



## News from the Iron Library - 1/2024

### Current Issues

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#### Happy New Year

With the 250th jubilee of Johann Conrad Fischer, an exhibition, the digital edition of his travel journals and the 43rd History of Technology Conference, 2023 was an incredible, productive and successful year at the Iron Library, and for 2024 we have new and interesting ideas. The team of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd wishes you all the best and a healthy, happy start to the New Year!



#### Travel Reports of a Pioneer: the digital edition is complete!

Johann Conrad Fischer observed Europe at a time of upheaval. He published the records of his travels between 1794 and 1851 in seven diaries, which the Iron Library has published as a freely accessible digital edition and translated into English for the first time. The texts are enriched with itineraries and 2400 detailed index data. Around 900 images provide an insight into everyday life, industry, travelling and social life in Fischer's times. The digital edition is now complete with the addition of the last two diaries. Immerse yourself in the early days of modernity and travel with Fischer to the sites of the Industrial Revolution.

[Read more...](#)



**Scholar in Residence Program of the Iron Library:  
We look forward to receiving applications!**

In 2024, the Iron Library will once again be offering scholars the opportunity to intensively study the holdings of the Iron Library and the Corporate Archives of GF as a Scholar in Residence for a period of several weeks. The program is addressed to established researchers, younger scholars or advanced students from Switzerland and abroad.

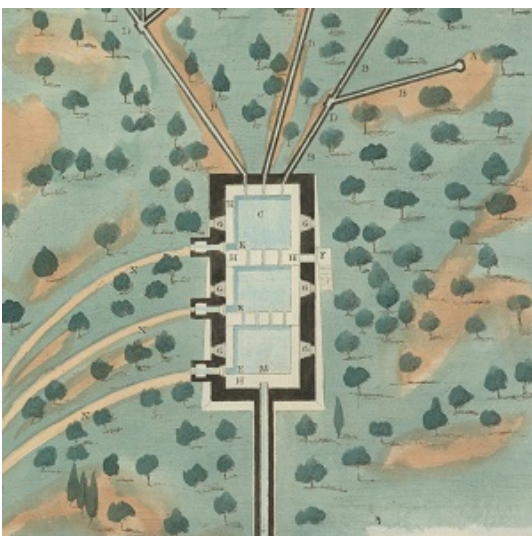
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**Safety to be the topic of the 2024 issue of Ferrum**

On 17 and 18 November 2023, the Iron Library hosted its 43rd History of Technology Conference. Around 50 participants from Europe and the USA made their way to Kloostergut Paradies to contribute to a thought-provoking exchange about the role of quality and safety requirements in the history of technological developments. The speakers are now busy completing their papers for the next issue of our journal Ferrum, which will be published mid-2024.

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**e-rara:  
New works from the Iron Library now online**

The Iron Library is committed to making its rare and unique works available to all. In 2023, twenty new items from our holdings have been digitized as a part of our continued participation in the e-rara project. This latest batch of works is free for viewing online. These include Giuseppe Valadier's seminal work "L'architettura pratica" and its beautifully hand-colored books of plates, a 1515 edition of Lucretius' epic poem about the origin of the universe, as well as the incunabulum "De proprietatibus rerum" from 1482, the oldest printed book in the collection.

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## My favorite book

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### Chapter 28 "Der Turm und die Brücke" by David P. Billington

Hugo Rechsteiner is a former long-time employee of GF Piping Systems. He has been giving guided tours of the Iron Library and Klostergut Paradies for many years. Here he writes about his favorite book from our holdings, which deals with the history and development of a very particular aspect of civil engineering. It has a surprising regional connection to Feuerthalen, the neighboring village of the Iron Library.

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## New Acquisitions

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### "Register of The Arts and Sciences" 1823 to 1827

In a turbulent and fast paced era, 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 a popular answer was the "Register of The Arts and Sciences", a specialist journal of technical designs, patents and reports. The issues give a fascinating insight into the time of the Industrial Revolution, since which the pace of technology's change and development has never slowed.

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## Services

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- [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, wifi internet access
- Lending of library holdings for GF employees at the Schaffhausen sites
- Interlibrary lending via SWB and SLSP

## Digital Services

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- [IRONCAT: online catalog Iron Library](#)
- [ANTON: online catalog Corporate Archives](#)
- [Ferrum available on e-periodica](#)
- [Selected manuscripts available on e-codices](#)
- [Selected old prints available on e-rara](#)
- [Picture gallery from the Corporate Archives](#)
- [Annual reports of GF since 1896](#)
- [Company magazines of GF since 1944](#)
- [Sustainability Reports by GF since 2002](#)
- [YouTube: Short Documentary Films](#)

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