

Review of Manfred Weule (ed.), “Outside the Wide Gate”

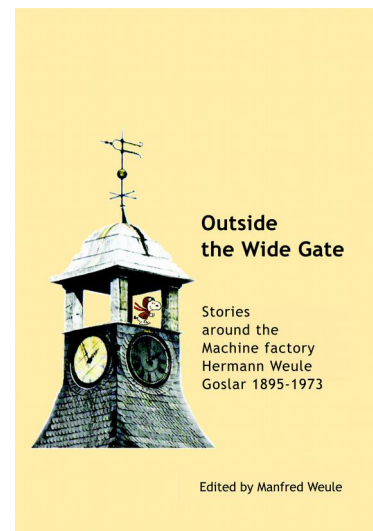
Outside the Wide Gate by Manfred Weule recounts, with loving attention to detail, the stories surrounding the Hermann Weule machine factory in Goslar, its people and their social connections across four generations.

However, the book does not merely tell the external achievements, obstacles and social interconnections of the men in the family, but also the necessary internal processes of repression and coming to terms within the family system, set against the backdrop of the hierarchical, militarised social conditions of the last century.

Growing through one's life's purpose, mastering the difficulties under the conditions of two brutal world wars on the one hand, and carrying out the necessary reproductive work—such as providing food, looking after children and nurturing friendly relationships—under these difficult conditions on the other, required a good division of labour between men and women. This becomes apparent in the first six chapters through detailed descriptions of the products and the characterisation of the people in the family's circle and their activities.

The imaginary conversations between father and son, Snoopy as the antagonist of the 'Red Baron' (namesake Manfred von Richthofen) in the bell tower, quotations from the 'Schindler's Jews' and the proposal for German-Russian town twinning all look openly towards the future.

A book well worth reading, not just for people from Goslar.



Dr Helga Weule