

The Life and Work of Ernst Schröder

Randall R. Dipert
Department of Philosophy
SUNY Fredonia
Fredonia, NY 14063 USA
e-mail: dipert@cs.buffalo.edu

Life

Friedrich Wilhelm Karl Ernst Schröder was born on November 25th, 1841 in Mannheim, in the northern part of the German state of Baden (since 1945, part of Baden-Württemberg).¹ He was the oldest son of Heinrich Georg Friedrich Schröder, the director of the Higher Public School (*Höhere Bürgerschule*), later called the 'Realgymnasium', there. Schröder's father was also an amateur natural scientist of some slight local reputation. Schröder himself described his father as very interested in mineralogy, chemistry, and physics and that he anticipated Pasteur's work on the filtration of microbiological agents from air. The elder Schröder was from Munich (although the family was originally from Hannover) and studied there at the *Polytechnische*

¹The information in this essay has four sources. First, there is the Appendix, "A Short Biographical Sketch of Ernst Schröder," in my PhD dissertation, *Development and Crisis in Late Boolean Logic: The Deductive Logics of Peirce, Jevons, and Schröder* (Indiana University, 1978). Second, there is my essay, "Ein Karlsruher Pionier der Logik. Ernst Schröders Beitrag zur Logik und den Grundlagen der Mathematik," in *Fridericiana. Zeitschrift der Universität Karlsruhe* Heft 27 (1981), based upon a paper I gave June 3, 1980 at the *Institut für Philosophie* of the University of Karlsruhe, sponsored by Prof. Dr. Hans Lenk and Dr. Wolfgang Breidert. This paper, which was prepared in German, was later revised with the help of Dr. Breidert, my wife, Monika, my father-in-law, Wilhelm Schmidt of Trier, and the editor, Prof. Dr. Hans-Wolf Thümmel, also contains a photograph of Schröder and facsimiles of a number of documents. Third, I am indebted to Dr. Volker Peckhaus's essay, "Karl Eugen Müller (1865–1932) und seine Rolle in der Entwicklung der Algebra der Logik," *History and Philosophy of Logic* 9 (1988), pp. 43–56, which clarified a number of facts about the history of Schröder's *Nachlass*. Finally, there are the *Nachlässe* of figures with whom Schröder corresponded: Felix Klein, Paul Carus, C.S. Peirce, and Christine Ladd-Franklin that are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this volume.