

Review of
**VOLKER PECKHAUS: HERMANN ULRICI (1806–1884),
DER HALLESCHER PHILOSOPH UND DIE
ENGLISCHE ALGEBRA DER LOGIK**
mit einer Auswahl von Texten Ulrices zur Logik
und einer Bibliographie seiner Schriften.
Schriftenreihe zur Geistes und Kulturgeschichte: Texte und
Dokumente, hrsg. von Günter Schenk und Manfred Schwarz.
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This book contains a collection of three publications of Hermann Ulrici on logic, edited and introduced with an essay by Volker Peckhaus. At first sight it seems to investigate the history of an episode in nineteenth-century logic in Germany. Ulrici, associate professor for history of literature and aesthetics at the university of Halle from 1834 and full professor there from 1861, in 1855 wrote an extended and favorable review of George Boole's *An Investigation of the Laws of Thought*. It was the first public response to Boolean work in German philosophy. But it didn't have any influence on the development of logic in Germany. In the 1870s when German mathematicians and philosophers became interested in problems in the algebra of logic, they were mostly unaware of the progress of mathematical logic in Great Britain and got their first information on it from an article by Alois Riehl in 1877, entitled "Die englische Logik der Gegenwart", and from Ernst Schröder's *Der Operationskreis des Logikkalküls* in the same year. Ulrici published in 1878 his second article on the algebra of logic, a review of George Bruce Halsted's "Boole's Logical Method", but his view of it was now rather against the growing influence of that kind of logic in philosophy. Ironically, not only were the other participants in the discussion on algebra of logic in the 1870s completely ignorant of Ulrici's article from the 1850s, but Ulrici himself didn't mention it — contrary to his habit of citing in his writings many references to his own earlier works.

Peckhaus suggests that the reason for this strange attitude on the part of Ulrici can be found in a rivalry with Richard Avenarius. The