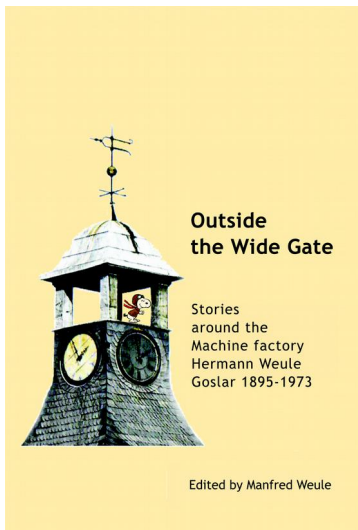




Review

Manfred Weule (ed.): Outside the Wide Gate. Stories around the Hermann Weule Machine Factory in Goslar, 1895–1973.

PDF of 105 pages, A5. Price 10 € buchversand@i-cons.info.
Distribution via Swisstransfer after prepayment.

“The bell tower above the machine factory at 16 Okerstraße bears no cross. It stands alone – a symbol of a Protestant work ethic that requires no higher legitimation than one’s own achievement. Manfred Weule opens his book with this image, and it is an aptly chosen leitmotif: for this work is about people who achieved great

things whilst concealing much of what ought actually to have been said.

For almost eight decades, the Hermann Weule Machine Factory was a “leading name in specialised engineering” – founded in 1895, it weathered two world wars and a global economic crisis, until its sale and liquidation in the 1970s. Manfred Weule, the founder’s grandson, has compiled stories, file notes, photographs and contemporary accounts from his father’s estate and added his own commentary. The result is a personal, regionally rooted yet universally accessible book about building and loss, about silence and remembrance.

In this book, Manfred Weule sets himself a dual aim: he wishes to honour the history of his family and their factory – and he wishes to break the silence. Born in 1947, he belongs to the first post-war generation to have grown up amidst their parents’ silence regarding National Socialism, the war and their own involvement. In his texts – inserted as a commentary to frame the material left behind by his father – he takes this silence seriously, without excusing it.

The work gains particular strength where it goes beyond the history of the factory: in the sober acknowledgement of the forced labourers employed at the plant, and in the poignant final conversation between son and father – an imaginary dialogue about authority, wartime experience and what is passed down between generations, whether one wants it to be or not.

Anyone interested in the history of the Harz region will find here a vivid piece of regional industrial history. Anyone reflecting on ancestral heritage – both the positive and the difficult aspects – will find an honest account” - and deepening clues.

Andreas Höllmüller, management consultant, Vienna, June 2026