

Essay Towards A Real Character (Thoemmes Press - Works in the History of Language)



John Wilkins, Bishop of Chester (1614-72), was a founding member of the Royal Society and one of the most influential thinkers of the 17th century. His masterpiece, *An Essay Towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language*, is a key text in the history of language. Ready for publication in January 1666 but destroyed by the Great Fire, the work finally published in 1668 is Wilkins's attempt at creating a universal language. Wilkins maintained that because all peoples' minds functioned in the same way and had a similar apprehension of things, it should be possible to cultivate a rational universal language and a character that would also articulate things and notions. Not only would they aid international scientific communication and commerce, but prove the shortest and plainest way for the attainment of real Knowledge, that hath been yet offered to the World. Although Wilkins's universal language was never adopted for common use (and he never regarded the work as complete), it was widely considered to be superior to the earliest work by George Dalgarno, *Ars signorum* (1661). The first portion of the Essay focuses on an examination of the origins, change, adoption and diffusion of languages and alphabets. The second portion contains his Universal Philosophy classification system, with tables of animals, birds, fishes and plants drawn up by the two great naturalists, Francis Willoughby and John Ray. It was widely considered that the botanical and biological classifications were superior to any yet available, greatly advancing the creation of a scientific nomenclature. The work inspired John Ray to revise his own system. Appended to the Essay is an alphabetical dictionary which lists English words, their symbols in the real character, and references to their proper place in the classification. Some of the greatest minds of the 18th century received Wilkins's

creation enthusiastically: John Locke recommended the Essay over Dalgarnos work; Newton mentioned the book in his correspondence; Erasmus Darwin admired it; and the anthropologist Lord Monboddo praised it in his Origin and Progress of Language. The Essay continued to attract widespread attention in the 19th and 20th centuries: Roget, author of the ever popular Thesaurus, articulated his indebtedness to Wilkins, and based his classifications on Wilkinss system. Wilkinss treatment of the alphabet and phonetics were regarded as authoritative for many generations after his death, and in recent times the work has come to the attention of those interested in the development of symbolic logic and semantics. The work, reprinted here in its original size, is a valuable text for all scholars concerned with the history of language and science.

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A Short History of the International Language Movement. pp. 9092 **Koerner, EFKI Hans-JosefNiederebe (eds.) - Taylor & Francis Online** Smiths monograph joins a long list of speculative work on this then fashionable topic (cf. . The history of language, he claims, will show the true meaning of signs, will teach us how to avoid their abuse, and London: Routledge/Thoemmes Press. An Essay towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language. **John Austin (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)** The aspects of Bertrand Russell views on philosophy cover the changing viewpoints of Russells logical work with Whitehead continued this project. 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Reprint, Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1990. **Wittgenstein, Ludwig Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy** Truthfulness is, and has been throughout history, the concern of a vast array of disciplines, looked at from many perspectives 1991 The Prevalence of Deceit, Cornell University Press. .. 1986 Paul Grice: a view of his work. 1641/1668 Essay towards a Real Character, and a Philosophical Language. Thoemmes Press. **Amazon:Books:Reference:Words, Language - 1105** Essay Towards A Real Character (Thoemmes Press - Works in the History of Language) (Hardcover) Author John Wilkins New & used from \$464.74. and the Essay towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language (1668) reprinted (facsimile) by Thoemmes Press, Works in the History of Language, **Amazon:Books:Reference:Words, Language -** Essay Towards A Real Character (Thoemmes Press - Works in the History of Language) [John Wilkins] on . 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(Introductory description of An Essay Towards a Real Character and A Philosophical Language, Thoemmes Press 2002 <http://404.asp?404> **A New History of the Humanities: The Search for Principles and - Google Books Result** Bertrand Arthur William Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, OM, FRS was a British philosopher, logician, His work has had a considerable influence on mathematics, logic, set theory, linguistics, artificial especially the philosophy of language, epistemology, and metaphysics. Bertrand Russell, Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1994.