corporate design. The anniversary was marked by a double celebration, firstly a contest in which readers chose their favorite cover illustration and secondly admission to the online platform of the ETH library retro.seals.ch.

"News from the Iron Library" was published for the first time in August 1954, two years after the Iron Library first opened its doors. It reported on the Library's activities and presented treasures and curiosities from the Library's holdings. The "News" was published at irregular intervals until issue 47 in November 1976, appearing between one and four times a year usually as a four or eight-page pamphlet. Starting with issue 48 in 1977, the "News" was renamed "Ferrum" and increased in size: Ferrum had "grown up" and become a genuine journal. A new feature was that each issue of Ferrum, now appearing annually, was devoted to a single topic. As of 1979, Ferrum began publishing the papers from the Conference on the History of Technology, which had been founded the previous year. Over the 60 years of its existence, Ferrum has established itself as a highly regarded organ of knowledge transfer in the field of the history of technology.

All the issues of the News and of Ferrum can now (as of July 2014) be downloaded and viewed on retro.seals.ch. The ETH library offers retrodigitalized Swiss journals from the fields of science and culture on its platform retro.seals.ch. There are currently some 280 journals and 3.5 million digitalized pages available on the platform. They are freely accessible, and search queries can be made in fulltext and by title and author. Issues that are long out of print are now available in excellent quality and user-friendly form. You can download all journal articles directly from retro.seals.ch free of charge in PDF format. We thank the ETH Library for the close cooperation and the successful implementation.

You can't beat the Eiffel Tower:
Ferrum readers chose the cover of issue 49/1978 as their favorite.



Education

Guided tours of the Iron Library

The guided tours of the Iron Library are equally popular among both internal and external visitors. The care of the historical and cultural heritage of Georg Fischer Ltd is impressively conveyed to a wide audience on such occasions. In 2014, the Iron Library welcomed about 1'100 visitors from around the world on one of its tours. They included internal guests (employees, customers and guests of GF) and external visitors, approximately in equal numbers.

The tours, held in German, English, French, Italian, Swedish and Czech, presented treasures from the Iron Library's holdings, including a first edition of Newton's magnum opus "Principia Mathematica" from 1687 or the legendary book of Gustave Eiffel with all the design and installation plans for his 300-meter high tower, which came to symbolize the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris. The visitors were also able to see the rooms with their original furnishings as they looked in 1952, when the Library first opened.

At the beginning of the year, the team explored and discussed new presentation forms and elements of guided tours for the Library. Some of the findings were successfully implemented, for instance linking the history of GF and its founding family through themes and over time.

Nationalities of the Library visitors

Australia	Japan
Austria	Korea
Belgium	Netherlands
China	Saudi Arabia
Czechia	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
France	Turkey
India	United Arab Emirates
Italy	USA

Visitors from China are fascinated by their tour of the Iron Library.


José Luis Alonso Ponga
Vox Dei ac vox populi
Le campane di San Pietro in Vaticano
Edizioni Capitolo Vaticano
ECV - 2014

Library

Inquiries and use

The Library received 38 inquiries in the past year. The inquiries cover a broad spectrum, ranging from concrete questions about particular books or published papers to complex and in-depth research requests as part of large-scale research projects. For such inquiries, the Iron Library sees itself as a service provider, helping technology-minded historians, historically interested engineers, and all interested laypeople to help themselves. Although this may be the idea underlying many inquiries, the Iron Library can only act to a very limited extent as an information center that is able to answer all questions relating to the history of iron and other materials. Nevertheless, in order to answer queries – and also to assist Library users – it is often essential for the librarian to gain at least a rudimentary understanding of the material in question.

The first contact with the Iron Library comes about in many cases from an inquiry by phone or email; later the person may visit the Library. In 2014, 34 users worked in the Library's reading room. They generally came to work for a day in the Library, but several of them stayed for intensive work lasting several days. Some of these were "power users", who consulted several dozen volumes. The Library's users were both from the region and from further afield: one researcher came from the English Midlands and consulted the Library's holdings for a talk on the historical differences between grey and white cast iron; the director of a museum in South Korea was doing research into the archeology of iron metallurgy on the Korean peninsula.

Publications relating to the holdings of the Iron Library:

- Peter Kaiser (ed.): Von Roll Eisenwerk Fotografie. Olten: Historisches Museum, 2013.
- José Luis Alonso Ponga: Vox Dei ac vox populi. Le campane di San Pietro in Vaticano. Città del Vaticano: Edizioni Capitolo Vaticano 2014.
- Olle Granehult: Krönika om aducerjärn. Huskvarna: Gjuterihistoriska Sällskapet 2014.

The Valadier manuscript and the study based on it by José Luis Alonso Ponga.


neu!

Library

Basic services

The holdings of the Iron Library are catalogued in the catalog of the Southwestern German Library Network (SWB), which is operated by the Library Service Center Baden-Württemberg (BSZ) in Constance, Germany. The local view of the SWB union catalog created in 2013 in cooperation with the BSZ to enable direct searches in the Iron Library's holdings has proven its worth (http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/). A tried and proven alternative is to use the search mask of the Swiss Virtual Catalog (CHVK) (http://www.chvk.ch/). In parallel to the ongoing cataloguing of new acquisitions, a start has also been made on entering license-free digital resources in the Iron Library's catalog. After two catalog conversions, the necessary correction work on the catalog is a long-term project: the outstanding "legacy" includes many incomplete, non-standard and duplicate entries.

Since it is a reference library, the Iron Library does not lend media to external users. An exception is made for employees of GF in Schaffhausen and Singen, who availed themselves of this option in 2014 and borrowed 113 volumes, a significant increase over 2013 (42 volumes). One reason for this is certainly the reactivation of the book table tradition and the extension of this service to the Singen site. The Iron Library book table visited employees of the two sites in Schaffhausen and of the Singen foundry, in early July and early December, offering them a selection of new acquisitions for immediate borrowing.

The Iron Library gladly obtains media that are not available in the Library through interlibrary lending. The interlibrary loan can be handled either via the NEBIS network in Switzerland or the SWB library network in Germany. Interlibrary lending from libraries in the NEBIS network has proven successful because it functions quickly and reliably. The media ordered are delivered either by email or by conventional post. In 2014, the Iron Library lent two volumes from its holdings abroad through interlibrary loan.

The Iron Library held its first Book Table in Singen in 2014.



classic plastics

From Bakelite to High-Tech · Sylvia Katz
188 plates, 111 in colour · Thames and Hudson

With a collector's guide

Library

Expansion of holdings: plastics a new collection focus

Plastic products have played a leading role in the history of the GF Corporation for over fifty years. However, this trend has not been adequately reflected in the development of the Iron Library, which is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. To rectify the problem, a detailed policy paper "Expansion of Plastics Holdings in the Iron Library" was drafted, and the first steps to implementation were taken.

The Iron Library built up extensive contacts, both internally and externally, in order to obtain information and to narrow down the broad field of plastics. It was hoped (in vain) that retired GF employees might own a private library with relevant books on plastics, which the Iron Library could then have acquired. The next step was to create an overview of the institutions concerned with various aspects of the history of plastics; in some cases contacts were established, while in others this is still planned. The Iron Library became a member of the Plastics Historical Society (London) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kunststoffgeschichte (Bayreuth) in 2014.

The Library acquired a few rare works from the early history of plastics through the second-hand book trade (see p. 25). As a basis for a future acquisition strategy, we developed a classification system for plastics holdings that can be coherently integrated into the Iron Library's existing classification system. A major undertaking was to measure and prioritize the collection intensity and the desired collection strength in the various areas of the new plastics focus by means of the collection depth indicators defined in the conspectus methodology; they will determine the selection and acquisition of plastics literature in future.

The new focus on plastics will not undermine the traditional core of the Iron Library, its "brand" in iron, steel and history of technology, but will supplement it meaningfully. The new focus will expand and at the same time sharpen the Library's profile as an historically oriented specialist library for construction materials.

The new collection focus will contain not only "classic plastics".

FONDEUR D'AUJOURD'HUI

N°250
JANV. - FÉV. 1974



Library

Expansion of holdings: acquisitions and bequests

In 2014 the Iron Library purchased a total of 318 volumes (books). In addition, the Library receives over 80 current journals and series either as a subscriber or as a member. The Library focused its acquisition profile by unsubscribing from certain journals that did not fit in with its overall thrust. These are being replaced, starting in 2014, by such journals as "Plastiquarian: Journal of the Plastics Historical Society".

The new acquisitions in 2013 were geared to the Iron Library's existing acquisition profile. Greater emphasis was placed on acquiring current research literature in the following areas:

– materials science, metallurgy, light-weight design
– plastics
– general history of technology
– mining and industrial history
– automotive history
– networked infrastructures
– library science and history

The purpose of purchases in second-hand bookshops was to acquire out-of-print publications of more recent date as well as rare and valuable early printed books. The emphasis here was on books that further strengthen the Library's current collection focus. An example worth mentioning is the Atlas "with 45 lithographed royal folio plates", a volume the Library was missing. It accompanies the "Handbuch der Bergbau– und Hüttenkunde" (1858) by Carl Friedrich Alexander Hartmann, which has long been in the Library's collection.

In 2014, the Iron Library accepted two large deliveries of books that involved a considerable logistic effort. The first was a package of 85 books on the technology and history of forging acquired from the estate of an artist blacksmith from the town of Wolframs–Eschenbach in Germany. The second was a bequest from a former foundry worker in Paris who gave us more than 550 issues (not shown in the statistics) of various French trade journals specializing in the field of casting. In addition to various small gifts of books, the Iron Library also received a larger bequest from the archive of the former Alusuisse that came through the Schweizerisches Wirtschaftsarchiv (an archive for Swiss economic history) in Basel. This collection fills some gaps in the field of aluminum technology and economic history.

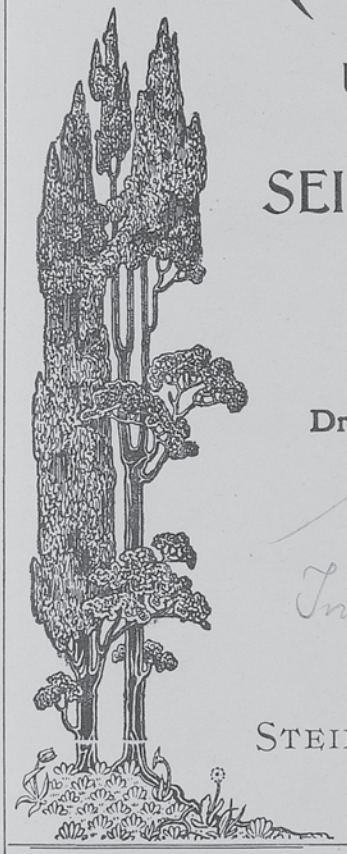
Various issues (here no. 250/1974) of Fondeur d'aujourd'hui came to the Iron Library from Paris.

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DER KAUTSCHUK

UND

SEINE QUELLEN.



VON

Dr. Robert Henriques.

Warenkunde

Inv No. A. 135

DRESDEN-BL.

STEINKOPFF & SPRINGER

1899.

Institut
für Botanik, organische
Rohstofflehre und
[illegible] Mikroskopie d.
[illegible] in Graz

Library

The "pièce de résistance" among the new acquisitions

"Kb1" – that's the Iron Library's call number for the slim volume "Der Kautschuk und seine Quellen" [Natural Rubber and its Sources]. The number "1" at the end of the call number indicates that we're at the start of something new, in this case the first book in the new subject division "Kb – Prehistory and Early History of Plastics (before 1900)", which is part of the Iron Library's new collection focus "Plastics".

Dr. Robert Henriques' slim 1899 volume "Der Kautschuk und seine Quellen" belongs to this period of plastics history. The Iron Library has succeeded in purchasing this unassuming but rare book from an antiquarian bookseller. The book is the printed version of two lectures that the chemist Robert Henriques gave in 1897 and 1899. In an obituary, it was recalled that in his 1899 lecture Henriques had "captivated his audience with vivid demonstrations of how natural rubber is harvested and [described] the economic prospects of the rubber plantations in new, exotic rubber regions." Natural rubber, which is harvested from the latex of rubber trees, played an immensely important role from the end of the 19th century on as a raw material for tire production. Henriques' book provides an overview of the production of natural rubber in South and Central America, Africa and Asia.

The author

Robert Henriques was born in Hamburg in 1857. He studied chemistry in Heidelberg, Berlin and Strasbourg, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1881. He then moved to industry and set up on his own in 1890, founding a "commercial laboratory" in Berlin. His main interest as a chemist was in "studying fats, waxes and caoutchouc goods" and the "class of aromatic compounds". Robert Henriques died in Bayreuth in 1902.

In his slim volume, Robert Henriques explores natural rubber and its sources.

+GF+ Stahlrohr-Bauten

(Patentiert)



Corporate Archives

Inquiries and use

The Georg Fischer Corporate Archive is open to users from Georg Fischer Ltd and persons outside the company. The archive records can be examined on the premises of the Iron Library. Since we also receive "combined" inquiries that affect the holdings of both the Corporate Archive and the Iron Library, it is convenient for users to be able to work with all the source material at the same time.

In this period, 78 inquiries (29 internal and 49 external) were processed, some of which required several hours of research by the Corporate Archivist. Seventeen users (2 internal and 15 external) also used the Archive on site, one of them for extensive research over a period of several days. Numerous external queries concerned specific products such as the fittings for the Swiss military bicycle, pretzel irons or window shutter hinges. Some of the research was on wider-ranging topics, for instance the history of Georg Fischer's own factory school and vocational training at GF or the beginnings of Maschinenfabrik Rauschenbach, which became part of GF in 1929. Internal queries covered a very wide gamut of topics, everything from architectural changes in the convent building to the use of the old-age savings book at the Singen plant.

The historical photographic archive is very popular and widely used both internally and externally. When the lobby of GF Piping Systems in California was remodeled, the Corporate Archive supplied 90 historical product photographs that were combined to make a very artistic "History Wall". The broad range of topics covered by the inquiries shows how important the Corporate Archive is as a service provider for users, both external and internal.

The Corporate Archive contributed either information or exhibits to three very different exhibitions. The Hainfeld Town Museum in Austria requested visual material and documents about Georg Fischer I and the Hainfeld steel works, whose founding in 1827 marked the beginning of the Corporation's international expansion. The Corporate Archive also contributed 14 exhibits for the exhibition on "Mobilization" organized by the Armory Museum in Schaffhausen. Last but not least, the Corporate Archive organized its own exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the malleable cast iron fitting, the oldest product still manufactured by GF. The exhibition showed how, from the very early days, prospectuses, catalogs and leaflets promoted this GF best-seller the world over.

Publication relating to the holdings of the Corporate Archive:

Hans Ulrich Wipf: Wo Staub und Hitze einst den Alltag prägten. Das ehemalige Werk III von Georg Fischer und seine Geschichte. Schleitheim: Stamm 2014.

Promotional flyer for a special fitting application: scaffolders working on the stands for the Swiss Gymnastics Festival in Winterthur in 1936.



Corporate Archives

New accessions and indexing

In the area of accessions, two very different additions to the Corporate Archive should be mentioned. Corporate Communications gave the Archive about 30 linear meters of files from the 1940s to the present day, including employee newspapers in different languages. These bequests will fill gaps in the Archive's holdings. The Hans Hensler Historical-Botanical Garden Foundation enriched the Archive's object collection with the generous gift of a shaft belonging to a carrier truck of the former GF works railway with an automatic tram coupling from GF. The Archive also came into possession of a number of smaller acquisitions from estates or internal office clearances. As part of a reorganization of the Archive stacks, unregistered material was organized according to accession and was registered in rudimentary fashion, insofar as the data could be reconstructed. Since 2006, this has resulted in 37 accessions consisting of between 0.5 and 42 linear meters from the years 1910 (approximately) to 2010 that will be worked up and indexed in the coming years.

The Corporation-wide IT switchover in 2013 and the related compatibility problems made it imperative to create a new Archive database. The solution chosen for the new database is a web-based approach that is tailored to the specific needs of the Corporate Archive. Three aspects were taken into account in the design:

1. Implementation of the International Standard Archival Description (General) or ISAD(G)
2. Structuring by hierarchy level
3. Standardization across different holdings and reduction in number of database fields.

The existing holdings were corrected and revised before they were imported into the new database. Firstly, the records, which had been entered in very different ways, were standardized and supplemented in accordance with ISAD(G). Secondly, the physical archives were repacked for reasons of preservation and conservation. In the year under review, 19 sets of holdings with 6100 units were completed, i.e. more than half of the total (except for photographic archives, which have to be dealt with separately). We reduced the total by 40 linear meters through repacking and storage and the elimination of duplicates.

The GF works railway
in the Mühletal in the 1930s.



Personnel matters

After three changes the previous year, the Library and Archive team was unchanged in 2014: Franziska Eggimann, Head of the Iron Library and Corporate Archivist, Florian Ruhland, Academic Librarian, and Anna Nyman, Administration, together share 2.5 full-time equivalents. They are supported by Nina Helg and Aileen Gämperle, two student assistants in the Archive and Library.

Participation in events

February 2014: Visit to GF Automotive foundry in Singen (everyone)
March 2014: The 1714 Cast-iron Pot: The story in Grey and White. Keynote address Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Coalbrookdale UK (FE)
April 2014: Workshop of Vereinigung deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare (Association of German Business Archivists), (VdW), Nuremberg (FE)
May 2014: OPL Bodensee, Lindau Municipal Archive (FR)
May 2014: Conference Association of Swiss Archivists (VSA): Business archives and key questions of archival science, Berne (FE)
August 2014 History of librarianship, Centre Gabriel Naudé, L'École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (enssib), Lyons (FR)
September 2014: Congress Bibliothek Information Schweiz (BIS), Lugano (FR)
September 2014: Annual meeting of Association of Swiss Archivists (VSA), Lausanne (FE)

The Iron Library team (from l to r):
Franziska Eggimann, Anna Nyman,
Florian Ruhland.

Ongoing training

January 2014: ICOM course, guided museum tours, Museum Rietberg, Zurich (FE)
February 2014: Workshop on guided tours in the Iron Library (everyone)
March 2014: How to wake Sleeping Beauty with a kiss: ideas for displaying and conveying library and archive materials, MARTa Herford Museum, Herford (FR)
March 2014: Franklin Covey: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (AN)
April 2014: SWB database introductory course, Library Service Center Baden–Württemberg, Stuttgart (FR)
May 2014: Franklin Covey: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (FE)
June 2014: The Printed Book in Europe 1450–2000, London Rare Books School, University of London (FR)
July 2014: Copyright in the archive, Marburg Archives School (FE)
September 2014: Open Data – Open Knowledge, extension module MAS ALIS, University of Berne (FE)
September 2014: Industrial Business Training, Schaffhausen/Schlatt (FE)
October 2014: Authority files in Resource Description and Access (RDA), University of Constance (FR)



The Iron Library Foundation

Organization of the Foundation

The Board of Trustees consists of public figures from the world of business, science, research, culture and friendly institutions, in particular universities, libraries and museums in Switzerland and elsewhere.

The supervisory obligation is entrusted to a four-person Governing Board made up of representatives of the GF divisions and Georg Fischer Ltd.

Changes on the Boards

In the year under review, several changes took place in the Board of Trustees: Dr. Roland Hofer, State Archivist and Head of department for Cultural Promotion Canton of Schaffhausen, succeeded Dr. René Specht, the long-serving Head of the Schaffhausen Municipal Library, who left the Board in 2013 when he retired. Irene Amstutz, Director of the Swiss Economic Archives and University Library Economics in Basel, succeeded Hannes Hug, Director of the Basel University Library, who also stepped down from the Board on retirement. Likewise, Dr. Kurt E. Stirnemann, the former CEO and Chairman of the Board of GF, and Prof. Ralph Eichler, retiring President of the ETH Zurich, took their leave from the Board of Trustees. They were replaced by the following personalities: Prof. Martin Bastian, CEO German Plastics Center SKZ, Würzburg, Dr. Gabriele Zuna–Kratky, Director of the Technical Museum Vienna, and Calvin Grieder, CEO Bühler Group, Uzwil.

Dr. Nabil El Barbari, Head of Technology, Quality & Sustainability at GF Piping Systems, became a full member of the Governing Board, replacing Mauro Fontana, who left the Corporation and hence the Board after nine years.

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 Archive has a separate cost center within Georg Fischer Ltd.

Board of Trustees and Governing Board
at the November 2014 meeting.

The Iron Library Foundation

Board of Trustees: Members as per 1.1.2015

– Yves Serra
Chairman of the Board of Trustees CEO Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Irene Amstutz
Director of the Swiss Economic Archives and University Library Economics, Basel, Switzerland
– Prof. Dr.–Ing. Martin Bastian
CEO German Plastics Center SKZ, Würzburg, Germany
– Gerold Bührer
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Prof. Andreas Bührig-Polaczek, Dr. Ing.
Head of the department, Chair for comprehensive Foundry Science and Foundry Institute, RWTH Aachen, Germany
– Calvin Grieder
CEO Bühler AG, Uzwil, Switzerland
– Prof. David Gugerli
Chair for History of Technology, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
– Dr. Helmut Hilz
Director of the Library, Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany
– Dr. Roland E. Hofer
State Archivist and Head of department for Cultural Promotion
Canton of Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Dr. Harald Jenny
Managing Director SICOA AG, Neuhausen/Rhf, Switzerland
– Dr. Gabriele Zuna–Kratky
Director Technisches Museum, Vienna, Austria

Governing Board: Members as per 1.1.2015

– Dr. Roland Gröbli,
Chairman of the Governing Board
Corporate Secretary, Georg Fischer Ltd, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Dr. Nabil El Barbari
Vice President, Head of Technology, Quality & Sustainability, GF Piping Systems, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Dirk Lindemann
Head Business Unit Europe, GF Automotive, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
– Urs Werner
Senior Adviser, GF Piping Systems, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

Memberships / Networking

Memberships in Switzerland

- Freunde des Bergbaus in Graubünden (FBG), Celerina
- Historischer Verein des Kantons Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen
- Historischer Verein des Kantons Thurgau, Frauenfeld
- Museumsverein Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen
- Schmiedezunft Eligius, Paradies, Schlatt
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte (SGG), Bern
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für historische Bergbauforschung (SGHB), Basel
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte und Industriekultur (SGTI), Winterthur
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts– und Sozialgeschichte (SGWSG), Bern
- Verband Bibliothek Information Schweiz (BIS), Bern
- Verein für wirtschaftshistorische Studien, Zürich
- Verein Schweizerischer Archivarinnen und Archivare (SVA), Bern

International memberships

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Spezialbibliotheken e.V. (ASpB), Frankfurt am Main D
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik e.V. (DGGMNT), Frankfurt am Main D
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kunststoffgeschichte e.V. (dgkg), Bayreuth D
- European Route of Industrial Heritage e.V. (ERIH), Meerbusch D
- Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft e.V., Freiberg D
- Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte e.V. (GTG), Berlin D
- Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte e.V. (GUG), Frankfurt am Main D
- Historical Metallurgy Society Limited, London UK
- International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), Warschau PL
- Montanhistorischer Verein Österreich (MHVÖ), Leoben A
- Plastics Historical Society (PHS), London UK
- Society for the History of Sciences and Technology (sDVTcz), Prag CZ
- Stahlinstitut VDEh, Düsseldorf D
- Verein Bibliotheken der Regio Bodensee, A/CH/D
- Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare e.V. (VDB), München D
- Verein für die Geschichte des Bodensees und seiner Umgebung e. V., Friedrichshafen A/CH/D
- Vereinigung deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare e. V. (VdW), Dortmund D
- Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare (VÖB), Graz A

Overview and statistics

Library

Contents	Form	Scope	Time frame
Literature on the history of iron and steel and on the history of technology, shelved according to a classification system developed by the library	– Books/monographs – Company literature and product catalogs – Journals and periodicals – Separatley listed collections and bequests	More than 42'000 title records	13th century to the present

Archiv

Contents	Form	Scope	Time frame
– Fischer Family bequest – Management and administration files of Georg Fischer Ltd and divisions – Files of corporate subsidiaries an holdings in Switzerland and elsewhere – Photographic and film archive – Collection of objects – Art collection	Administrative documents Project documentation Correspondence Advertising material Minutes Patents Objects Photographs Films Building plans etc.	More than 43,000 records Approx. 1,100 linear meters Approx. 700 objects	Starting in 1743

Use of Library/Archive	2014	2013	2012	2011
Library users	34	20	10	18
Archive users	17	7 (Q4)	n.a.	n.a.
Library inquiries	38	14	20	5
Archive inquiries	78	17 (Q4)	n.a.	n.a.
Library items lent	113	55	77	168

Archive holdings	2014	2013	2012	2011
Accessions	40 Lfm	20 Lfm	n.a.	n.a.
Holdings indexed	800 Lfm	800 Lfm	n.a.	n.a.
Holdings not indexed	340 Lfm	300 Lfm	n.a.	n.a.
Indexing	0 Lfm	0 Lfm	n.a.	n.a.

Library holdings	2014	2013	2012	2011
New acquisitions – purchases	318	147	70	141
New acquisitions – bequests, exchange	164	231	188	24
Catalog entries books - titles	32089	31768	31403	30993
Catalog entries books - copies	32663	32334	31949	31506
Catalog entries papers etc.	9606	9604	9606	9734
Catalog entries periodicals (ZDB)	744	702	387	307
Catalog entries online resources	15	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Tours	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total no. of visitors	1130	705	811	1226
Total no. of tours	103	59	65	87
Tours for GF guests	53	32	40	58
Tours for external guests	50	27	25	29
Avge. No. Persons per tour	11	12	12	14

Useful information

Services of the Iron Library and Corporate Archive

- Guided tours of the historical premises of the Iron Library
- Use of the library and archive holdings on site
- Advice to users and answering inquiries
- Online library catalog: http://swb2.bsz-bw.de/DB=2.364/
- Public reading room with workplaces
- Internet access via WLAN, PC workstation with access to catalogs
- Lending of library holdings for GF employees at the Schaffhausen and Singen sites
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and NEBIS
- Advice on archiving issues for GF companies worldwide as well as handling of archive holdings (taking delivery, evaluation, indexing and maintenance)
- Ferrum digital http://retro.seals.ch

Events in 2015

16 April 2015
Reading by Robert Seethaler "Ein ganzes Leben" ("Erzählzeit ohne Grenzen" literature festival, Schaffhausen/Singen)

9 May 2015
Natural sciences day in Schaffhausen (200th anniversary of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences)

July 2015
Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

November 2015
38th Conference on the History of Technology "Just in Time: Logistics in Historical Perspective"

December 2015
Book tables in Schaffhausen and Singen

Contact

Employees as at 1.1.2015

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Aileen Gämperle
Student employee Iron Library
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Opening times and directions

Monday to Friday by appointment

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

By car: Public Parking is available near Restaurant Paradies (parkometer).

Address

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