

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEIBNIZ AND THE INVENTION OF MATHEMATICAL	
TRANSCENDENCE. THE ADVENTURES OF AN IMPOSSIBLE	
INVENTORY	XIII
The discovery of the transcendence	XIII
Transcendence and Symbolism	XIII
Transcendence and Geometry	XIV
Looking for an inventory	XIV
Symbolical Inventory?	XV
Geometrical Inventory?	XVI
On Hierarchies in Transcendence. Explorations by Reproduction	XVII
Receptions of the Transcendence	XVIII
FIRST PART. DISCOVERING TRANSCENDENCE	
CHAPTER I. ON THE GERMINATIONS OF THE CONCEPT	
OF ‘TRANSCENDENCE’	3
1673: “A transcendent curve squaring the circle ...”	3
1674: About ‘secret’ geometry	4
1675: The letter to Oldenburg	4
1678: The “perfection of transcendent calculus”	5
CHAPTER II. SQUARING THE CIRCLE	7
II-A The Arithmetical Quadrature of the Circle (1673), or the very first	
mathematical glory of Leibniz	7
The quadrature of the hyperbola in Mercator	7
Quadratrices and symbolic substitutions:	8
the mathematical ideas of Leibniz	8
Leibniz on “the exact proportion ...”	9
Some reflections on the integration of rational fractions	10
II-B Leibniz and the impossibility of the analytical quadrature	
of the circle of Gregory	11
The true quadrature of the circle and hyperbola,	
by James Gregory	11
The geometric–harmonic mean of Gregory	13
Leibniz and the “convergence” of adjacent sequences (1676)	14
Leibniz’s “means by composition”	15
A mathematical appendix: the geometric-harmonic mean (<u>G-H</u>)	17

CHAPTER III. THE POWER OF SYMBOLISM: EXPONENTIALS WITH LETTERS	19
III-A <i>Epistola Prior</i> , or Leibniz’s discovery of symbolic forms without a substance (June 1676)	19
Fractional exponents	20
Symbolism without interpretation?	21
On the consistency (?) of Newton’s exponential	22
‘Permanence-Ramification’. A scheme	23
III-B The <i>Epistola Posterior</i> (October 1676)	24
Irrational Exponents	24
Letters in Exponents	24
III-C Descartes, Leibniz and the idealized image of the exponential	25
Gradus indefinitus	25
Descartes and Newton transcended by Leibniz	26
Conclusion of the First Part: The Transcendent Identified with the Non-Cartesian Field	27
 SECOND PART. THE SEARCH FOR AN INVENTORY	
CHAPTER IV. FROM INFINITELY SMALL ELEMENTS TO THE EXPONENTIAL UTOPIA	33
IV-A Tschirnhaus and the inventories of 1679–1684	33
IV-B De Beaune, Descartes, Leibniz, and the infinitely small elements ...	34
When a curve is no longer considered as “a set of points” (in modern terminology)	34
Descartes and De Beaune’s problem	36
Leibniz and De Beaune’s problem	37
IV-C On exponential symbolisms	37
IV-C1 On the resolution of the exponential equations. The “admirable example”	38
The admirable example	39
The impossibility of effective resolutions	40
IV-C2 Exponential expressions and the dialectics of indeterminacy – the status of the letter	41
The symbolism of quantities “arbitrary, but however fixed”	41
When the unknown enters the exponent	42
Towards letteralized exponentials	42
IV-C3 Towards a hierarchy in transcendence: the interscendent exponentials	43
When the degree of the exponential “falls between” two integers	43
A hierarchy in transcendence?	43
IV-C4 The exponential utopia	44
IV-C5 Letteralized exponentials are <i>soluble</i> in the differential calculus ...	45
An exchange of correspondence with Huygens (1690)	46
The response to Nieuwentijt (1695)	47

CHAPTER V. GEOMETRY AND TRANSCENDENCE: THE CURVES	49
V-A The universes of the geometrical discourses of Descartes and Leibniz	49
Descartes and the ‘geometrical’ curves	49
Leibniz and the ‘algebraical’ curves	50
V-B Leibniz’s critique of Descartes’ geometry ‘of the straight line’ and the parameterized curves	51
Descartes’ practice of the construction of curves, ‘linear, pointwise’ ...	52
Leibniz and the parameterized curves	53
V-C Evolutes, envelopes and the generation of transcendent curves	54
The evolute of an algebraical curve is – usually – a transcendent curve	54
Quadratures and evolutes are processes that are at the same time reciprocal and similar	55
‘On the art of the discovery in general’: Leibniz and the need for reasoned inventories	56
Leibniz and the envelope of a family of curves	56
Variables or constants? Exchanging interpretations	56
V-D Transcendent curves and ‘pointwise’ constructions	59
The equilibrium position of an inextensible heavy thread	59
Some elements of hyperbolic trigonometry	60
The catenary	61
“On the curve formed by a thread ...”	63
The article of 1691	63
The geometric-harmonic construction and the letter to Huygens of July 1691	63
The parameter of the figure is a transcendent quantity	65
The catenary, starting from the logarithmic	66
The logarithmic, starting from the catenary	67
“The construction of Leibniz is the most geometrical possible ...”	68
To find points “as much as we want?”	68
Or, “any point?”	68
Among the transcendent curves, the ‘percurrent’ curves are a <i>minima</i>	69
Descartes and the ‘pointwise’ constructions	70
The mathematician as a constructor or as a prescriber?	71
V-E Percurrence and transcendence, Leibniz and John Bernoulli – the story of a misunderstanding	71
The catenary, regarded as an avatar of the strategy of a geometrical inventory	71
Leibniz and Bernoulli – the birth of a misunderstanding	72
Bernoulli and the percurrent calculus	72
A middle way between algebraicity and transcendence?	73
The end of an ambiguity – the ‘hypo-transcendence’ of the exponentials	74
On a possible hierarchy in percurrence	75

V-F Mathematical complements – envelopes and evolutes	76
Determination of the envelope of a family of curves	76
Evolutes and involutes	77
Curves without equations – physical constructions	78
CHAPTER VI. QUADRATURES, THE INVERSE METHOD OF TANGENTS, AND TRANSCENDENCE	79
Quadratures as a ‘blind’ mode of generating transcendence	79
The typology of quadratures in Leibniz	80
The inverse method of tangents	82
Curves subject to a condition and differential equations	82
Arc lengths and rectifications	83
On ‘constants of integration’	84
CHAPTER VII. LEIBNIZ AND TRANSCENDENT NUMBERS	85
A value, which ‘is not a unique number’	85
The number is “homogeneous to the unit”	86
The transcendent numbers in <i>De Ortu</i>	87
Transcendent numbers in the <i>Nouveaux Essais</i>	87
Transcendent numbers in <i>Initia Rerum Mathematicarum Metaphysica</i>	88
Direct expression of a number and expressions which contain it	88
THIRD PART. TOWARDS AN “ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSCENDENT”	
Introduction	91
CHAPTER VIII. ON HARMONY IN LEIBNIZ	93
VIII-A <i>Unitas in Varietate</i>	93
Harmony is all the greater as it is revealed in a greater diversity	93
Harmony and the identity of indiscernibles	94
Harmony in the mathematics of Leibniz	95
Symbolism and social communication	95
Harmony <i>via</i> reciprocity, <i>via</i> homogeneity, <i>via</i> symmetry	96
VIII-B The two triangles and the letter to L’Hospital of December 1694	96
VIII-C Pascal and Leibniz. The first construction of the triangles (by <i>elements</i>)	97
Construction ‘by elements’ of Pascal’s arithmetical triangle	98
Construction ‘by elements’ of Leibniz’s harmonic triangle	99
VIII-D Huygens, Leibniz and the sum of reciprocal triangular numbers (<i>First Method</i>)	101
The problem of Huygens	101
Leibniz’s first method	101
The sums of reciprocal figurate numbers	102
Analysis of Leibniz’s first method	102
Harmonic progressions	103
VIII-E A mathematical complement: the determination of the elements of the harmonic triangle	104

CHAPTER IX. FROM THE HARMONIC TRIANGLE TO THE CALCULUS OF TRANSCENDENTS	107
IX-A The second construction of the triangles (by <i>lines</i>)	107
The Leibnizian logical pattern	107
The Leibnizian pattern: presentation and justifications	108
Proofs of these results	108
On convergence. The second method of Leibniz for the reciprocal triangular numbers	109
Higher-order differentials	110
Descartes and Leibniz, numbers <i>versus</i> functions	111
IX-B The ‘sum of all the differences’, from Leibniz to Lambert and Lebesgue	112
The ‘sum of all the differences’ in a contemporary environment	112
Lambert, continued fractions, and the ‘sum of all the differences’	112
IX-C On the harmony of the harmonic triangle	114
Leibniz and Mengoli	114
Leibniz and the harmony of the triangle	115
IX-D From reciprocity to the “New Calculation of the Transcendents”. The “Considerations (...)” of 1694. The <i>Pattern</i>	116
A new calculation with eight pairwise reciprocal operations	116
From Descartes to Leibniz, the rational functions	118
Leibniz and the partial fraction expansion of the rational fractions	118
Leibniz and the primitives of the rational fractions	119
‘Ordinary’ Analysis <i>versus</i> ‘New’ Calculation of the Transcendents ..	120
A truly general calculation	120
Transcendent expressions are exactly those that are impossible to explicate	121
The advent of the transcendence and the detachment from geometry as the only guarantee of the truth	122
Harmony is restored: transcendence is no longer an obstacle to the calculation but an opening towards a new mathematics	123
The Leibnizian <i>scheme</i> : a calculation with reciprocity and iterations ..	123
IX-E Mathematical complements. On the properties of the harmonic triangle	124
CHAPTER X. TRANSCENDENCE AND IMMANENCE. SOME TERMINOLOGICAL MARKS BEFORE AND AFTER LEIBNIZ	129
X-A On Nicholas of Cusa and on the origin of the term ‘transcendent’ in Leibniz	129
X-B Transcendence and immanence. Mathematics and philosophy	130
The use of the word by Leibniz	130
Transcendence: some philosophical definitions	131
On immanence	131
The immanence of the Cartesian algebra, as opposed to the transcendence of the Leibnizian infinitesimal Calculus	132

FOURTH PART. THE RECEPTION OF THE TRANSCENDENCE

INTRODUCTION TO THE FOURTH PART	135
CHAPTER XI. THE RECEPTION OF THE TRANSCENDENCE	
BY THE CONTEMPORARIES OF LEIBNIZ	137
XI-A The reception by Tschirnhaus (1678–1682)	137
“Transcendentes, ut vocas ...”	137
Tschirnhaus and the tangents to an <i>arbitrary</i> transcendent curve	139
XI-B The reception by Craig (1685 and 1693)	139
John Craig and the impossibility of the quadrature of the	
transcendent figures	139
XI-C The reception by Sturm (1689)	140
John-Christopher Sturm and the ‘transcendent degree’	140
XI-D L’Hospital, differential calculus and transcendent curves	141
The ‘ <i>Analyse des infiniment petits</i> ’ (1696)	141
The organization of the book	141
L’Hôpital and the tangents to the transcendent curves	142
The glory of Leibniz	143
XI-E John Bernoulli. About the organisation of the transcendent	
complexity (1695–1730)	143
Bernoulli, Huygens and Leibniz, between hypotranscendence	
and hypertranscendence	143
Bernoulli and the “degrees of transcendence”	144
On the comparative transcendence orders for the quadratures	145
Only the first order subsists <i>in fine</i>	146
Bernoulli and the <i>repetition</i> of the transcendent creation	147
XI-F On the philosophy of simplicity. Descartes <i>versus</i> Newton	148
The ‘geometrically irrational’ curves in Newton (1687)	148
From Descartes (1637) to Newton (1707)	149
Symbolical simplicity <i>versus</i> geometrical simplicity	149
CHAPTER XII. THE TRANSCENDENCE BONE OF CONTENTION	
BETWEEN HUYGENS AND LEIBNIZ (1690)	153
XII-A The controversy	153
Leibniz and Huygens	153
The controversy of 1690 between Huygens and Leibniz	154
A lesson on method from Leibniz to Huygens: an equivalence	
between power series and exponentials	156
Huygens’ conversion	158
THE TRANSCENDENCE, BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN	
HUYGENS AND LEIBNIZ (1690)	160
XII-B A mathematical study	160
XII-B1 Huygens’ geometrical problem	160
XII-B2 The Cartesian equation of Huygens’ curve (H)	161
XII-B3 The equation of Huygens’ curve (H) in polar coordinates	161

XII-B4 On calculations of the sub-tangent	163
The “normal vector” method	164
The sub-tangent to Huygens’ cubic curve	164
XII-B5 Leibniz’s ‘supertranscendent’ curve	165
XII-B6 The controversy (fourth and fifth letters)	166
XII-B7 Huygens’ method for the tangents to algebraic curves	168
CHAPTER XIII. TRANSCENDENCE: THE WORD AND	
THE CONCEPTS, FROM EULER AND LAMBERT TO HILBERT	171
XIII-A Euler and transcendence	171
Euler and the classification of functions: algebraic or transcendent	171
Euler, algebraic curves and transcendent curves	172
An extensive overview of transcendent functions	173
Euler, algebraic quantities and transcendent quantities	174
On quantities that are not expressible by radicals	175
A hierarchy of transcendent numbers?	177
Transcendent numbers have a very extensive domain	177
Euler: proofs of irrationality and conjectures of transcendence	178
XIII-B Lambert and transcendent numbers	179
Introduction to <i>Mémoire</i> : on “proof by simplicity”	180
Conclusions of <i>Mémoire</i> : a classification of numbers	182
On the supremacy of symbolism and issues of ‘transcendent’ terminology	183
XIII-C Reception of the <i>Encyclopédie</i> (1784–1789)	184
XIII-D On the transcendence of numbers: the word and the concepts, from Legendre to Hilbert	185
From Legendre to Liouville	186
Hermite and Lindemann: “La transcendance est fille de l’irrationalité”	187
Hilbert’s “seventh problem”: Euler-Hilbert conjecture	189
CHAPTER XIV. COMTE AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE	
TRANSCENDENT ANALYSIS	191
The glorification of the transcendent analysis	191
On the philosophy of mathematics	192
About equations: formation <i>versus</i> resolution	193
Leibniz, Newton, Lagrange: the trio of interpreters	194
For a reasoned history	195
Leibniz, the authentic creator of the transcendence. “The loftiest idea ever yet attained by the human mind”	196
Newton: an effort to rationalize	197
Lagrange, and the promotion of “abstraction”	198
Differential calculus and geometry in two and three dimensions	200
Differential calculus and integral calculus	201
On the comparison of the interpretations	203

The contributions of D'Alembert and Lagrange. On partial derivative equations	204
The calculus of variations, and the 'hypertranscendent' analysis	205
On the philosophy of the hypertranscendence. Singular and multiple. Variables and functions	207
CHAPTER XV. AFTER LEIBNIZ: SOME MODERN EPISTEMOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSCENDENCE	209
On the concepts of Leibniz today	209
Algebraic functions, transcendent functions. An initial approach	209
Algebraic curves, transcendent curves. Modern definitions	210
On the supremacy of the symbolism (again)	211
On the ontology of the plane curves	211
Curves implicitly defined	212
On Huygens' cubic curve	212
Curves defined parametrically	212
The cycloid as an example	213
On the dialectic of the duality	213
Algebraic numbers, transcendent numbers	214
Leibniz, as the "founder of discursivity" of mathematical transcendence	214
REFERENCES	
Leibniz	217
Descartes	217
General References	217