

EDITORIAL

When this number was being prepared for the press, we learned of the death of Professor H. L. A. Hart on 18 December 1992 in Oxford. Herbert Hart was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board from the founding of the journal and participated in early discussions concerning its launch. He was also well known as a distinguished Bentham scholar who edited or co-edited with Professor J. H. Burns three major volumes in the *Collected Works*. He was a founder of the Bentham Committee in the early 1960s and served for many years as a member and then as chairman until his retirement in 1983. He played a key role in numerous decisions which enabled the Bentham Project to survive and prosper.

Hart's work inspired a generation of philosophers and legal and political theorists to take Bentham seriously as a major thinker of continuing relevance to contemporary issues. His *Essays on Bentham* (1982) contains some of the fruits of his scholarship combining a careful study of relevant texts, wide reading in jurisprudence and political philosophy, and a keen understanding of contemporary issues in philosophy. A fuller tribute to Herbert Hart and an assessment of his contributions to jurisprudence and philosophy are planned for a later number.

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