The formal construction of mathematical languages was accomplished as recently as the last century. Leibniz made some attempts that, in retrospect, are astonishingly modern, but they were ignored. Leibniz's dream was that all thought could be written as such a language: "… when controversies arise, there will be no more necessity of disputation between two philosophers than between two accountants. Nothing will be needed but that they should take pen in hand, sit down with their counting tables and (having summoned a friend, if they like) say to one another: Let us calculate."

— Henle and Kleinberg. *Infinitesimal Calculus*, 1979.