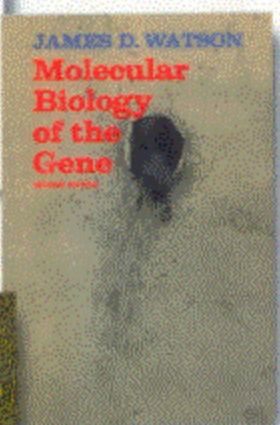
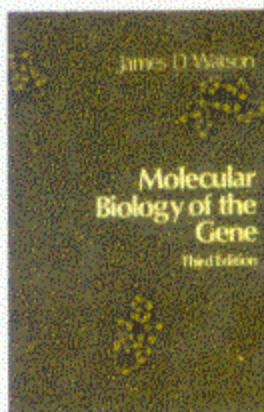


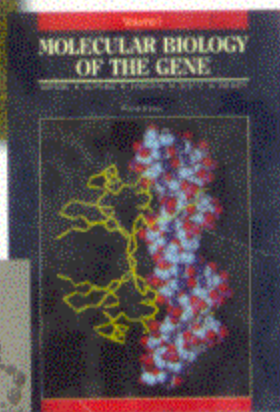
FIRST EDITION



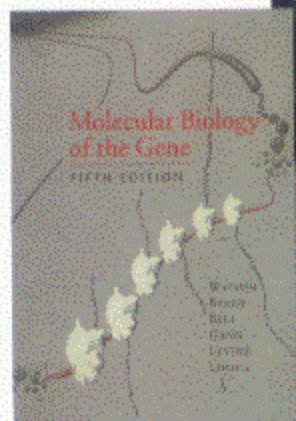
SECOND EDITION



THIRD EDITION



FOURTH EDITION



FIFTH EDITION

Covering the History of Molecular Biology

Shown are the covers from the previous five editions of *Molecular Biology of the Gene*.

At the top, the 1965 first edition cover was by Bill Prokos. The story of how that cover came about, and how it has been reinterpreted for the current edition, is described in the Preface.

Published in 1970, the cover of the second edition showed an electron micrograph of actively transcribed DNA, spewed from a lysed *Escherichia coli* cell. The transcripts were being translated even as they were still being transcribed. The ribosomes rendered the transcripts visible, appearing as lines of black dots.

In 1976 the third edition appeared, with the distinctive yellow cover shown here in the middle. The image is again an electron micrograph, this time of SV40 chromatin circles isolated from monkey cells infected by that virus.

The cover image chosen for the fourth edition, published in 1986, was a computer-generated image of the phage λ Cro protein bound to DNA. This illustrated an example of the then newly discovered helix-turn-helix DNA-binding motif. The fourth edition appeared in both blue (shown) and beige versions.

The cover of the 2003 fifth edition, shown at the bottom, was painted by Tomo Narashima, from a sketch by Erica Beade, on a silver background. The front (seen here) illustrated transcription, while DNA replication was depicted on the back.



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