

LEIBNIZ'S AND KANT'S PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS AND
THE DEVELOPMENT OF HILBERT'S PROGRAMME

by

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The aim of the paper is to indicate some connections between Leibniz's and Kant's philosophical ideas on the one hand and Hilbert's and Gödel's philosophy of mathematics on the other. We shall be interested mainly in issues connected with Hilbert's programme and Gödel's incompleteness theorems. It will be shown that Hilbert's programme was in fact Kantian in character. The essential assumptions of it, i.e., the distinction between real and ideal propositions and the conception of the role and meaning of ideal elements in the mathematical knowledge, were connected with some distinctions made by Kant and Leibniz. On the other hand Hilbert's and Gödel's proposals how to continue the programme of justification of (infinitary) mathematics after the discovery of the incompleteness phenomenon indicated some influence of Leibniz, namely the admittance, at least in certain contexts, of some of the infinitistic methods and principles.