

Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	x
Introduction	I
<i>i. Real characters and philosophical languages</i>	I
<i>ii. Whys and wherefores</i>	3
 Part I The rise of essentialist taxonomy	
1 The Aristotelian origins	15
<i>i. Essences, genera and species</i>	15
<i>ii. Words and definitions</i>	20
<i>iii. Classification in logic and in science</i>	26
2 Taxonomy	38
<i>i. Socio-cultural change, literacy and the development of science</i>	38
<i>ii. Decontextualization and written language</i>	43
<i>iii. The development of scientific (botanical) taxonomy</i>	48
<i>iv. Botanical taxonomy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries</i>	55
3 Nomenclature	65
<i>i. Taxonomy and stages of language development</i>	65
<i>ii. Botanical nomenclature and taxonomic names</i>	75
 Part II The development of the universal languages	
4 The groundwork	85
<i>i. Words and things: Bacon</i>	85
<i>ii. Taxonomic grammars: Comenius</i>	97

5	Proposals and schemes for a universal language	104
	<i>i. The scientific background of the language projectors</i>	104
	<i>ii. Writing systems and real characters</i>	109
	<i>iii. Lexicons of primitive words: Wilkins, Comenius, Łodowyck, et al.</i>	112
6	Proposals for a philosophical language	126
	<i>i. Simple notions: Descartes, Mersenne, Kinner</i>	126
	<i>ii. Oxford scientists: the Webster-Ward-Wilkins debate</i>	135
7	Schemes for a philosophical language	141
	<i>i. The first: Dalgarno's Ars signorum</i>	141
	<i>ii. Derivatives: Newton, Comenius</i>	153
8	The culmination, aftermath and end	157
	<i>i. The final stage of development: Wilkins' Essay</i>	157
	<i>ii. Reactions and continuations</i>	174
Part III The end of the taxonomic episteme		
9	The fall of essentialist taxonomy	189
	<i>i. Science, certainty and taxonomy</i>	189
	<i>ii. Nominal essences and artificial classifications: Boyle, Locke, Ray</i>	194
	<i>iii. Universal languages and specialized varieties of language</i>	212
	<i>iv. Conclusion</i>	217
	Notes	220
	Bibliography	262
	Index	274