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Publishing complete works of mathematicians in 19th-century Europe

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Quelques remarques sur l'édition des Gesammelte Werke de Riemann par Dedekind et Weber/Some remarks on Dedekind and Weber's edition of Riemann's Gesammelte Werke

Abstract - In 1876, the collected works of Bernhard Riemann were published, with additional manuscripts from his Nachlass, by Richard Dedekind and Heinrich Weber. The edition of Riemann's works was a long and difficult work, which took Dedekind and Weber more than two years to complete. Indeed, as the letters exchanged by Dedekind and Weber tell us, the state of Riemann's manuscripts made it necessary for them to thoroughly work through the manuscripts, sometimes struggling to understand what Riemann was doing.

We will consider some elements of their correspondence and highlight key points to understand the process of edition through which Dedekind and Weber went, such as the steps followed to unfold Riemann's texts until publishable versions could be obtained. We will suggest that it is important, here, to elucidate to what extent Weber and Dedekind's very thorough editing work led to publish adapted or even rewritten versions of Riemann's texts, and to clarify whether Dedekind and Weber's reading of Riemann could have had an influence on our own reading, through their re-appropriation of Riemann's texts that accompanied the edition of the manuscripts