

Volker Peckhaus

*Logik, Mathesis universalis und allgemeine Wissenschaft. Leibniz und die Wiederentdeckung der formalen Logik im 19. Jahrhundert*

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## REVIEW

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The aim of Peckhaus's book is to investigate the rôle the logical ideas of Leibniz have played in the development of symbolic logic. As the title of the book suggests, the influence of Leibniz on the rise of modern logic is connected with the rediscovery of formal logic in the 19th century. But what this rediscovery means and what the influence of Leibniz and the Leibniz program on it consist in is a controversial topic among historians of logic. For Peckhaus, there has not been a significant adoption of a concrete logical idea of Leibniz by the founders of symbolic logic in the 19th century. On the contrary, "the history of modern logic is a history of unconscious rediscoveries" (p. 2). Only after finding out that the logical ideas and laws of their newly invented theories were already enunciated by Leibniz, did the logicians accept his priority. Nevertheless, the Leibnizian project of a universal characteristic and a *scientia generalis* has been playing an outstanding rôle in the formation of modern logic (p. 9): not as a source for new inventions and discoveries in logic, but as a vision (pp. 5 ff., p. 58), a utopia (pp. 125 ff.), a dream (p. 27) and even an ideology (p. 30, p. 77) of the omnipotence of the calculus. This vision the founders of modern logic have had in common with Leibniz, so Leibniz became a figure of integration and legitimacy for them (p. 5).

Peckhaus argues from the viewpoint of reception history. His focus on the history of logic is not primarily, as in many recent works, the relevance of history for the problems of our time, but the use of contextual method of historical research. With the formation of modern logic, the concept of logic itself has been changed radically. That means the analysis of this change must not only consider the actual concept of logic,