

# Preface

The German text for this English translation of Hermann Kopp's *Aus der Molecular-Welt* was provided by a copy in the Special Collections Department of Kelvin Smith Library on the campus of Case Western Reserve University, and I thank Norma S. Hanson for invaluable assistance, in this instance as so often in the past. That copy is of the third printing (1886) of this charming little book, but I have determined, by examining complete scanned copies of the other two editions in Google Books, that all three editions of this title were printed from a single set of plates, only the front matter distinguishing these printings one from another. In this translation edition, I substituted here the wording of the title page of the first (private) printing of March 1882 for that of the 1886 edition.

Further details of the interesting printing history of *Aus der Molecular-Welt* may be found in the introduction's footnotes no. 34, 36, 46, and 48 below. For most informative correspondence I am indebted to the kindness of Carl Winter of Heidelberg, great-grandson of Carl Winter (1836–1901), who owned Carl Winters Universitätsverlag Heidelberg, the family firm that published all three of these editions. I also thank Roland Adunka, director of the Auer von Welsbach Museum in Althofen, Austria, for helpful correspondence concerning Robert Bunsen's copy from the first printing of the book, held by the Welsbach Museum. My introduction is, in part, an expanded and revised version of a portion of Chap. 9 of *Image and Reality: Kekulé, Kopp, and the Scientific Imagination*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2010. An early version of another part of my introduction was orally presented at a 2009 colloquium in honor of Christoph Meinel in Regensburg; I thank Professor Meinel, Christine Nawa, Thomas Steinhauser, and Carsten Reinhardt both for kind hospitality and for their helpful comments on that occasion.

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Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin); the archive of the Deutsches Museum (Munich); the August-Kekulé-Sammlung of the Institut für Organische Chemie, Technische Universität Darmstadt (in 2010, this collection was wholly transferred to the Deutsches Museum Archive); the archive of Vieweg-Verlag (Braunschweig); the Universitätsarchiv Heidelberg; the Deutsches Literaturarchiv (Marbach/Neckar); the Bunsen-Bibliothek of the Auer von Welsbach Museum (Althofen); and the Royal Society of Chemistry (London). Kopp's German is occasionally challenging fully to comprehend, much less accurately to translate, and many of his references and allusions were initially more or less obscure; I am indebted to Ursula Klein, Susanne Vees-Gulani, and Christine Nawa for advice about the meaning of a few passages over which I was brought to the brink of despair. Last but by no means least, I most warmly thank Elizabeth Hawkins and Seth Rasmussen, whose professionalism made the last stages of this project a pleasure.

It is a perennial challenge for any translator to create new language that matches the original as closely as possible in both meaning and style; compromises between literal equivalence and graceful expression are inevitable. Suffice it to say that I have tried to steer my philological craft as wisely as I was able. Where I have perceived Kopp as being humorously obtuse or self-referentially prolix, I have not hesitated to produce English in a similar style. For all translations from manuscript sources cited in the introduction, the original German is provided in footnotes, reproduced *literatim et verbatim*. As was usual for German printed scientific works during the nineteenth century, eszett is here normally written out (ß = ss) when reproduced from printed sources. I use the following abbreviations for locations of manuscript sources:

ADM	Archiv des Deutschen Museums, Munich (with document number)
AKS	August-Kekulé-Sammlung, Institut für Organische Chemie, Technische Universität Darmstadt (located now in the Deutsches Museum Archive, Kekulé-Nachlaß)
BBAW-CB	Sammlung Chemiker-Briefe, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin
BBAW-W	Sammlung Wachs, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin
BSB	Sammlung Liebigiana IIB, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich
DLA	Sammlung Winter-Universitätsverlag Heidelberg, Deutsches Literaturarchiv, Marbach/Neckar
MPGA	Kopp file, II./38A, Nr. 4-44, Max Planck Gesellschaft Archiv, Berlin
RSC	Henry E. Roscoe Collection, Royal Society of Chemistry, London
UAH	Universitätsarchiv Heidelberg
VA	Kolbe file, Vieweg-Archiv, Vieweg Verlag, Braunschweig (with letter number)

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