G. L. Rabus' logische Literatur

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VORBEMERKUNG

This note was ready for publication some years ago, but it remained inedita until now. In the meantime Risse's splendid Bibliographia Logica (Olms Verlag, 1965) has become the best bibliography for the centuries of the Neuzzeit (1500-1800). Nevertheless, I think it is still meaningful to publish this note on Rabus' Logische Literatur in this Festschrift for Professor R. Zocher. For any scholar associated with Erlangen and its University it may be interesting to know that the best bibliography of logic (Neuzzeit) has been, before Risse's work, the impressive list printed in the year 1868 by Verlag von Andreas Deichert (Druck der Universitäts-Buchdruckerei von E. Th. Jacob in Erlangen) as appendix to Rabus' Logik und Metaphysik. And even with respect to Risse's Bibliographia Logica one may assert that Rabus has not been completely defeated; there are in fact some authors (such as N. Wallerius and S. Hasenmüller) mentioned by Rabus but not by Risse. In the context of this Festschrift I may perhaps mention that I found Rabus' book through a Stuttgart antiquarian in the year 1959. As I realized that top experts in the history of logic were not aware of its existence, it seemed appropriate to do something in order to make it better known. Consequently I. Bochenski mentioned Rabus' überraschende Literatur in the second edition of his Formale Logik (1962) and Ch. Thiel published an excellent study on Rabus (in Jahrbuch für fränkische Landesforschung, 24, 1964, 401-410). My project was actually to publish a critical edition of the bibliography, revised and completed as concerns Exemplarmachweis, plus an introductory note and a study on Rabus. For editorial reasons this project could not be achieved; only Thiel's study on Rabus (above mentioned) and a revised fragment of the Logische Literatur were published separately (the latter in my "Sobre la restauracion de los textos filosoficos ibéricos", in Documentacion Critica Iberoamericana, Sevilla, 2 [1965] 423-446). The introductory note is published in this Festschrift for the first time.

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It is curious to observe how the Logische Literatur of G. L. Rabus has been so much overlooked. This bibliography is contained in: Logik und Metaphysik. Erster Teil. Erkenntnislehre, Geschichte der Logik, System der Logik, published in Erlangen, 1868. It occupies pages 443 to 518 and provides more than 1200 authors.
This enormous list is distributed in six chronological sections. Rabus' bibliography is a remarkable and original contribution: almost 1000 authors are recorded from the Aufkommen des Protestantismus until the year 1865. In this sense it is a necessary complement to Prantl's unfinished work. But, in contrast with Prantl, Rabus offers to the XXth century reader a pure masterpiece of historical research, free from subjective interfering commentaries. The seventh section of the bibliography: Hülsmittel zum Studium der Geschichte der Logik shows the very wide frame in which Rabus conducted his work although it is not clear whether the quoted sources were exhaustively investigated.

Rabus' bibliography from the Renaissance onwards is also a remarkable supplement to I. M. Bochenski's bibliography (Formale Logik, first ed. 1956) and offers, to contemporary logicians interested in the history of logic, the possibility of exploring a wide terra incognita. In fact, until now historical research from the point of view of contemporary logic has concentrated on centuries previous to the Renaissance (see I. M. Bochenski, Formale Logik, p. 297 and W. and M. Kneale, The Development of Logic, p. 298).

The accent laid by Rabus on "modern" centuries is an anticipation of what the forthcoming edition of the Ueberweg introduces as new fields of historical research in philosophy.

Rabus' bibliography should not be considered as an "accidental" product of an archivist. It was inserted as an essential step within a life-long programme on (what Rabus meant by) logic. He does not concern himself with history of logic as such: Doch war bei allen diesen Studien nicht sein Plan eine Geschichte der Logik zu verfassen, sondern sein Streben ging dahin, mit Hilfe der Geschichtskenntnis das System der Logik auszubilden. On the same page, Rabus observes that manche neuere Logiker haben, wie sie zum Teil selbst bekennen, zum Teil aus ihren Schriften abnehmen lassen, zunächst ihr Lebengebäude herzustellen sich beeilt und erst hernach zu den Leistungen anderer Leute sich herabzulassen für gut befinden. Perhaps Frege was one of these "new logicians". Of course Frege could easily reply that Rabus did not see the present: Frege's complaint of Rabus' criticism may be understood in this way.

Up to now Rabus has been known rather as author of another book: Logik und System der Wissenschaften, Erlangen 1895. This is the book referred to by
the first edition of I. M. Bochenski's *Formale Logik* (p. 537). B. Croce, in making a meticulous survey of works on the history of logic quotes *this* book but not the one containing the bibliography⁴. E. Husserl, in his critical reviews of logical works of the end of the century⁷ or R. Adamson, in his history of logic⁸, seem to be in the same situation. Ueberweg’s Logic is an exception⁴; Rabus’ book of 1868 and its *Literatur* are mentioned, but without remarks and within a large list of minor old books on history of logic, so that the reader cannot appreciate its particular value. Cf. also Baldwin’s *Dictionary*. As a final remark, it should not be forgotten that “logic” has usually meant many things more than strict formal logic; semantics, methodology, philosophy of logic and even metaphysics or epistemology are subjects discussed in the works mentioned in Rabus’ *Logische Literatur*. The general impression is that such non-formal subjects have prevailed over logic proper during the *Neuzeit*, i. e. during the centuries for which Rabus offers the richest known bibliography.

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4 G. L. Rabus: *Die neuesten Bemühungen auf dem Gebiete der Logik bei den Deutschen und die Logische Frage*, Erlangen 1880, p. 204. Rabus devotes two pages (130–131) to the work of a “young researcher, G. Frege”. The work is of course the *Begriffsschrift* (published less than one year before). In particular Rabus says: *Dazu mag hier ununter- sucht bleiben ob nicht thatsächlich die Logik, soweit sie ein Bedürfnis hat „die Bündigkeit einer Schlußkette auf die sicherste Weise zu prüfen“ (this is Begriffsschrift p. 4) Formeln mehr als genug seit lange besitzt*.