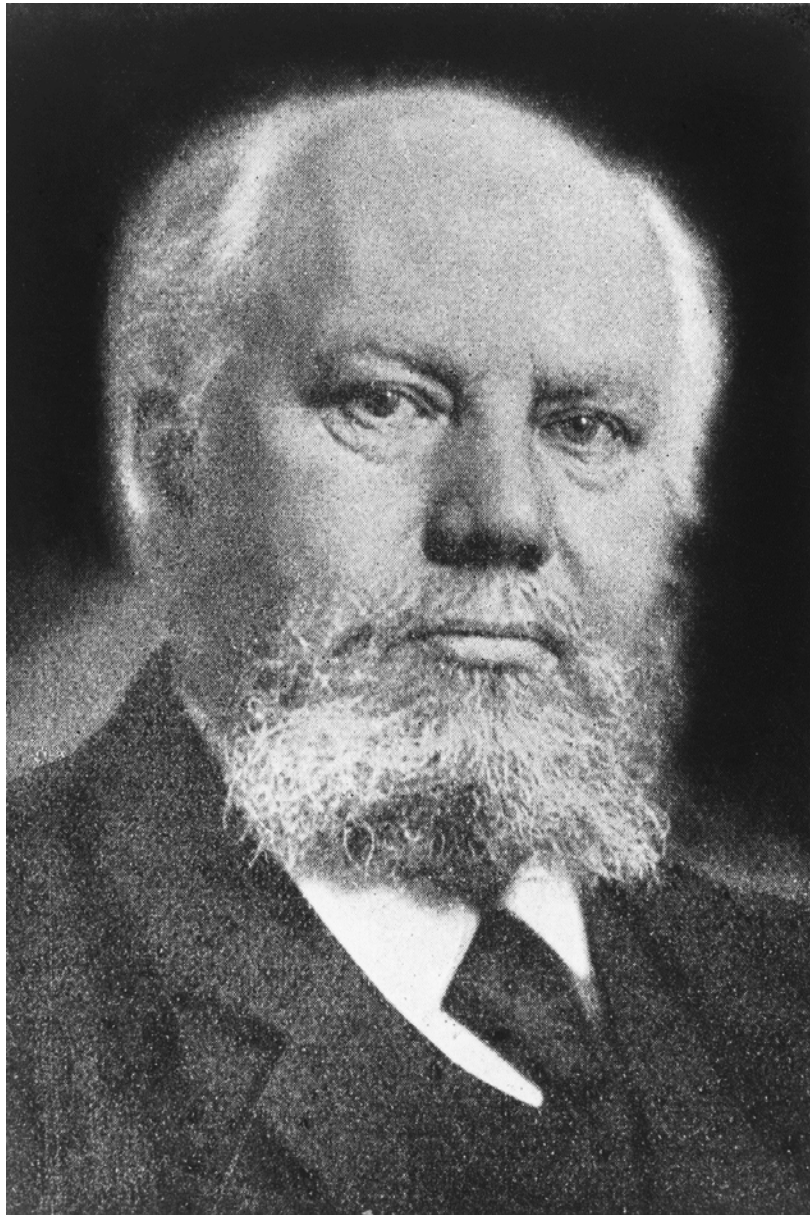


# The German Contribution to Metallography: Adolf Martens and Emil Heyn

**P.D. Portella**

Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM)  
D-12200 Berlin, Germany

- **Adolf Martens and Emil Heyn, a biographical sketch**
- **their contributions to metallography**
- **their contributions to mechanical testing**
- **their contributions to materials engineering**



- Adolf Martens was born on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1850 in Backendorf, a small village near to Hagenow in Mecklenburg-Schwerin
- where his father was an estate tenant, a *Gutspächter*.
- Martens visited the *Realschule* ( a form of secondary school ) in Schwerin
- and started in 1867 as a locksmith, cabinet-maker and founder in the machine shop of Ernst Brockelmann in Güstrow.

Ref. 7, page 127

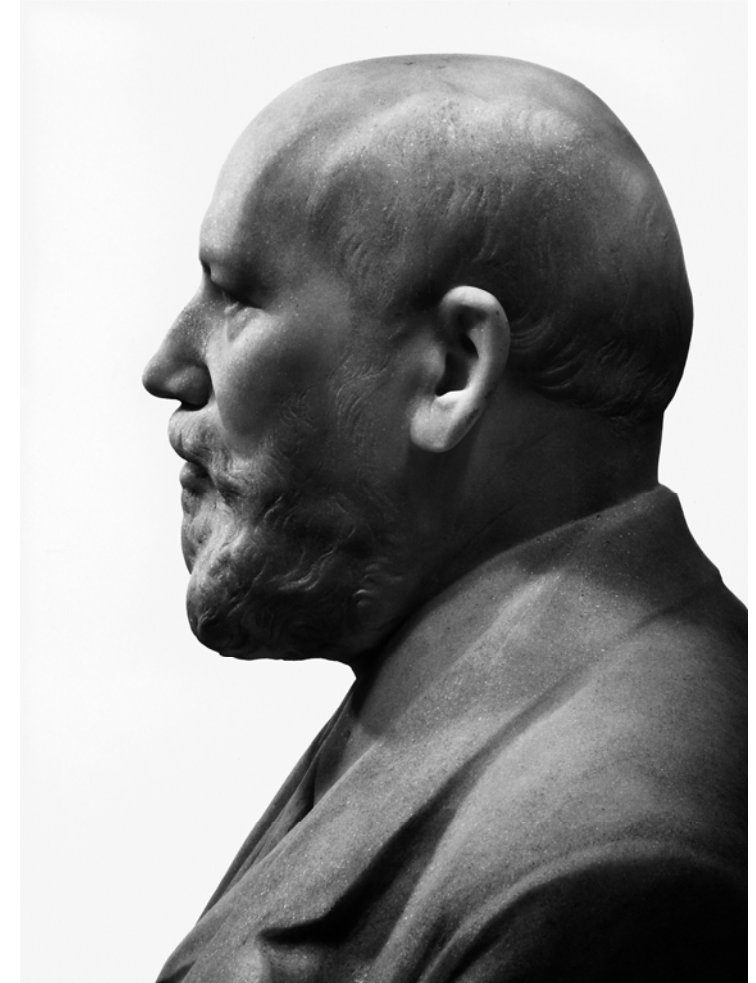


- In 1868, Martens went to the Royal Industrial Academy at the Klosterstraße in Berlin
- and completed his formation as an engineer in 1871

Ref. 7, page 40

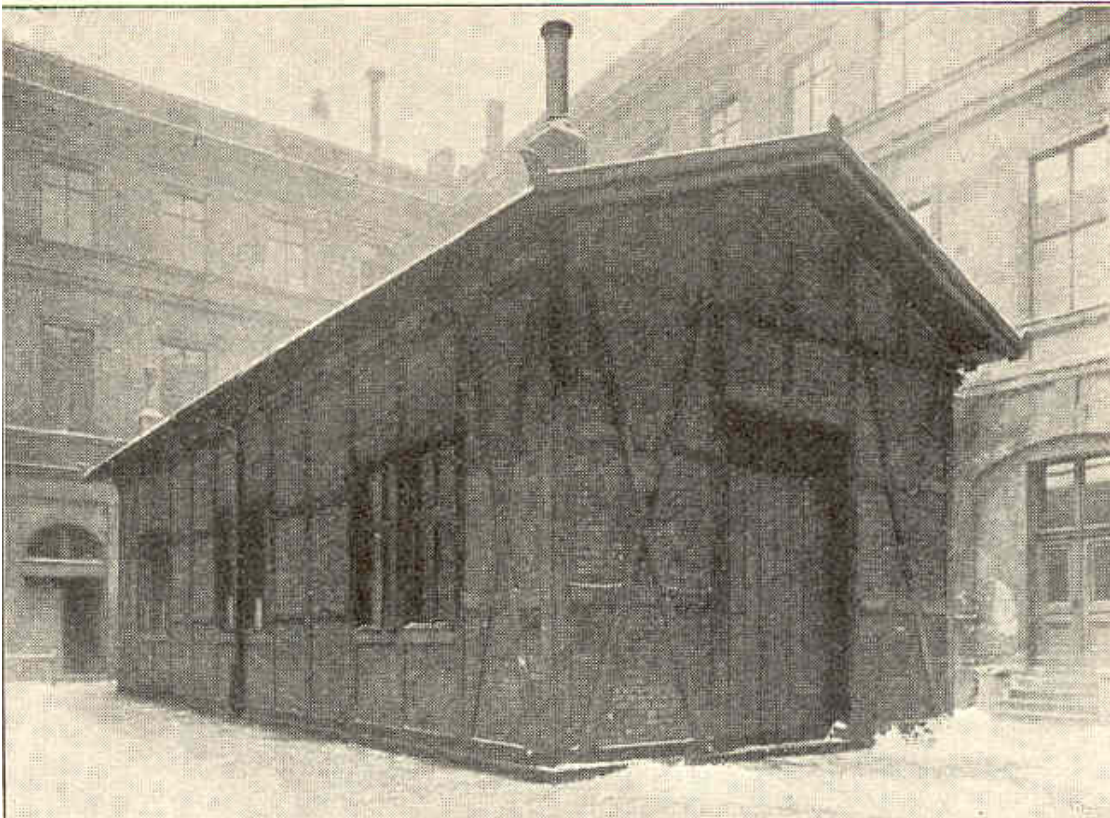
Königliche Gewerbeakademie (Royal Industrial Academy)  
Berlin, 1878-1884

- Martens was engaged at the Royal Prussian Railways and was initially at the *Ostbahn* ( Eastern Railway ) in Bromberg ( today Bydgoszcz in Poland )
- where he was involved with bridges, metallic structures and construction supervision.
- In 1875, Martens changed to the Royal Railway Authority in Berlin-Blankenheim and got involved with the acceptance of rails and other steel products
- In this position he had intensive contacts to the iron and steel industry in Westphalia (Gutehoffnungshütte ) and Silesia ( Königs-Laurahütte ).



BAM, Headquarters, entrance hall

Ref. 7, page 75



Mechanisch-Technische Versuchsanstalt (Mechanical Experimental Station), Berlin, 1878

in the courtyard of the Royal Industrial Academy

- In 1880, Martens became an assistant of Professor Consentius at the Royal Industrial Academy in Berlin.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1884, he was nominated Head of the Royal Mechanical Experimental Station.
- His staff consisted of his assistant, Prof. Rudeloff, and two technicians.

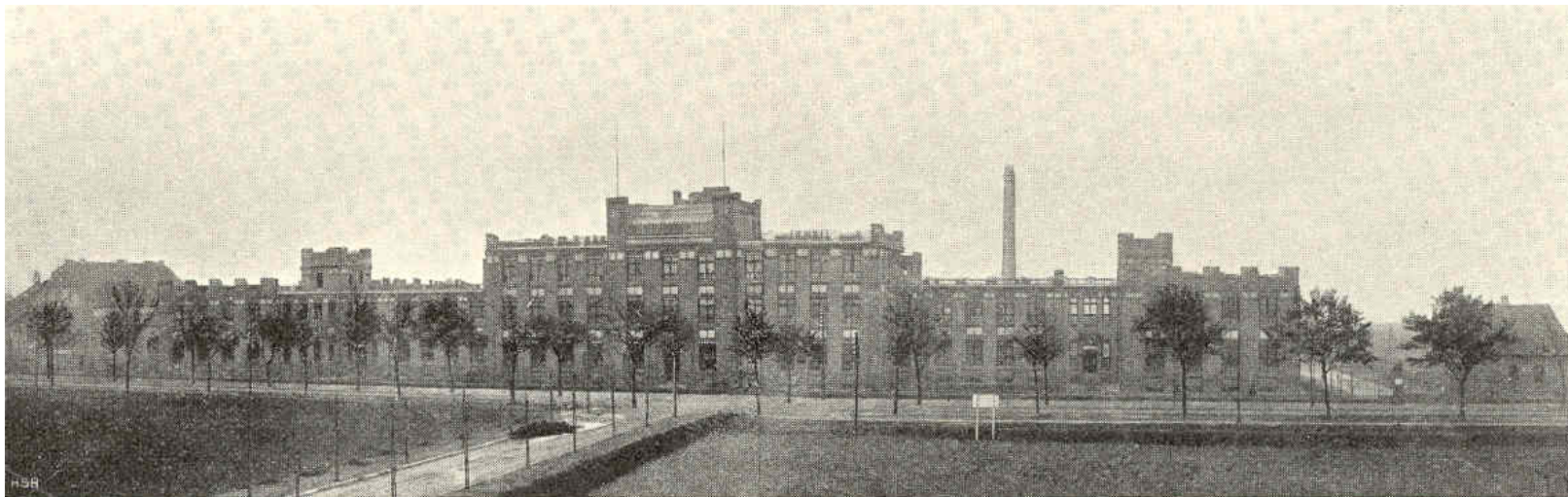
- The new Royal Mechanical Experimental Station grew rapidly and diversified its activities
- In 1884, a new facility was established at the Technical University in Berlin-Charlottenburg, new departments for oil and paper technology were created
- In 1889, Martens was nominated as a Professor of the Technical University



Ref. 7, page 79

Königliche Mechanisch-Technische Versuchsanstalt (Royal Mechanical Experimental Station). Berlin-Charlottenburg, 1884 - 1904

- In 1904, the new Institute for Materials Testing was created by merging several institutions under the direction of Professor Martens
- In the same year, a new headquarter was built in Berlin-Dahlem, which was expected to become a new scientific centre between Berlin and Potsdam
- Martens received in 1905 the title of a Dr.-Ing. E. h. by the Technical University in Dresden



Ref. 5, page 117

Materialprüfungsamt (Materials Testing Institute), Berlin-Dahlem, 1904  
as seen from Potsdamer Chaussee

- Martens was extremely successful, the new Institute prospered enormously
- In 1913, he fell seriously sick
- Martens passed away on the evening of July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1914; he lies buried in the cemetery of Dahlem beside his son.

Ref. 7, page 289

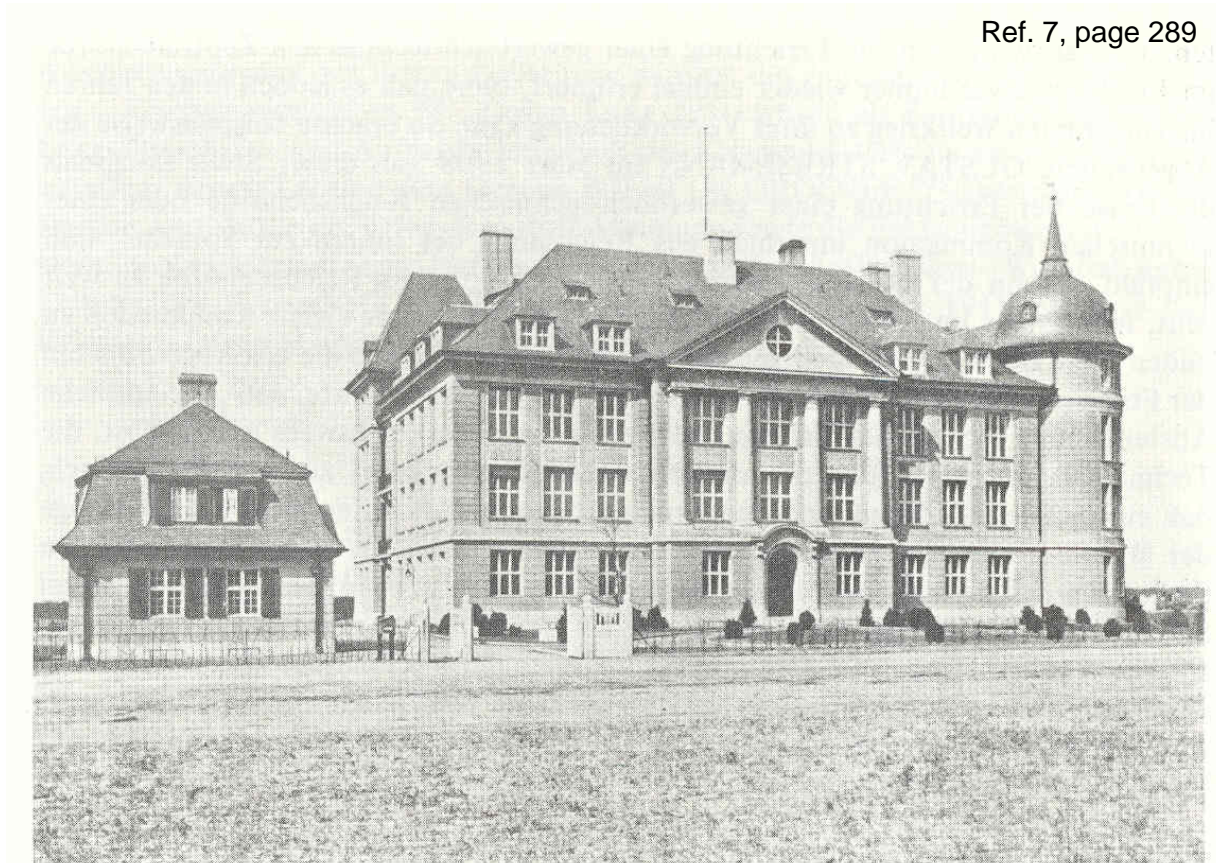


Abb. 157

Das Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Chemie an der Thielallee 63–67 (Aufnahme aus dem Jahre 1912)

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Chemie  
(Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Chemistry), Berlin-Dahlem, 1912

Lise Meitner and Otto Hahn worked in this building





- Friedrich Emil Heyn was born on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1867 in Annaberg, a small village in Saxonia with a long mining tradition;
- His father was a tailor;
- The family Heyn moved to Freiberg 1872; Emil went there to the primary and to the secondary school;
- In May 1886 he started his studies in the Royal Saxonian School of Mines Freiberg, the renowned *Bergakademie*;
- Heyn was an excellent student and draw the attention of Adolf Ledebur; 1890 he received his diploma as a metallurgist.

Max-Planck-Institut für Intelligente Systeme  
[www.is.mpg.de](http://www.is.mpg.de)

- Heyn got his first position in November 1891; he joined the chemical laboratory of the steel foundry of Friedrich Krupp AG in Essen;
- He moved one year later to the *Hörder Bergwerks- und Hüttenverein* in Hörde, Westphalia; he was first engaged in the chemical laboratory and was later involved with the construction of two new blast furnaces;
- In November 1894 Heyn became a lecturer at the Royal Silesian School of Mechanical and Metallurgical Engineering in Gleiwitz (today Gliwice in Poland);



Max-Planck-Institut für Intelligente Systeme  
[www.is.mpg.de](http://www.is.mpg.de)

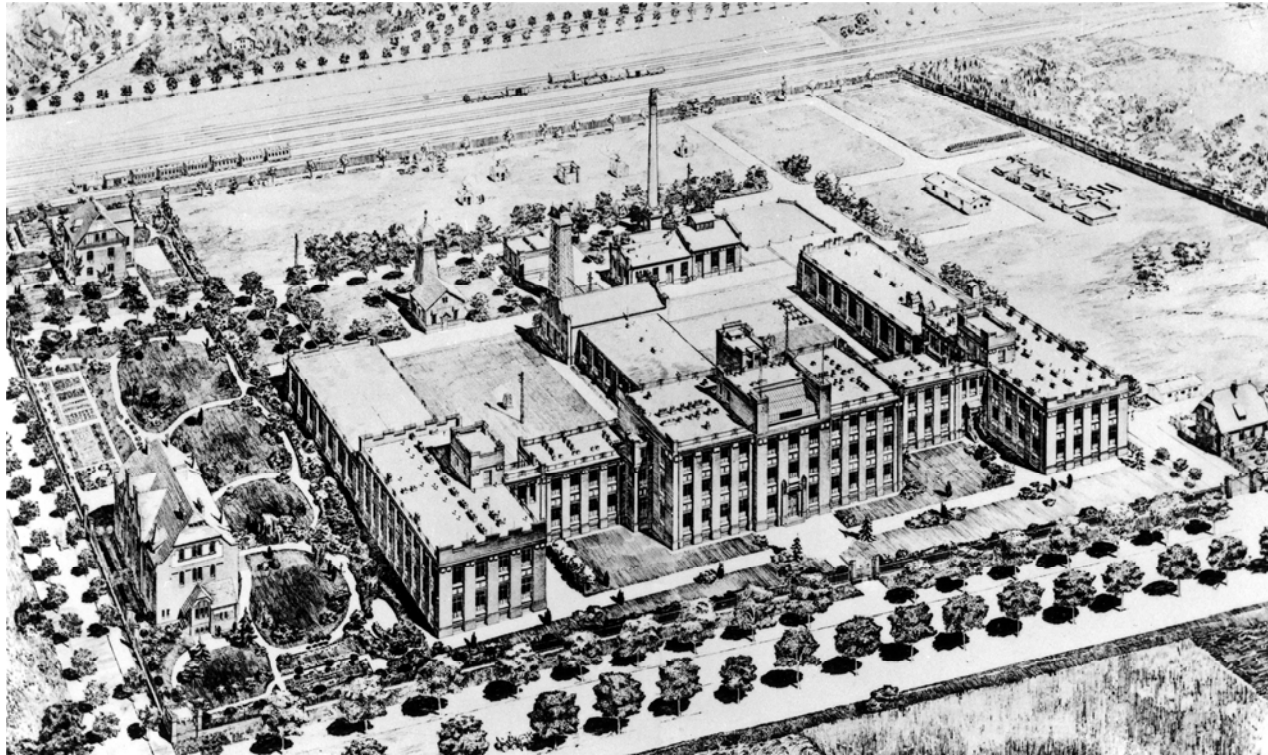
- Following a recommendation of Prof. Ledebur, Heyn moved 1898 to the Royal Mechanical Experimental Station in Berlin-Charlottenburg as assistant of Adolf Martens in charge of the metallographic laboratory;
- He was also a lecturer at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Technical University and received his *venia legendi* on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1900;
- In October 1901 he was nominated a full professor of Mechanical Technology.



Ref. 5, page 10

Königliche Mechanisch-Technische Versuchsanstalt (Royal Mechanical Experimental Station). Berlin-Charlottenburg, 1884 - 1904

Ref. 7, page 113



*Materialprüfungsamt* (Materials Testing Institute), Berlin-Dahlem, 1904

- Heyn had an important role in the construction of the new campus of the Materials Testing Institute
- 1904 he was nominated Deputy Director; he was responsible for the chemical and metallographical departments;
- Heyn left the Materials Testing Institute on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917
- The *Bergakademie* Freiberg nominated Emil Heyn as a Dr.-Ing. E.h. in 1920.

- Heyn was a founding member of the German Society of Mining and Metallurgy – GDMB – created in 1912;
- Heyn was involved with the organisation of a Technical Committee on Metals with the German Society of Engineers – VDI;
- The German Society for Metals Research – DGM – was created out of this Committee on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1919; Heyn was elected its first president;
- The highest award of DGM is the Heyn Medal; the first recipient was Gustav Tamman in 1929.

The logo for DGM (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Materialkunde eV) features the letters 'DGM' in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

**Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Materialkunde eV**

- **The Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Steel Research was established in Düsseldorf in 1917**
- **The Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Metals Research was created under the direction of Emil Heyn in 1920;**
- **The new building in Neubabelsberg – near to Potsdam – was inaugurated on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1921;**
- **Shortly after that Heyn fell sick; he passed away on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1922 and was buried in the cemetery of Dahlem near to Adolf Martens.**



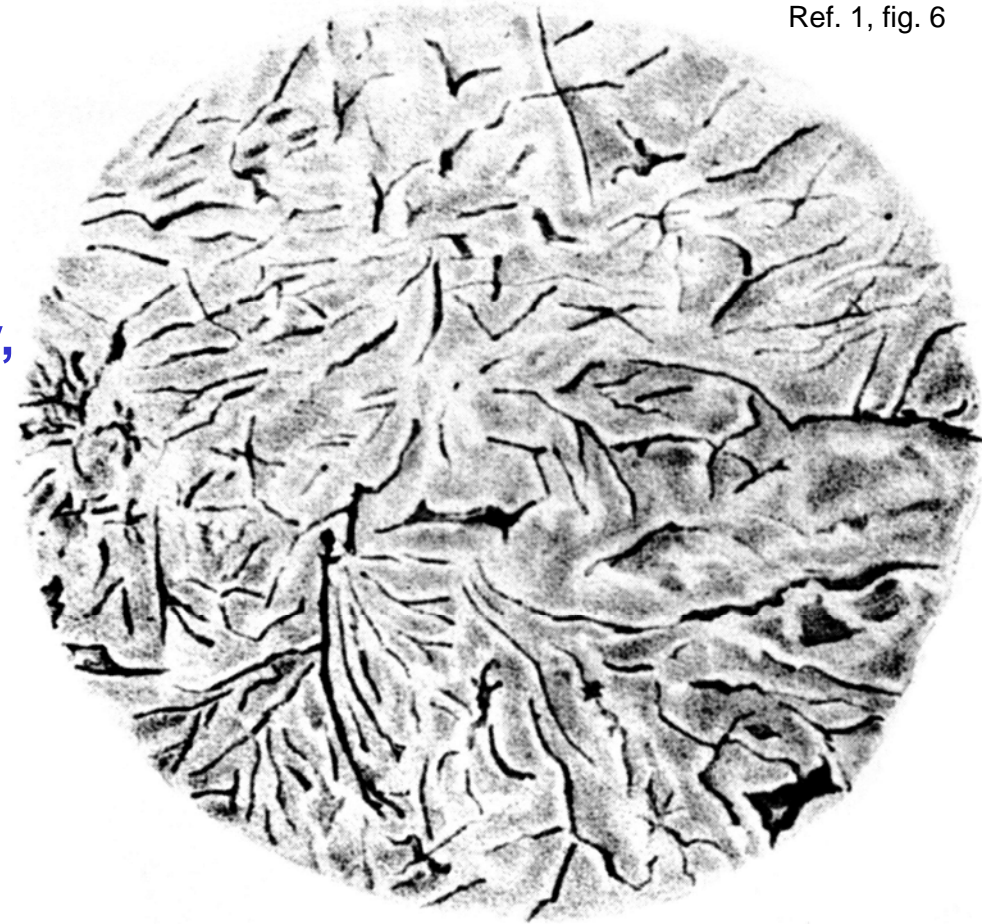
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Metallforschung  
(Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Metals Research), Neubabelsberg, 1921

Max-Planck-Institut für Intelligente Systeme  
[www.is.mpg.de](http://www.is.mpg.de)

# Metallography

- **The pioneering work in metallography was done by Henry Clifton Sorby in Sheffield in the years from 1863 to 1887.**
- **The first activities of Martens in this field go back to the time he was in the Railway, apparently without any knowledge of the work of Sorby.**
- **Martens' first papers were published by the journal of VDI in the year 1878.**
- **His approach to the characterization of the internal structure of metals and its relation to processing was strongly influenced by the natural sciences, especially mineralogy and botany.**

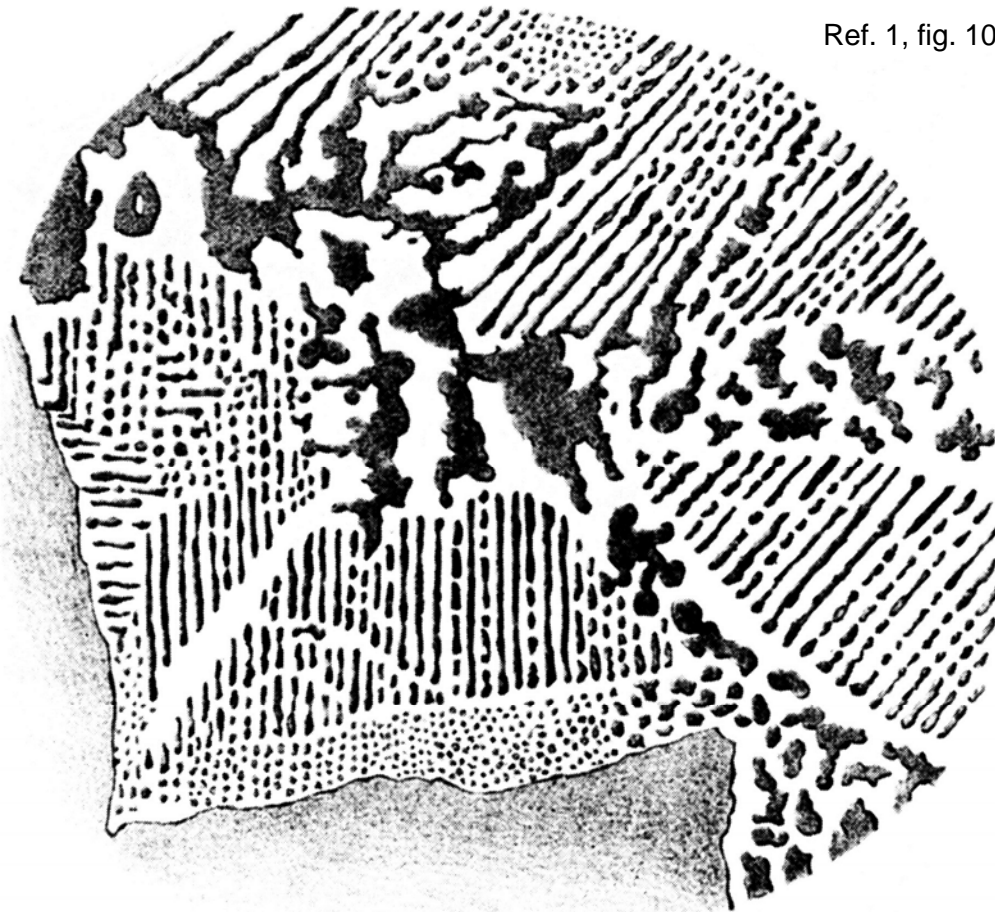
Ref. 1, fig. 6



Metallographical section of a  
mould made of gray iron  
Martens, 1878



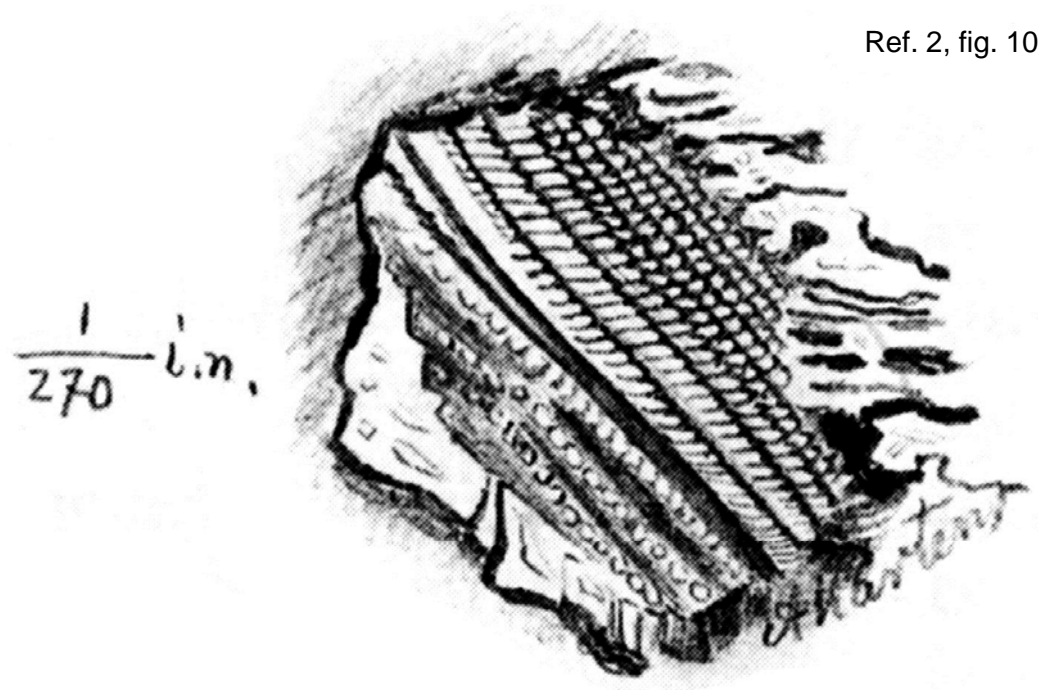
Ref. 1, fig. 10



Metallographical section of a steel specimen with “Spiegeleisen”  
Martens, 1878

- Martens described carefully the structures observed in the free surface of shrinkage cavities formed in cast pieces.
- He drew several conclusions from the dendrites, which he called “pinetree-like crystals”
- Another important element for his studies was the morphology of cleavage and of fracture surfaces

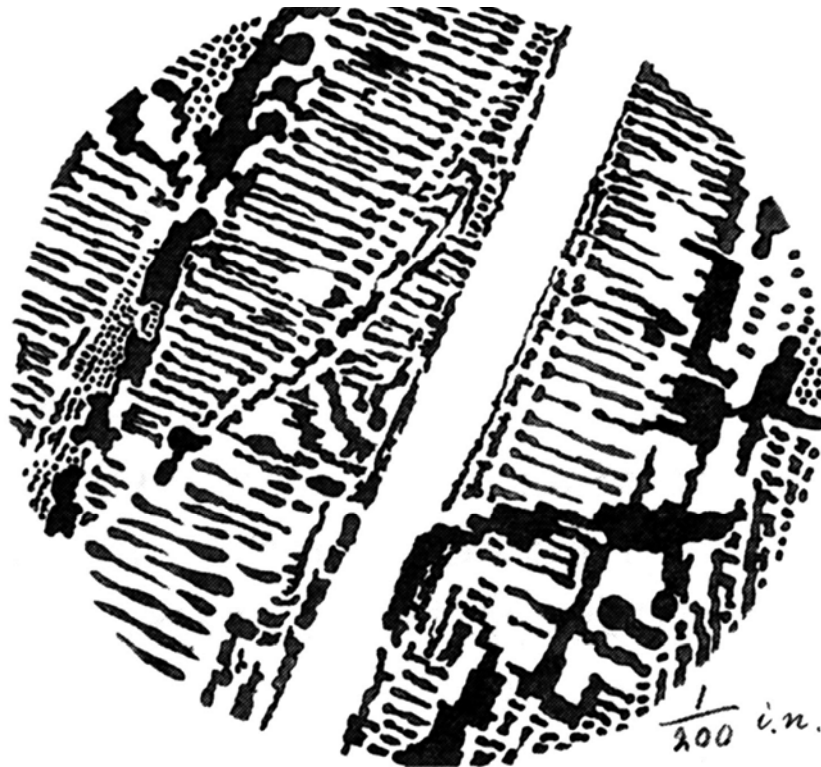
- The most important innovation of Sorby and Martens was the investigation of sections of the objects under investigation.
- The techniques for grinding and polishing were adopted from mineralogy.
- The importance of consumables for the quality and reproducibility of the results was carefully described in his papers
- Also the etching techniques were carefully developed, Martens described several chemical etchants and their applicability.



Ref. 2, fig. 10

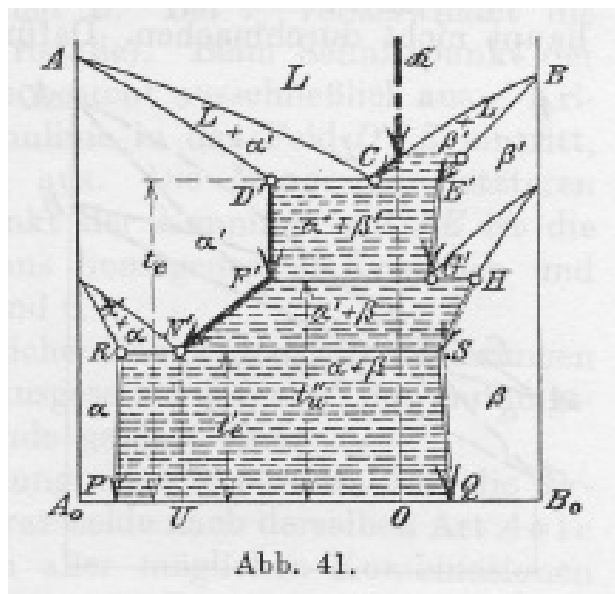
Fracture surface of a steel specimen  
with "Spiegeleisen"  
Martens, 1878

Ref. 3, fig. 10



Metallographical section of a steel specimen with "Spiegeleisen"  
Martens, 1878

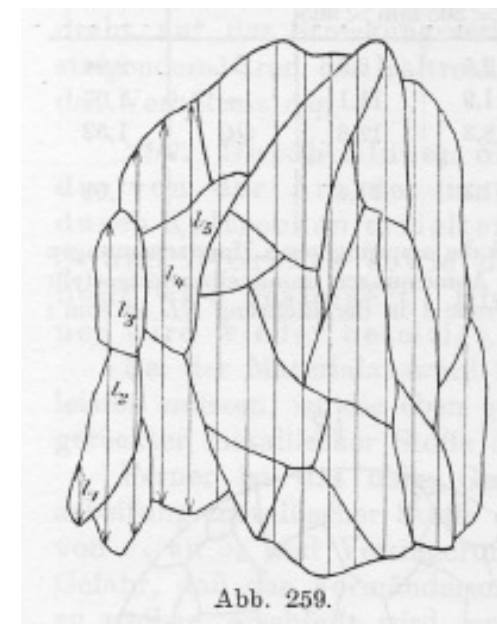
- In 1895, Floris Osmond published in France a paper describing a general method for the microstructural analysis of carbon steels.
- Osmond described the characteristics of several metallographical constituents observed in steels.
- Following the mineralogical approach, he gave denominations to these constituents:
  - sorbite after Henry Clifton Sorby
  - troostite after Louis-Joseph Troost
  - martensite after Adolf Martens



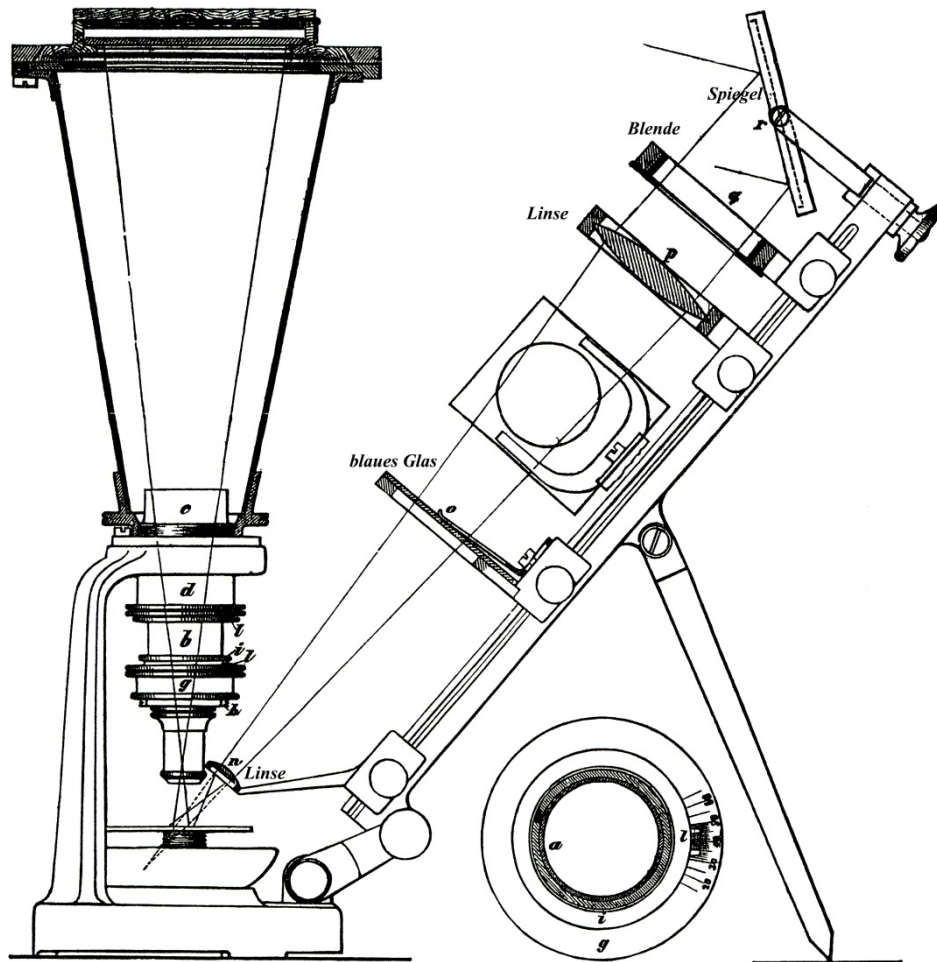
Handbuch der Materialkunde, Bd. II, p. 51

- Heyn gave in his *Handbuch* (1912) a very elegant, clear overview of the use of phase diagrams in the metals science; his name is related to the dual description of the Fe-C diagram;
- Heyn developed several reagents for specific applications in describing the structure of metallic materials; he introduced a solution of cuprammonium chloride as a reagent for steels;

- Heyn also described the use of intercepts for the quantitative analysis of grain size; he discussed thoroughly the influence of the grain morphology in the determination of grain size
- This method is currently known as Heyn Lineal Intercept Procedure (see e.g. ASTM E112)



Handbuch der Materialkunde, Bd. II, p. 267



Ref. 4, fig. 2

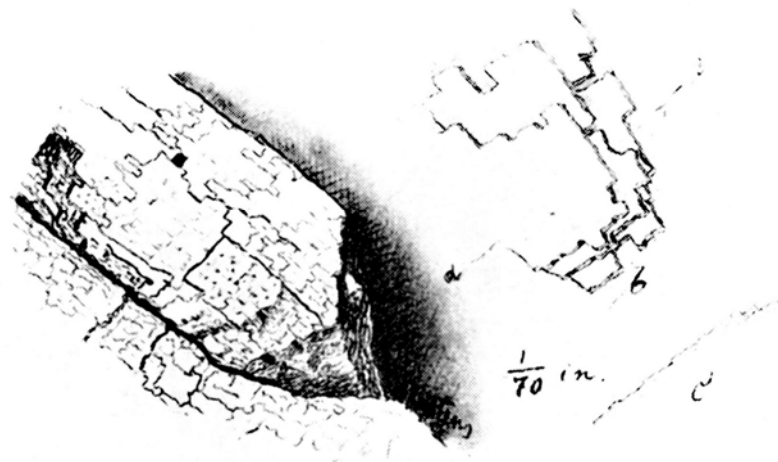
- In a paper published 1880 in the *Central-Zeitung für Optik und Mechanik*, Martens described a new microscope suitable for the analysis of metallic sections at high magnification.
- An important element of this microscope was the oblique illumination of the specimen.
- Photographic plates could be directly exposed: Martens also gave practical advices for the deposition of adequate emulsions on glass plates.
- He was absolutely convinced of the much more powerful method of drawing the observed microstructure, which led to a more intense knowledge of the subject.



Notebook of  
Adolf Martens,  
BAM, library



Notebook of Adolf Martens,  
BAM, library



*Spiegeleisen I Heinrichsmitte  
Inaltflaeche*

Cleavage surface of a steel specimen  
with “Spiegeleisen”  
Martens, 1878

*No 456-78 Lit. G. No 161*

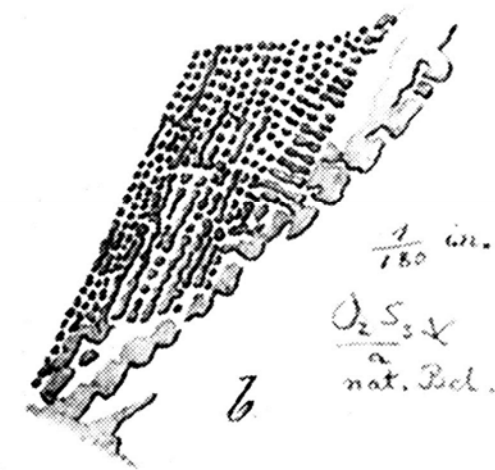
*No 448-78 Lit. G. No 163.*



*0,53  
b  
nat. Bel.  
27 78.*

*1061*

*Spiegeleisen I Wissen*



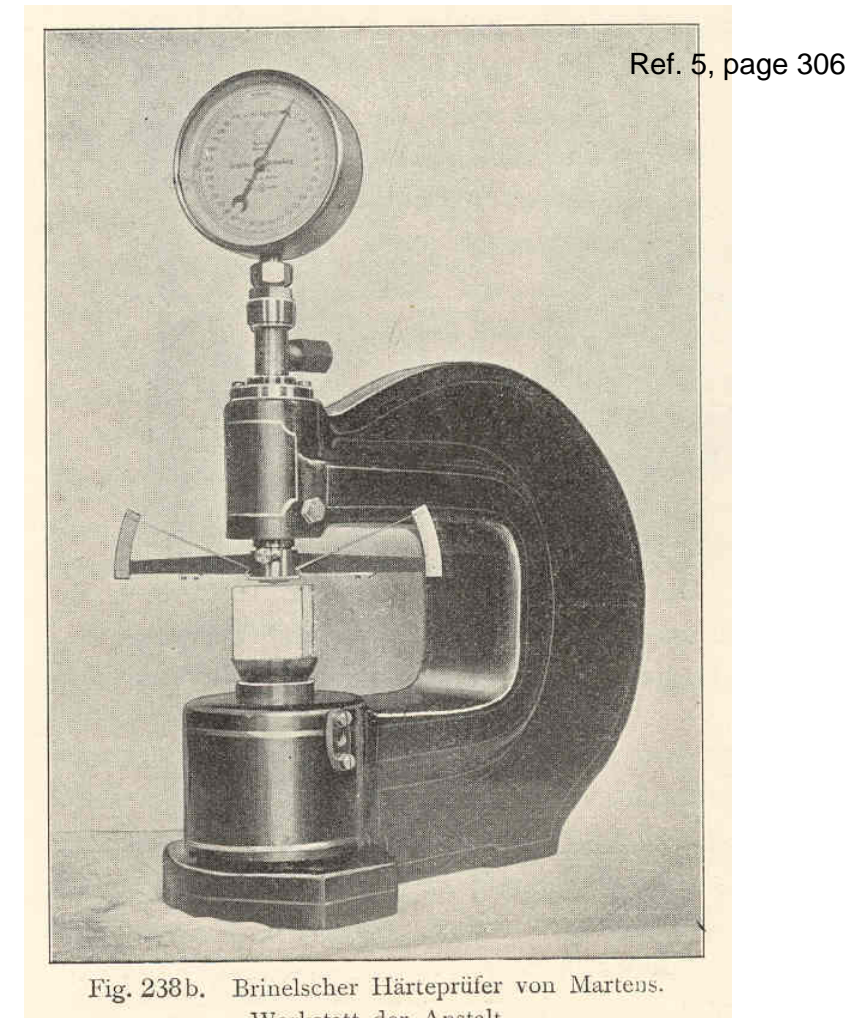
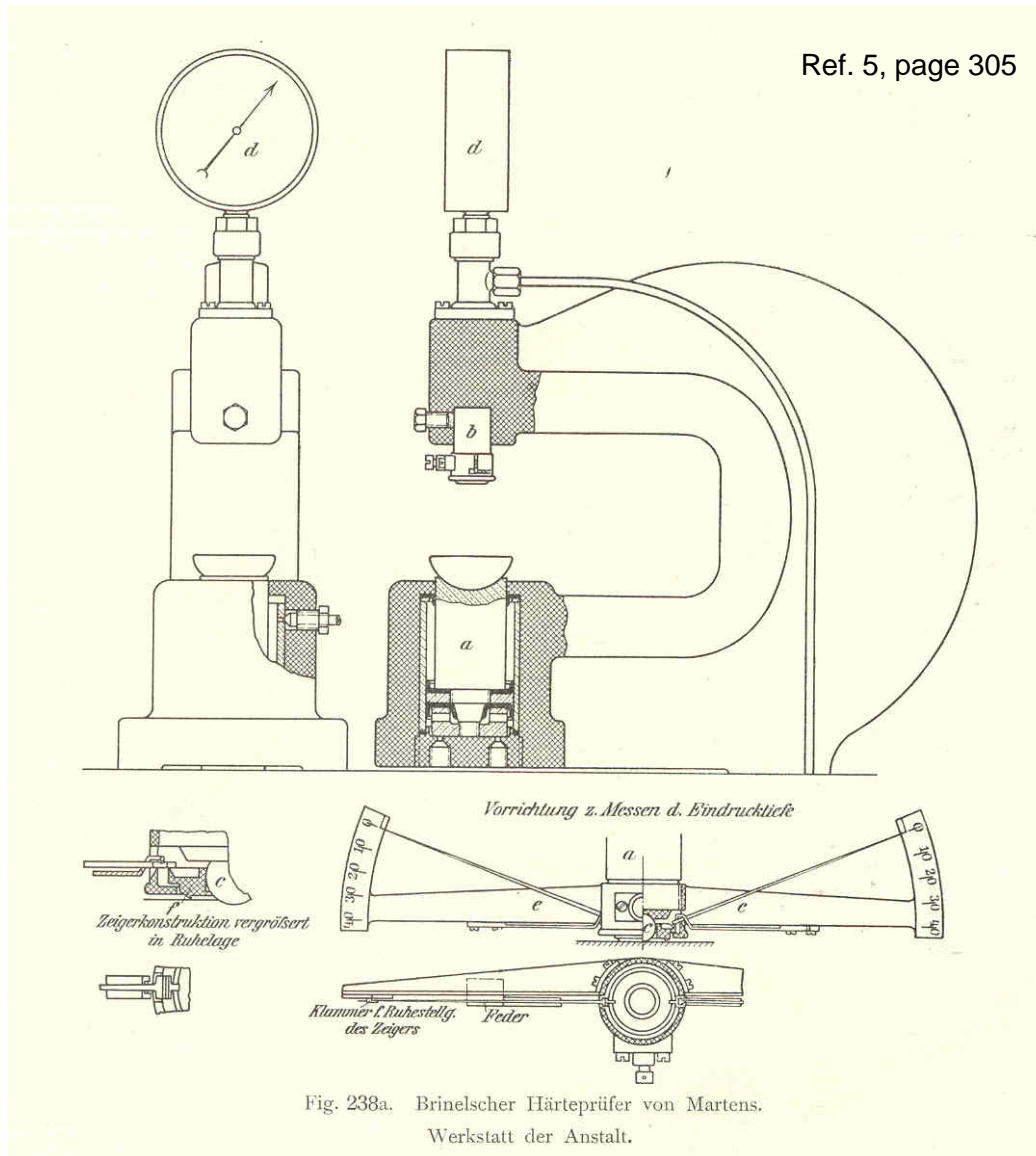
*1/180 in.  
0,53  
nat. Bel.*

*Spiegeleisen I Wissen  
Klaffgmetall zur Qualifikation H!*

Metallographical sections of a steel specimen with  
“Spiegeleisen”, Left hand of section normal to the  
cleavage surface, right hand parallel to it  
Martens, 1878



# Mechanical Testing



**Brinell hardness tester,  
design by Martens, workshop**

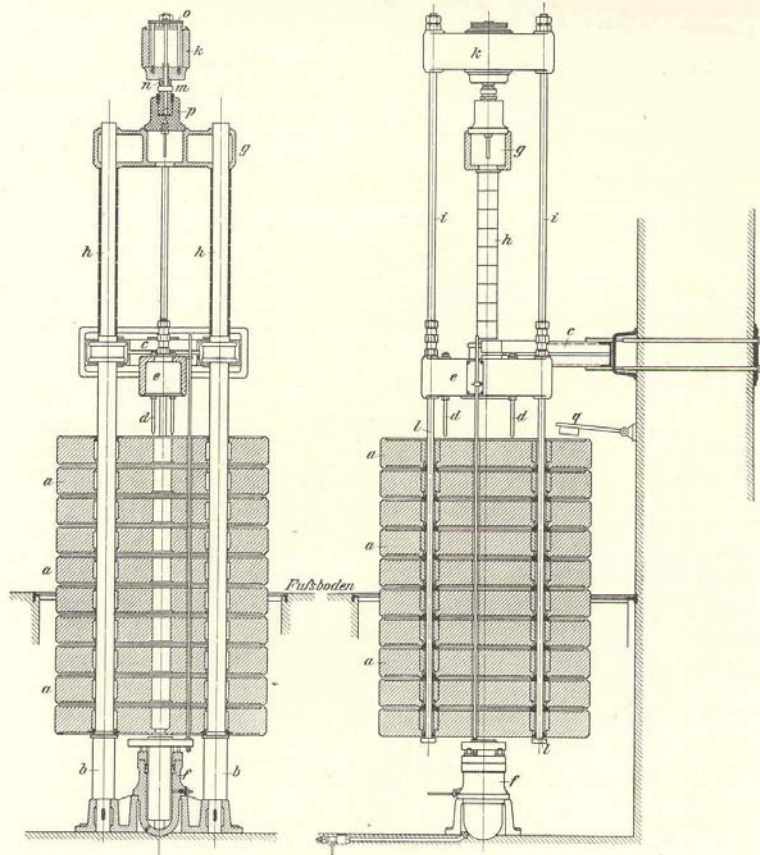


Fig. 221.

 Kontrollstabprüfer nach Martens.  
 C. Hoppe-Berlin.

Ref. 5, page 290

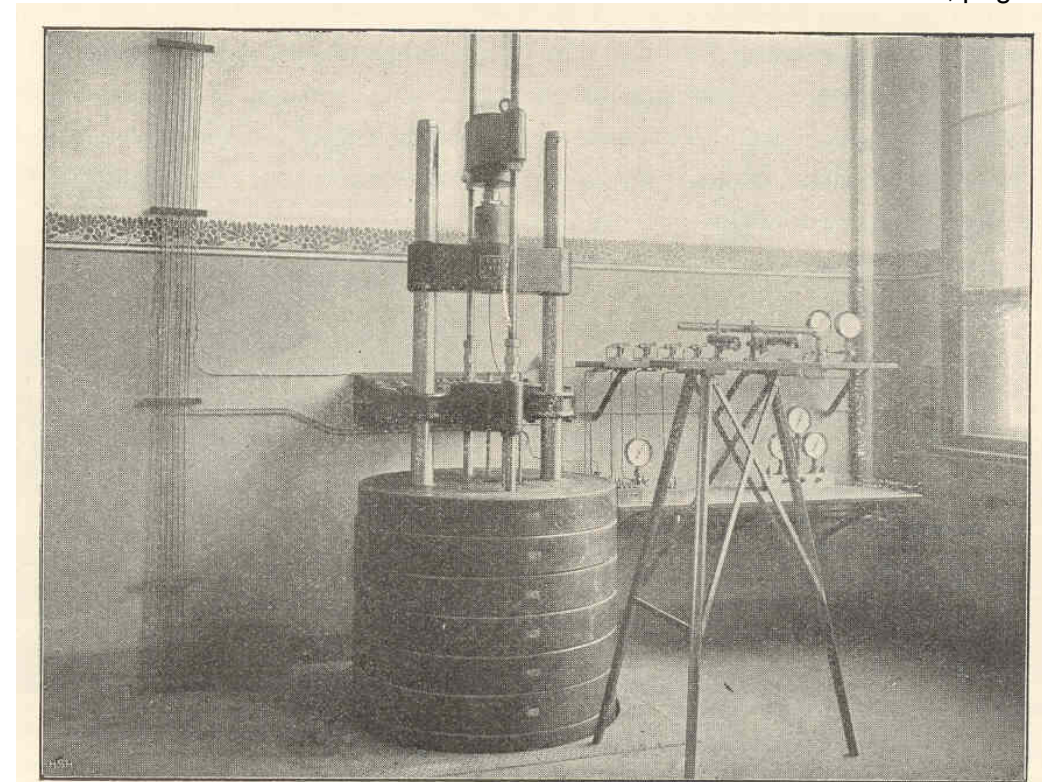
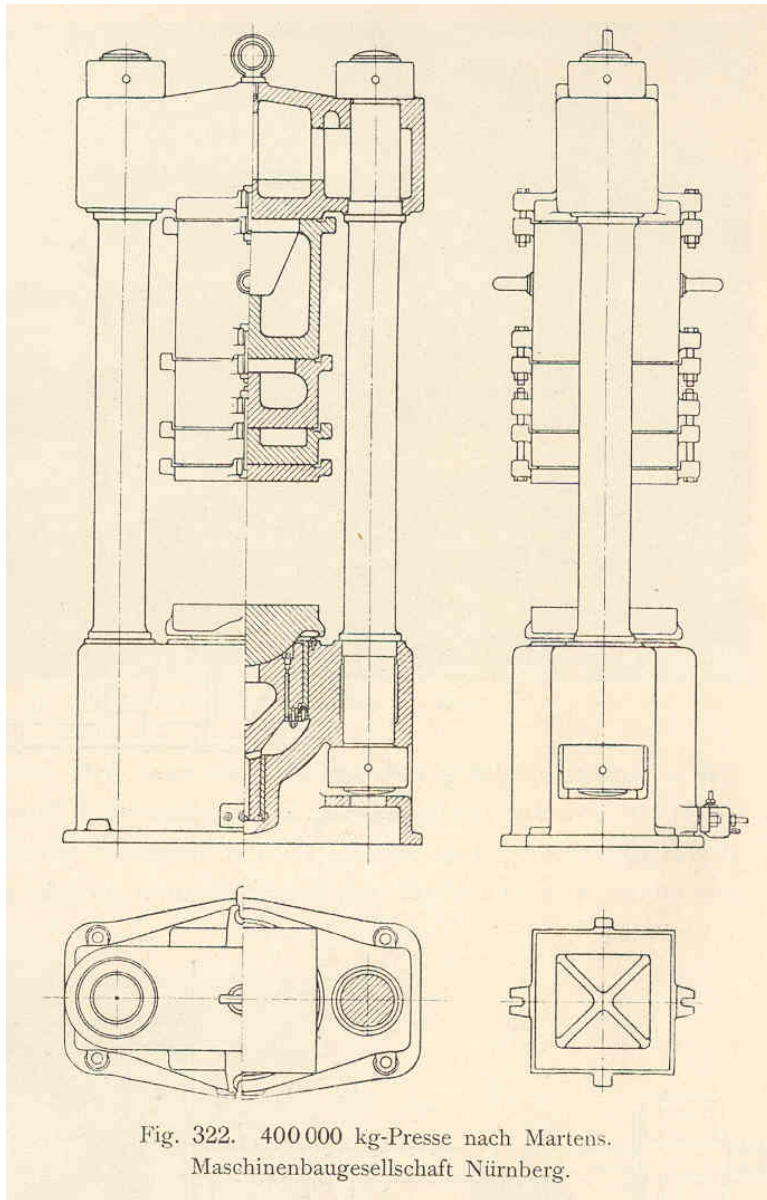
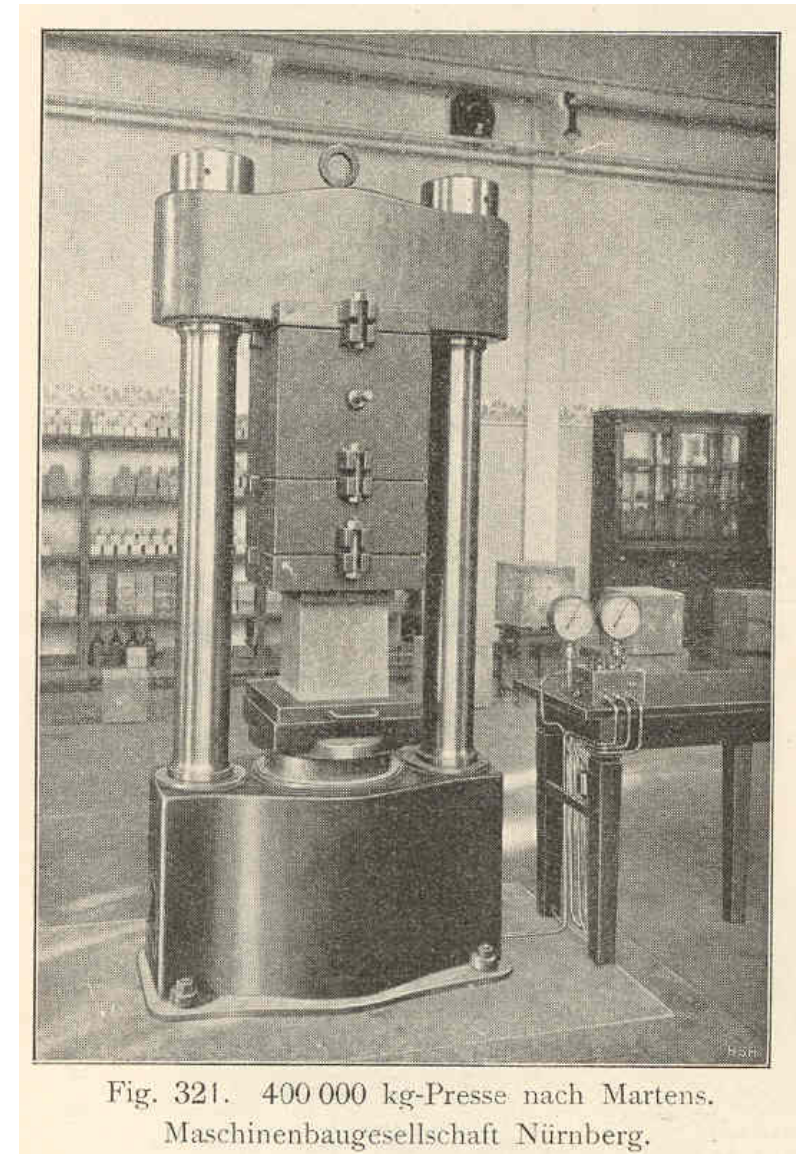


Fig. 248. Kontrollstab- und Manometerprüfung.

**Calibration of load cells and manometers**  
**10 plates of cast iron, 1.000 kg each**  
**design by Martens, Co. Paul Hoppe, 1898**



Ref. 5, page 352



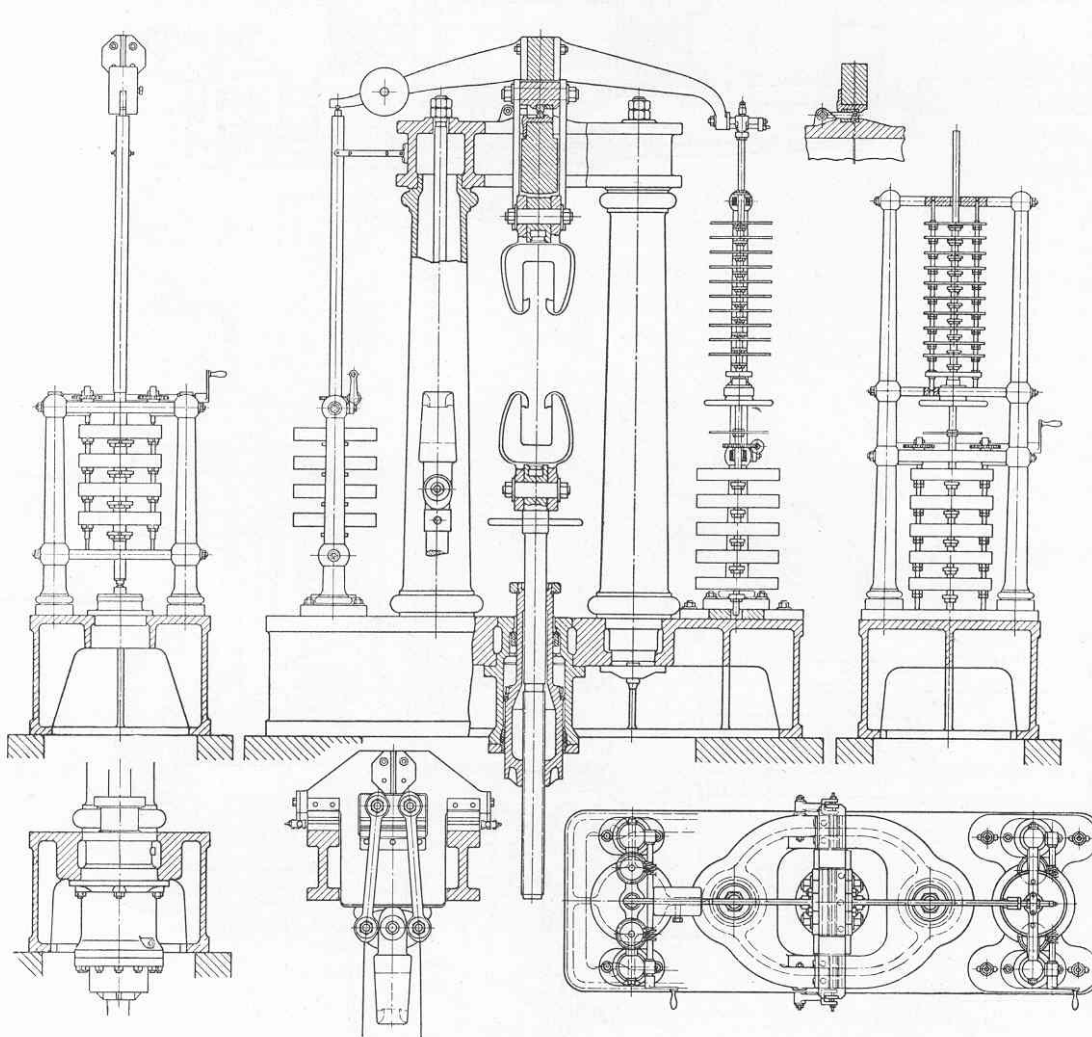


Fig. 260. Festigkeitsprobiermaschine für 50000 kg Leistung von Martens.  
Maschinenbaugesellschaft Nürnberg.

Ref. 5, page 317

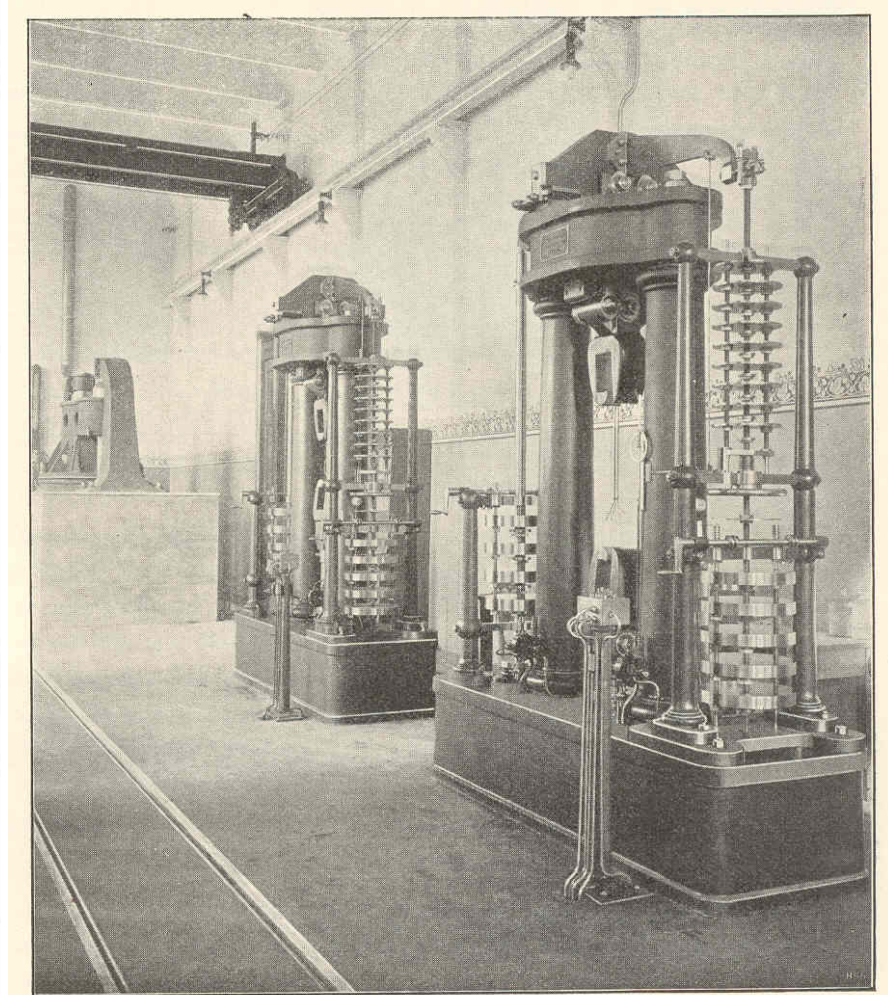
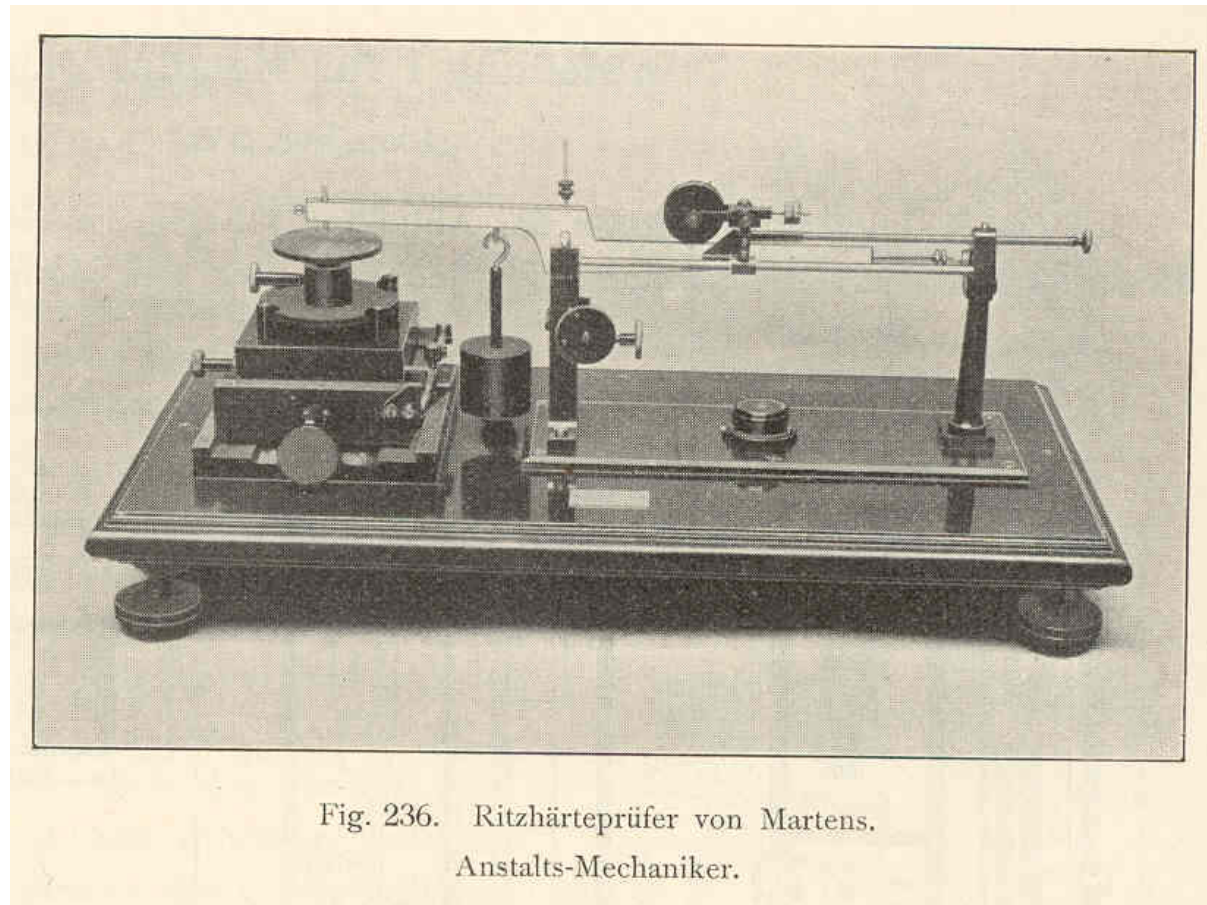


Fig. 255. 50000 kg Probierrmaschinen von Martens. Maschinenbaugesellschaft Nürnberg.

Ref. 5, page 314



Ref. 5, page 304

**Scratch hardness tester**  
**conical diamond, 90 °; varying load**  
**design by Martens, workshop**

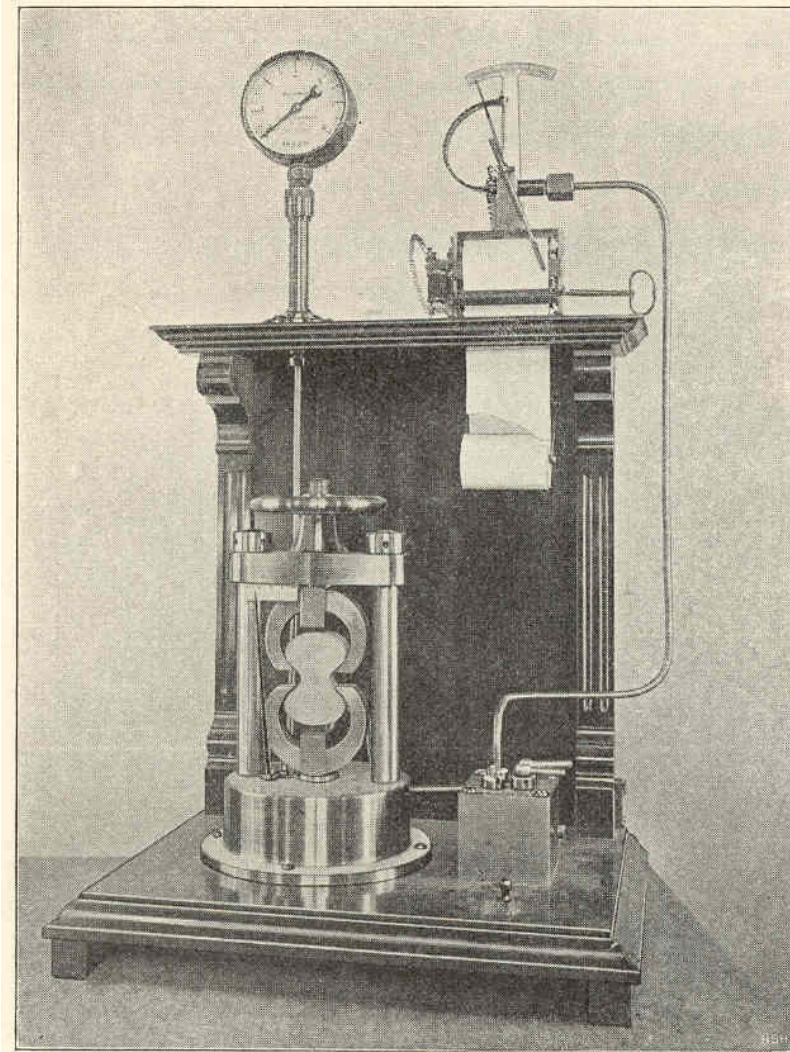
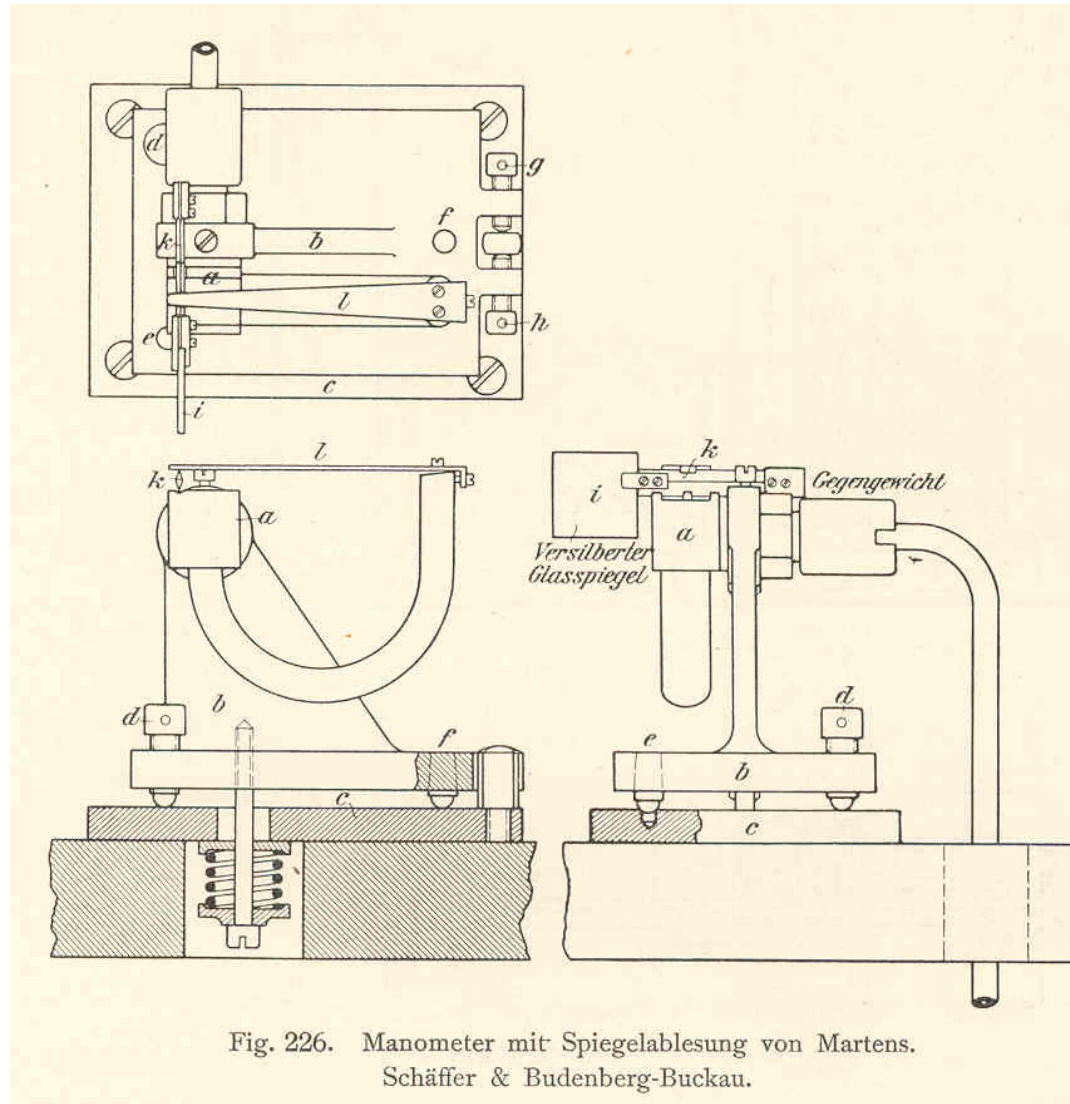


Fig. 327. Zugfestigkeitsprüfer für Zement von Martens.  
Maschinenbaugesellschaft Nürnberg.  
Ventile und Schreibmanometer von R. Gradenwitz-Berlin.

Ref. 5, page 355

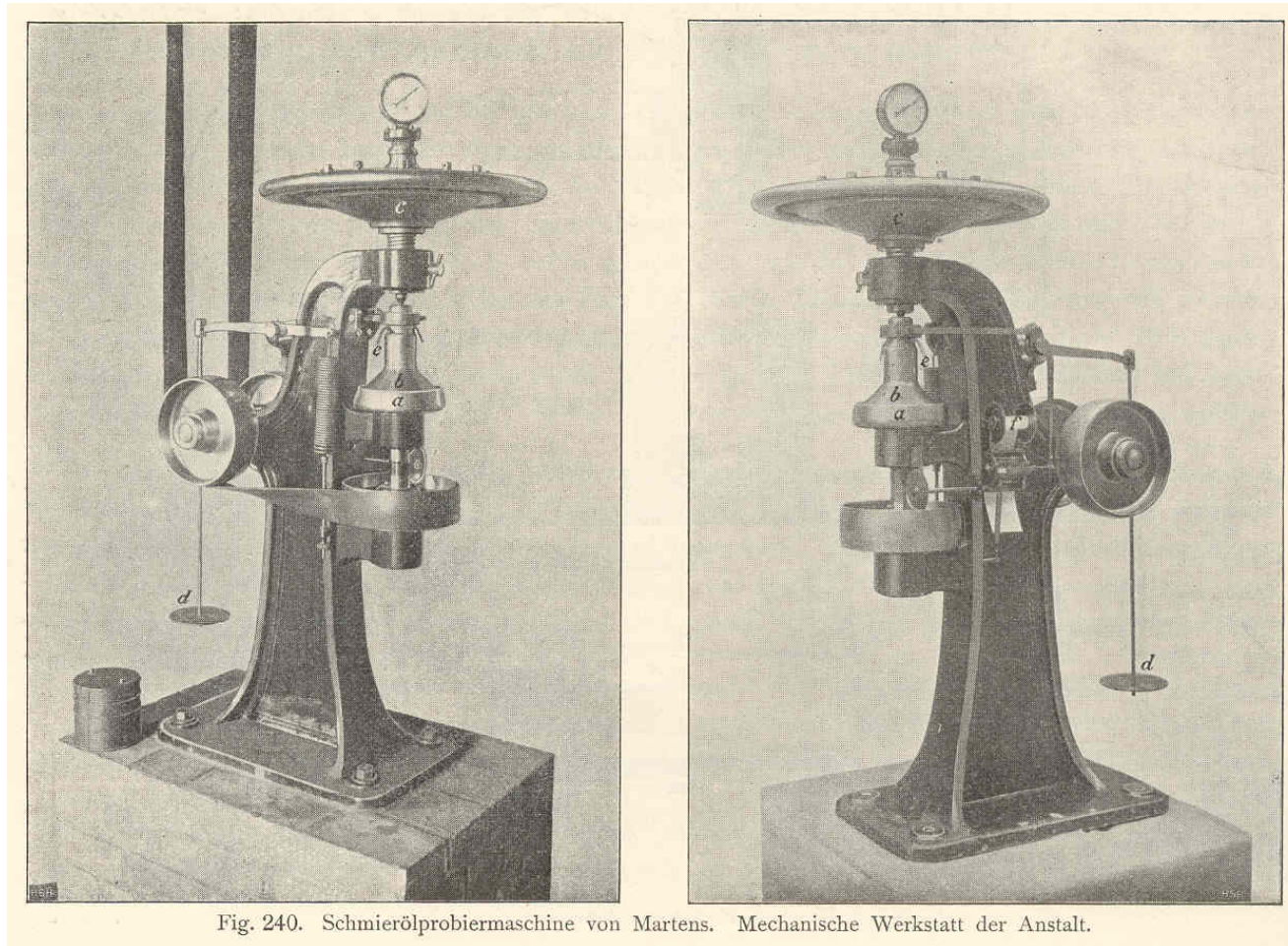


Ref. 5, page 295

Fig. 226. Manometer mit Spiegelablesung von Martens.  
Schäffer & Budenberg-Buckau.

## Manometer with mirror measurement, design by Martens



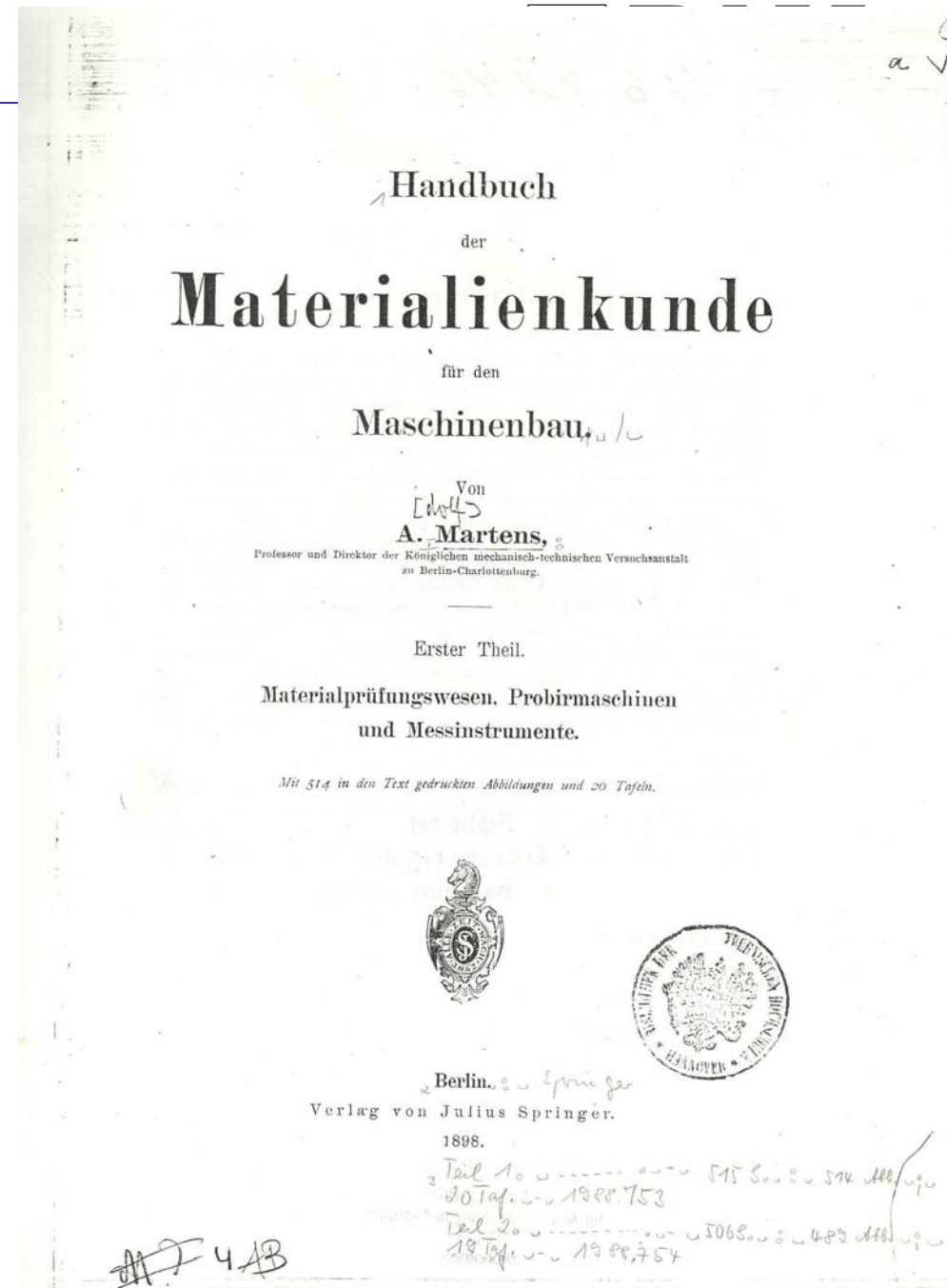


Ref. 5, page 306

**Testing of lubricant oil change of viscosity under continuous loading, analysis of decomposition products  
design by Martens, workshop**

# Materials Engineering

- **Adolf Martens**  
**Handbook of Materials Technology for Mechanical Engineering**  
**Part I - Materials Testing**  
**Berlin: Julius Springer, 1898**



- **Emil Heyn**  
**Handbook of Materials Technology for Mechanical Engineering**  
**Part II - The technically most important properties of metals and alloys**  
**Edited by Adolf Martens**  
**Berlin: Julius Springer, 1912**

1911. 1279.

Handbuch  
der  
**Materialienkunde**

für den  
**Maschinenbau**

von  
*Adolf*  
**Dr.-Ing. A. Martens,**  
Geheimer Oberregierungsrat, Professor und Direktor  
des Kgl. Materialprüfungsamts, Groß-Lichterfelde.

Zweiter Teil.  
Die technisch wichtigen Eigenschaften der Metalle  
und Legierungen

von  
*Emil*  
**E. Heyn,**  
Estatmäßiger Professor für mechanische Technologie, Eisenhütten- und Materialkunde an der  
Kgl. Technischen Hochschule Berlin und Direktor im Kgl. Materialprüfungsamt, Groß-Lichterfelde.

Hälfte A.  
Die wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen für das Studium  
der Metalle und Legierungen. Metallographie.

Mit 489 Abbildungen im Text und 19 Tafeln.



Berlin.  
Verlag von Julius Springer.  
1912.

Martens Vorlesungen über Materialkunde. (Winkelmessung)

Typische Darstellung der Typen von Zugprüfmaschinen:

Wappstein hat drei Zugprüfmaschinen, deren allgemeine Anordnung mit Pfeil gegeben ist für die (Winkel der Wappstein) (siehe Martens, Handbuch der Materialkunde Abbildung II).

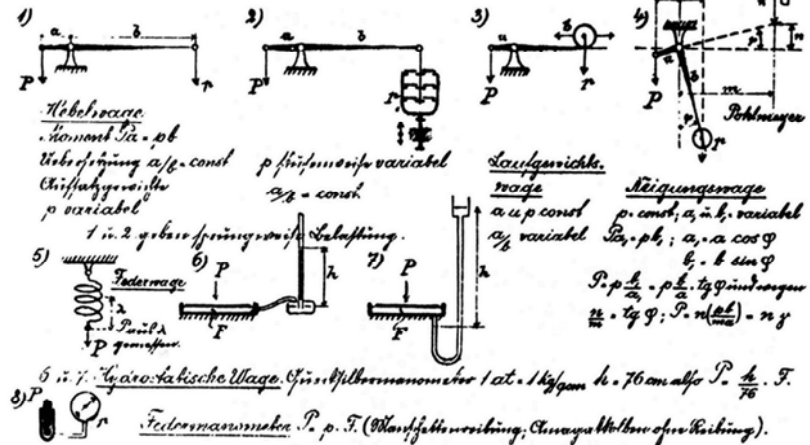
A. Spannwerk B. Kraftmesser C. Maschinengestell

Die Einrichtungen für die Beanspruchungsleistung (Materialkunde Abbildung II) sind meist einflusslos von der Wappstein.

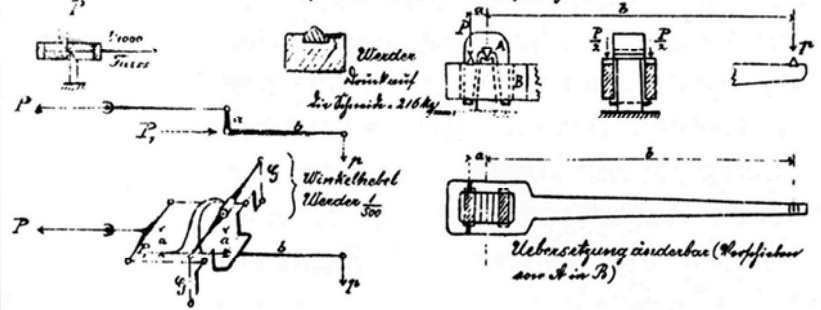
Der Bau dieser besteht:



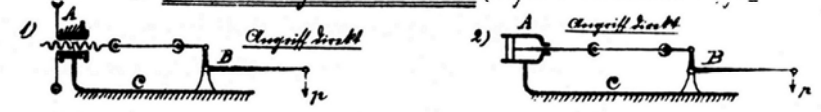
I. Ausbildung der Kraftmesser.



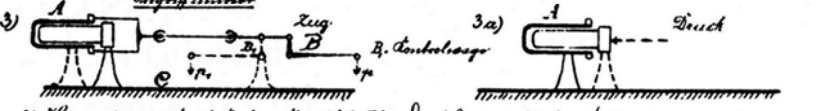
Konstruktion von Wasserhebvorrichtungen.



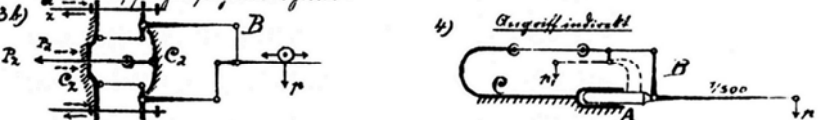
II. Anordnung der Maschinen. (siehe Materialkunde Seite 2)



1) Reuleaux (Mitt. 1859 II)  
 zu 1) A. Torsionsfeder, B. Winkelwaage zu 2) Torsionsfeder, Winkelwaage  
 zu 3) Winkelwaage, Torsionsfeder, Winkelwaage

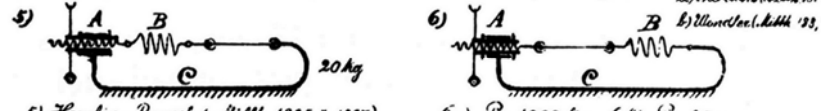


3) Koppa 50000 kg. (Materialk. Abbildung II). Die Waage mit die Teil 3 in 3a gleichung  
 für fest festgelegte Befestigung

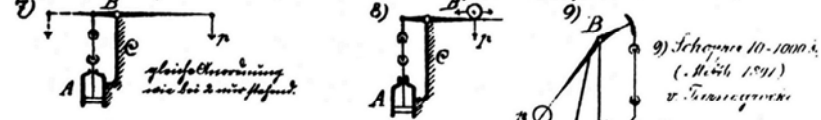


3b) Kraftmessung Zug, aufgezogen. Druck gemessen für fest festgelegt für Druck  $P_2$

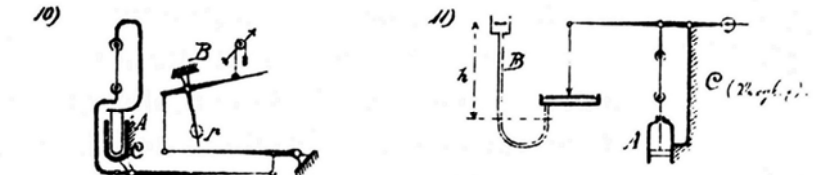
4) Wender 100000 kg. (Mitt. 1854 & 2) A in B am gleichen Ende



5) Heuking-Reusch (Mitt. 1885 in 1887)  
 1 bis 6 Wappstein mit Leverage 7 bis 11 Wappstein mit Hebel (siehe Seite 2)



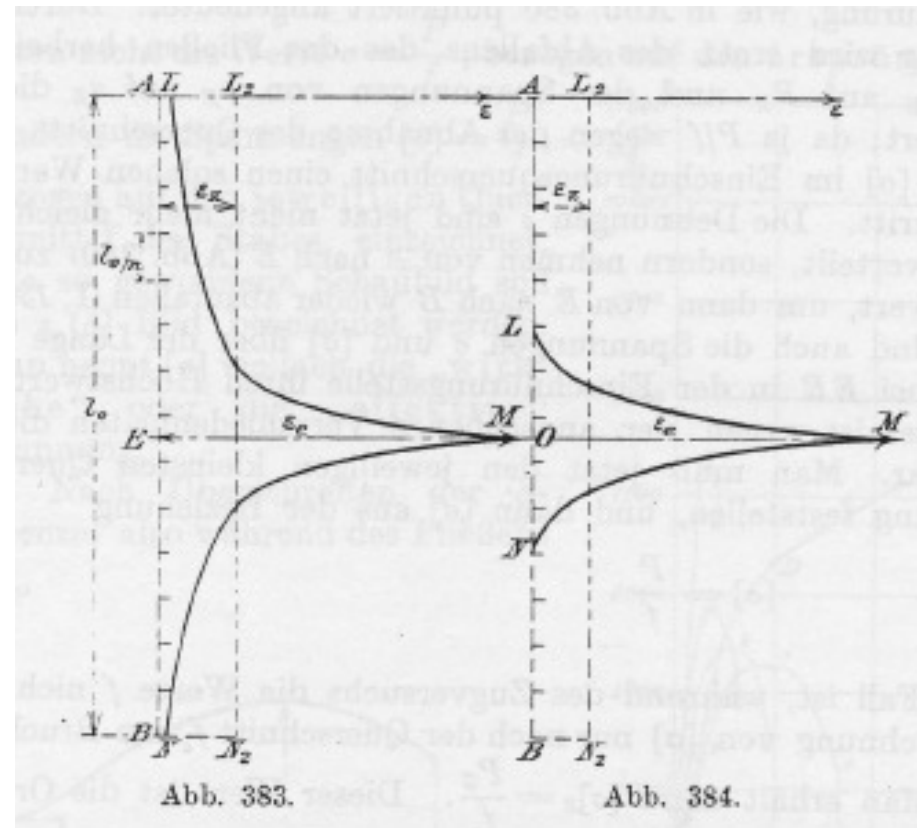
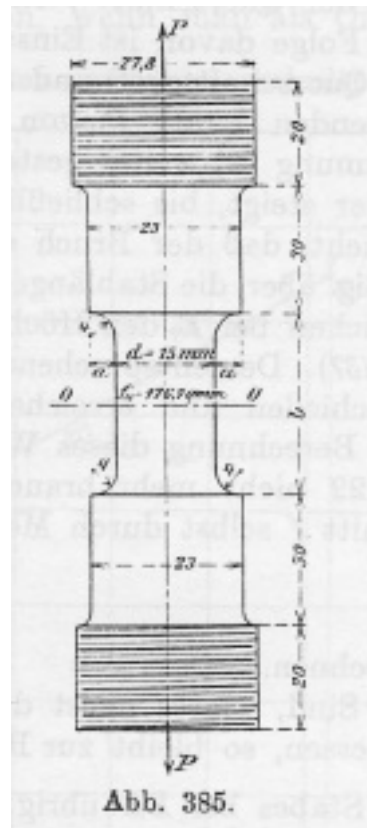
7) D. Martens 50000 in 5000 kg (Zeitschrift für die Bauwesen 1886, 1890)  
 8) Martens 500 kg (Materialk. Abbildung II)  
 9) Schenkelwaage 10-1000 kg (Mitt. 1891) v. Torsionsfeder



10) Pohlmann 25000-100000 kg. (Zeitschrift für die Bauwesen 1881)  
 11) Martens 50000 kg. (Zeitschrift für die Bauwesen 1880)

Jede Maschine muss bei der Herstellung auf die Kraft gemessen werden. Die Genauigkeit der Messung beträgt von 1% (Materialk. Abbildung II).

- Heyn recognized the importance of notch sensitivity in designing and manufacturing machine elements; he developed mechanical tests for evaluating the behaviour of metallic components with notches;



Handbuch der  
Materialienkunde,  
Bd. II, p. 372

- **Adolf Martens made important contributions to materials engineering, especially in the fields of metallography and mechanical testing of materials**
- **His name is tightly connected to the martensitic transformation and to martensite, even though he did not work directly in this area**
- **His name is also directly connected to the instrumented indentation testing, the Martens hardness, HM ( DIN EN ISO I4577-3, according to ISO/TC 164/SC 3 "Hardness Testing of Metals“, meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in Berlin )**

- **Emil Heyn also made important contributions to materials engineering, especially in the fields of metallography and physical metallurgy**
- **His name is tightly connected to the determination of grain size and of chemical etching of metallographic sections.**
- **In recognition of his contribution the most important award of the German Society for Metals Research is denominated Heyn medal**



- [1] Adolf Martens, Ueber die mikroskopische Untersuchung des Eisens  
Zeitschrift des Vereines Deutscher Ingenieure 22 (1878) 11-18
- [2] Adolf Martens, Zur Mikrostruktur des Spiegeleisens – Die Erscheinungen auf den Bruchflächen  
Zeitschrift des Vereines Deutscher Ingenieure 22 (1878) 205-214
- [3] Adolf Martens, Zur Mikrostruktur des Spiegeleisens – Die Erscheinungen auf den Schlißflächen  
Zeitschrift des Vereines Deutscher Ingenieure 22 (1878) 481-488
- [4] Adolf Martens, Mikroskop für die Untersuchung von Metallen  
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