

## **Abstract: The colourful life of Adolf Lehne (1856-1930)<sup>1</sup>**

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Adolf Lehne was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1856 at Winkel am Rhein in Germany. He spent his youth in Mainz where he attended a humanistic grammar school. In 1874 Lehne studied chemistry first at the University of Giessen, later in Berlin, Heidelberg, Freiburg in Breisgau and Munich. In Munich he was a student of Adolf Baeyer and two years later assistant to Jakob Volhard and Emil Fischer.

After his doctor's degree in 1880 he became chemist and later head of the Dyeing and Test Laboratory of BASF in Stuttgart till 1888. In that year he went to Berlin where he started a private Test Laboratory and School for the Textile Industry and at the same time he was an expert witness for the textile industry at the Berlin court of justice.

From 1891 till 1917 Lehne was a member of the Imperial Patent Office in Berlin, in 1893 as a permanent member. In 1901 he became the president of the privy council of the Department IV, responsible for textile-chemical discoveries.

In the autumn of 1889 he founded the dyer's journal 'Die Färberzeitung - Zeitschrift für Färberei, Zeugdruck und den gesamten Farbenverbrauch' published by Julius Springer in Berlin. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1889 the first edition was published; the journal appeared twice per month. Through the years 'Die Färberzeitung' became highly esteemed and could compete with international journals, such as the Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists. In 1920 'Die Färberzeitung' continued as a chemical-technical part of the new textile journal 'Textilberichte über Wissenschaft, Industrie und Handel' (nowadays 'Melliand Textilberichte') founded by Marcel Melliand.

In 1896 Lehne was a member and in 1899 became president of the 'Verein Deutscher Chemiker' in Berlin. In 1908 he was president of the research group for 'Chemie der Farben- und Textilindustrie' of the 'Verein Deutscher Chemiker'. In 1911 Lehne was also president of the German Colour Fastness Committee. The aim of this committee was to create and establish appropriate test procedures. The members were renowned representatives of the textile and dye industries as well as from universities.

Besides his practical work Lehne wrote some fundamental works on synthetic dyes, such as the 'Tabellarische Übersicht über die künstlichen organischen Farbstoffe und ihre Anwendung in Färberei und Zeugdruck' between 1893-1906. His special interest was the synthetic dye aniline black and together with the chemist Emilio Nölting he wrote the book 'Anilinschwarz und seine Anwendung in Färberei und Zeugdruck' in 1892. In 1908 and 1909 the German version was translated into French and English. The 1926 book 'Färberei und Zeugdruck, Vorschriften gebräuchlicher Farbstoffe und Hilfstoffe' is still a standard work.

From April 1919 till October 1925 Lehne was the ordinary professor and director of the Textile Chemistry Department at the Chemical Technical Institute of the Technical University of Karlsruhe. Adolf Lehne spent his remaining years in Munich where he died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1930 of cardiac insufficiency.

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