

Risto Vilkkio

A Hundred Years of Logical Investigations.

Reform Efforts of Logic in Germany 1781 - 1879

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REVIEW

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On p. 12 of the reviewed book, Risto Vilkkio complains that two extensive histories of logic, namely Bocheński's *Formale Logik* (1956, Eng. tr. 1961) and the Kneales' *The Development of Logic* (1962) do not devote "a single word to such important 19th philosophers-logicians as Johann Friedrich Herbart, Moritz Wilhelm Drobisch, Friedrich Adolf Trendelenburg or Hermann Ulrici. The Kneales disregard even the work of Robert Graßmann." Consequently, Vilkkio declares (p. 12) "The aim of this work is to show that this standard evaluation of 19th century logic is misdirected and needs to be corrected."

Vilkkio's complaint can be supplemented by an observation that another huge history of logic, namely *Storia della Logica. Da Boole ai nostri giorni*, by Corrado Mangione and Silvio Bozzi (Garzanti, Cernusco s/N 1993, 2nd ed. 1995, 959 pp.), although it mentions Herbart and Graßmann, yet refers to them as quite secondary figures. Perhaps Anton Dumitriu's *History of Logic*, v. 2 (Abacus Press, London 1991), could be considered as the only notable exception, because it offers a quite detailed account of logic done by philosophers in the 19th century. However, one should stress, more strongly than Vilkkio does, that Bocheński, the Kneales, and Mangione and Silvio, followed a quite definite ideology in looking at the history of logic based on the conviction, originated mostly with Jan Łukasiewicz, that mathematical logic is *the* logic. Due to this opinion, historians of logic should look for traces of contemporary mathematical-logical ideas in the past. Vilkkio, influenced by the Erlangen project of the social history of logic, formulated by Christian Thiel and continued by Volker Peckhaus, rejects the "imperialism" of mathematically oriented history of logic. His book