

Aluminium Heritage

Pierre Meynard¹ and Olivier Lambert²

1. President

2. Scientific Coordinator

Institute for the history of aluminium, Clichy, France

Corresponding author: p.meynard@hystalu.org

Abstract



The history of Aluminium is a valuable mirror of changes in many areas, including technology, business, social habits and culture. The Institute for the history of aluminium (IHA) builds up a body of knowledge on those changes by bringing together specialists from several disciplines at the crossroads of industry and social studies. In parallel, the Institute coordinates and supports initiatives to protect and enhance the value of the Aluminium industry's heritage. Finally, it disseminates its work through an active policy of publications and events. For that purpose, the Institute advises companies in the aluminium sector on the conservation and use of their historical archives ; manages its own iconographic archives (approximately 50 000 photos) ; preserves three collections : the Jean-Plateau- IHA collection of objects illustrating the evolution of aluminium's various uses (25 000 19th and 20th century pieces) and the J.A Gregoire Automobile Collection illustrating the pioneering work of Gregoire to improve the use of aluminium in cars, and the collection of the aluchromiste R. Van Loo; strive to make the public aware of the history of a material which is not well-known : publishes reference works, such as company, industrial site or organization histories (Aluminium de Grèce, European Aluminium), participation to international events such as the XIXth World Economic History Congress; provides documentary resources technical and historical expertise and loans of objects for temporary exhibitions ; provides to researchers a documentary resource center for information retrieval and manages a global internet portal for aluminium heritage.

Keywords: Institute for the history of aluminium, Aluminium Heritage, Aluminium companies' archives, Jean Plateau collection, Gregoire automobile collection.

1. Introduction

The history of aluminium is a valuable mirror of changes in many areas, including technology, business, social habits, and culture. The Institute for the History of Aluminium based in Paris for more than 30 years is a non-profit organization with more than 200 members. It builds up a body of knowledge on those changes by bringing together specialists from several disciplines at the crossroads of industry and social studies (IHA's team of experts is composed of archivists, iconographer, historian) In parallel, the Institute coordinates and supports initiatives to protect and enhance the value of the aluminium industry's heritage [1]. Finally, it disseminates its work through an active policy of publications and events.

For that purpose, the Institute:

- IHA advises companies in the aluminium sector on the conservation and use of their historical archives [2]. It organizes the sorting out, inventory and filing of collections
- IHA manages its own iconographic archives (approximately 50 000 photos) the collection is constantly enriched by donations, bequests, or purchases
- IHA preserves 3 collections:

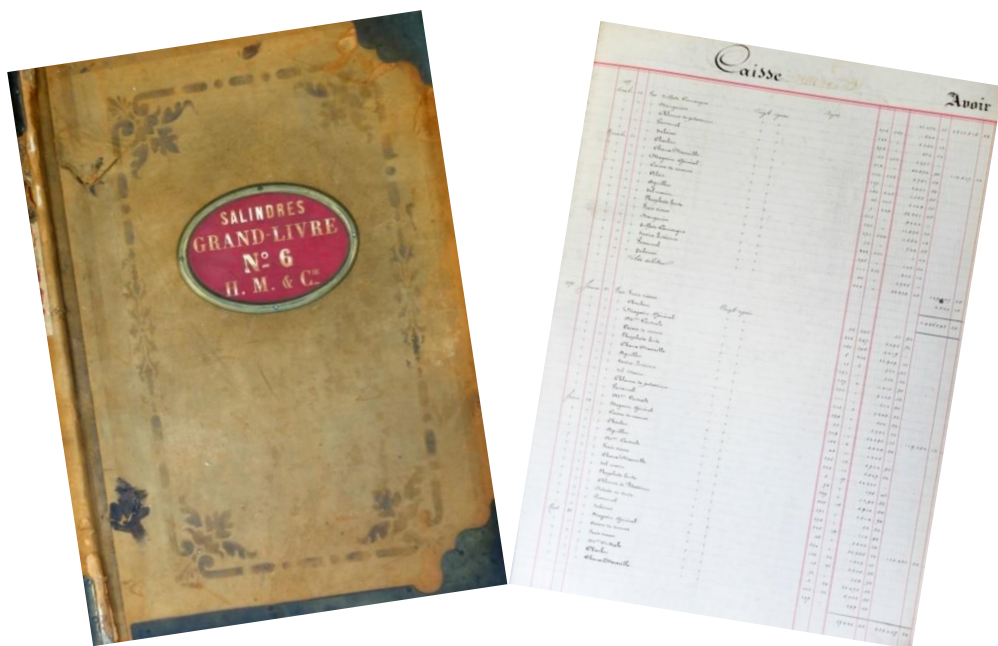


Figure 1. Ledgers of Salindres. IHA Collection.



Figure 2. Aluminium of Greece, Saint-Nicolas plant, general view (1963-1966). © Photographic collection of Aluminium Français.

The screenshot shows the website interface for the 'Bibliothèque de l'aluminium CULTURALU'. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Bibliothèque', 'Mémoire Orale', 'Iconothèque', and 'IHA'. Below these are links for 'Accueil', 'Actualités', 'Qui sommes-nous?', 'Collections', and 'Aide'. A search bar contains the text 'passion aluminium' with 'OK' and '?' buttons, and a 'Recherche avancée' link. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Accueil : Collections : Recherche avancée dans le catalogue : Notice'. The main content area features a book cover for 'PASSION ALUMINIUM Trésors de la Collection Jean Plateau - IHA ALUMINIUM PASSION Treasure-trove of the collection Jean Plateau - IHA'. To the right of the cover, the title 'Passion Aluminium. Trésors de la Collection Jean Plateau-IHA' and author 'Auteur(s) : Plateau, Jean ; Grinberg, Ivan' are displayed. Below this is a 'Notice du document' section with the following details:

- Titre / Title: Passion Aluminium. Trésors de la Collection Jean Plateau-IHA = Aluminium Passion. Treasure-trove of the Collection Jean Plateau-IHA
- Auteur(s) / Author(s): Plateau Jean, auteur principal ; Grinberg Ivan, auteur principal
- Type de document: Ouvrage
- Catégorie d'ouvrage: METHODOLOGIE-MUSEOLOGIE-ARCHIVES
- Publication: s.l.: Les Editions du Mécène, 2013-09
- Description: 189 p. : ill. en coul., couv. ill. en coul.; 31 cm
- technique / Physical description

 Further down, the ISBN is listed as 9782358960274 and the language as Français ; Anglais. At the bottom of the notice section, there are links for '→ Description' and '→ Voir aussi', and a '<< Retourner à la recherche' link. On the left side of the book cover, there is a 'Conditions de consultation' section:

- Librement consultable
- Lieu(x) de consultation: IHA (exemplaire papier)
- Cote du document: IHA-LIV-2 pla 02

Figure 19. Digital aluminium library

6. Conclusion

Aluminium past heritage is the key to its future [6]. For industrial companies, grasping that heritage means drawing on their roots for strength to look ahead. It would be very exciting for us to share our know-how, to broaden our collections and network with all the aluminium people, companies, and organizations. Aluminium heritage preservation deserves an important effort from all of us. But we can help you to do it. IHA opened the way more than 30 years ago. Help the IHA to pursue its unique approach to preserve and enhance aluminium heritage.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude towards the permanent team of the Institute for the History of Aluminium for their precious help, in particular the secretary general, Ivan Grinberg and the scientific coordinator, Olivier Lambert as well as Nathalie Postic and Marie Roger-Chantin for choosing the pictures.

7. References

1. Ivan Grinberg. *Aluminium. Light at heart*. Collection Découvertes Gallimard, Gallimard, Paris, 2013, 127 pages.
2. Philippe Mioche, Ivan Grinberg. *Aluminium de Grèce. L'usine aux trois rivages*. Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Grenoble, 1996, 318 pages.
3. Jean Plateau, Ivan Grinberg. *Aluminium Passion. Treasure-trove of the collection Jean Plateau – IHA*. Éditions du mécène, Paris, 2013, 189 pages
4. Sophie Pehlivanian, The Grégoire – Institute for the History of Aluminium Collection: an original look at the history of the automobile, *Journal for the History of Aluminium*, Institute for the History of Aluminium, n°42-43, December 2009, 7-55.
5. Maurice Victor, Boom sur l'aluchromie, *Revue de l'aluminium*, n°295, February 1962, 200-204.

6. Maurice Laparra, A portrait of aluminium, metal of dream and modernity, *Proceedings of 33rd International ICSOBA Conference, Dubai, UAE, 29 November – 1 December 2015*, Paper KN02, TRAVAUX 44, 29-43.