

RETURN OF TWO PORTFOLIOS TO THE KARLSRUHE ETI

On discovery of two early portfolios of electrical drawings in the Newcomen Society's archives, VAUGHAN POMEROY has returned them to their rightful home.

During the clearance of the Newcomen office in Blythe House, London, I discovered two portfolios of large drawings of electrical machines. There was no interest in retention, but they looked unusual and spiked my curiosity.

Each portfolio, entitled *Konstruktionstafeln für den Dynamobau...*, contained a complete set of 60 large (c.A2) drawings describing electrical generators (figs 01–03). One set covered DC machines (*Gleichstrom Maschinen*), the other AC (*Wechselstrom Maschinen*); and the drawings are based on machines for contemporary installations.

A GIFT OF SYDNEY GLENDENNING

The portfolios seem to have been gifted to the Newcomen Society by Sydney Glendenning, whose name was ink-stamped on each sheet. Sydney Glendenning was born in 1880, started to work with Laurence & Scott in 1897 and, with a few interruptions for study, training and military service in World War I, worked with this company until 1939. He died in 1956.

THE PORTFOLIOS' CREATOR

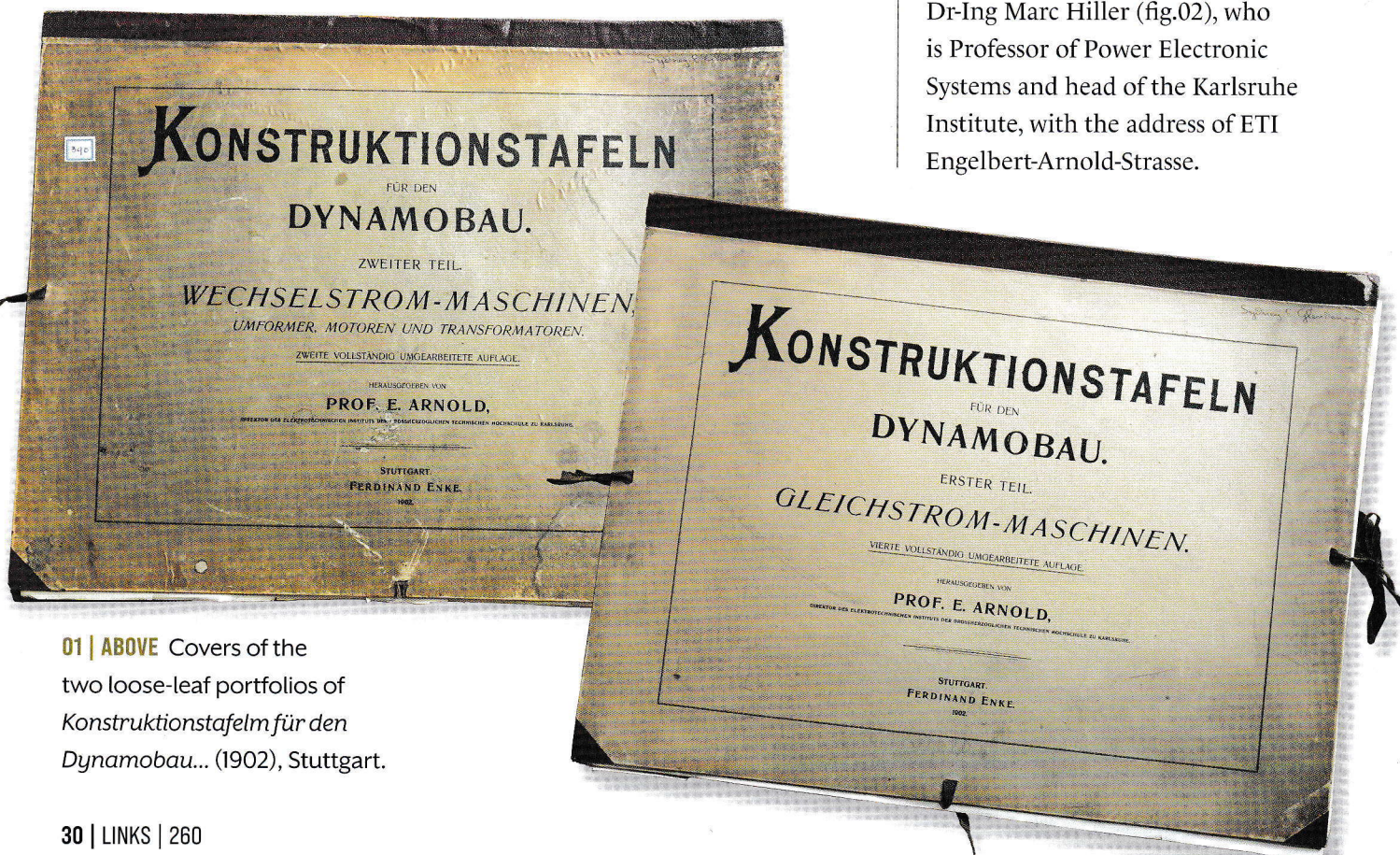
The portfolios, dated 1902, were prepared by the Swiss engineer Professor Engelbert Arnold (1856–1911), who founded the Elektrotechnischen Institut (ETI) des Karlsruher Instituts für

Technologie (KIT) in Germany. The drawings are similar to various plates in Arnold's textbooks.

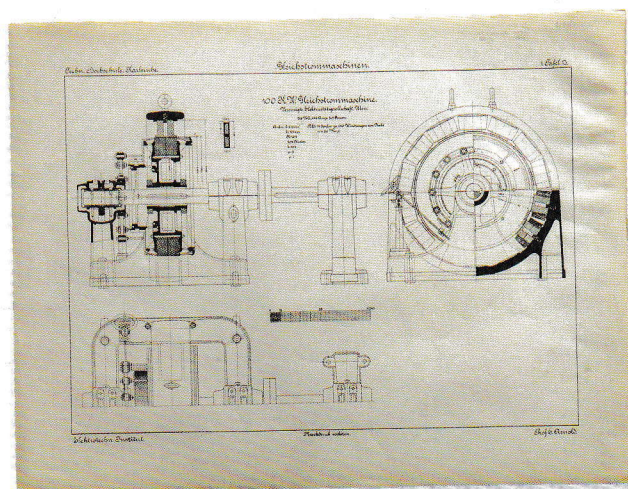
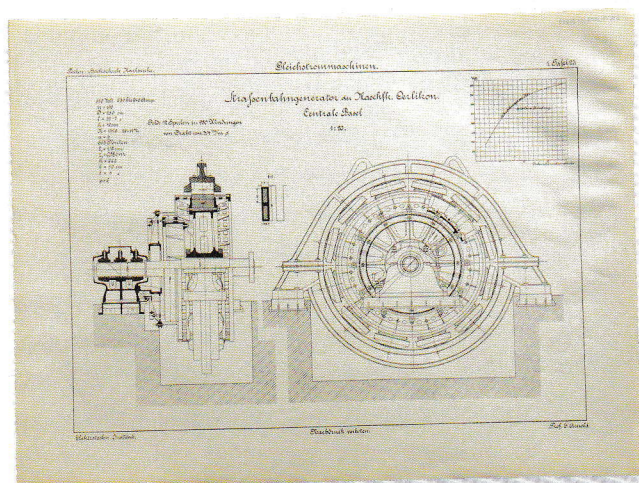
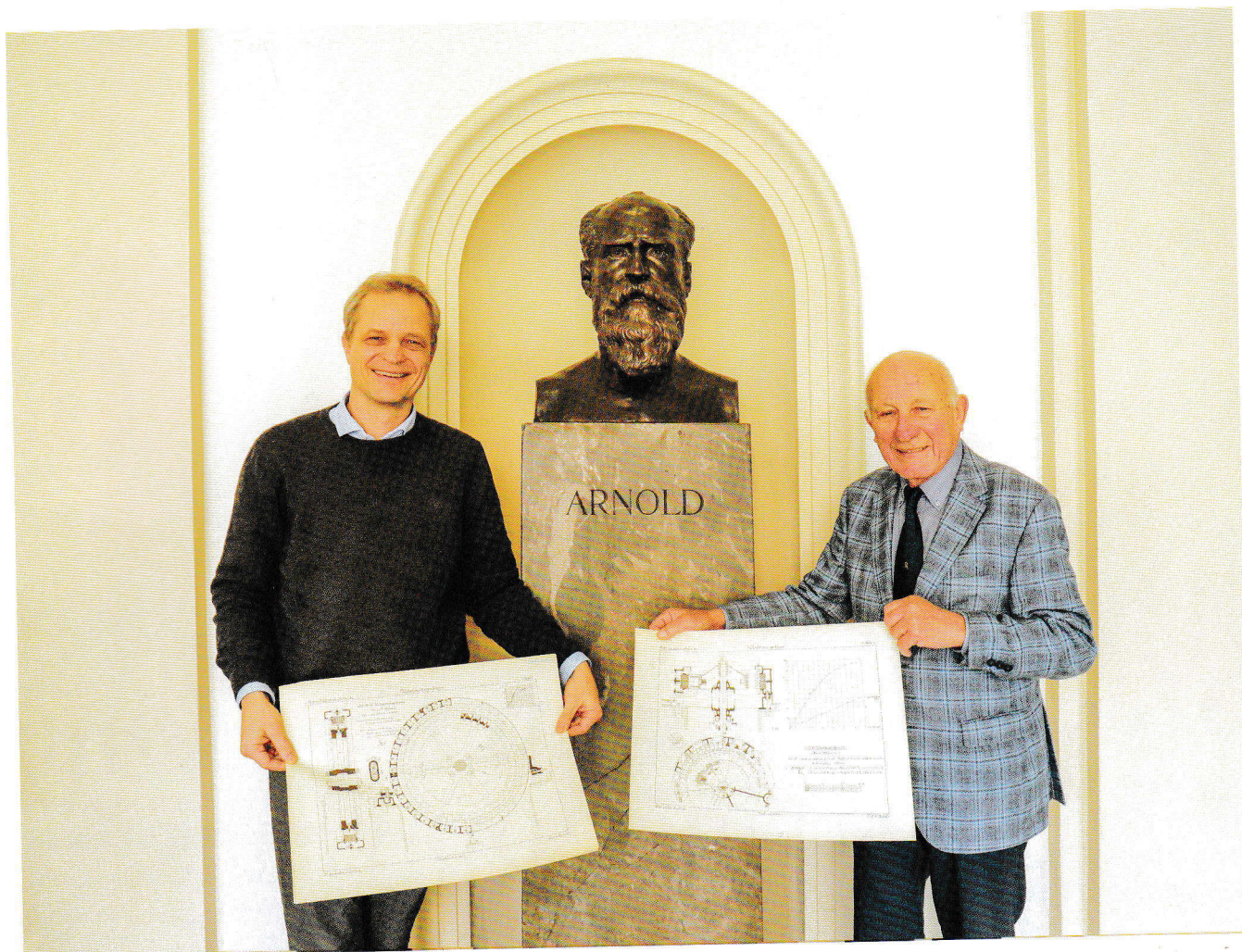
RETURN TO KARLSRUHE

Through the contacts of my former colleague, Ir Willem de Jong, we arranged for these two folios to be returned to the ETI in Karlsruhe, where they have very few original documents relating to Professor Arnold and the early days of the institute. The institute will place some of the drawings on display with an acknowledgement to the Newcomen Society as donors.

Willem de Jong visited the ETI in Karlsruhe in December 2022 and met with Professor Dr-Ing Marc Hiller (fig.02), who is Professor of Power Electronic Systems and head of the Karlsruhe Institute, with the address of ETI Engelbert-Arnold-Strasse.



01 | ABOVE Covers of the two loose-leaf portfolios of *Konstruktionstafeln für den Dynamobau...* (1902), Stuttgart.



It seems very appropriate to place these volumes with the ETI, where the originator is still celebrated, for the benefit of the academic community. It is evident that the work of Professor Arnold is well known among the electrical machines community through his textbooks; at least the people who

I know all recognise the name and the reference works!

Through a rather unlikely route, the Society has ensured that the historic documents now reside where they are most likely to be discovered and used in future research into the history of the engineering of electrical machines.

02 | TOP Professor Dr-Ing Marc Hiller (left) beside Willem de Jong (former Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's Register) display folios from the *Konstruktionsstafeln*... beneath a statue of Professor Arnold.

03 | ABOVE Folios 13 and 23 from the *Konstruktionsstafeln* portfolios.