

Editors' Preface

In preparing the manuscript of *The Leff Dictionary of Law: A Fragment* for publication, we have, with a very few exceptions, refrained from making any editorial changes. The decision to publish the work essentially as we received it was easily made: We viewed our task to be the preserving of an historical document. And, more importantly, Professor Leff had stated his preference years before in correspondence with the anticipated publisher of the *Dictionary*: “[U]nder no circumstances would I put out under my name anything as to which I did not have the single ‘final cut.’”

Thus, our “editorial changes” were limited, first, to the correcting of unambiguous typographical errors affecting spelling and grammar that appear in the original typescript. In addition, when coherence has necessitated, we have infrequently added or altered a word or two in the text of a definition; we have indicated all such changes by brackets. (Brackets that appear either in quotations or in the word or phrase being defined are all present in Professor Leff’s typescript.)

The original typescript contains two further markings that we have preserved. A set of parentheses appears after some words to be defined; Professor Leff intended to provide the pronunciation of the word there. In addition, some words in the text of many definitions are in boldface. We surmise that those words are—or were to have been—other entries within the completed *Dictionary*.

Finally, it should be noted that the entries are in various stages of finality, with only the “B” entries appearing in what Professor Leff would have considered to be even close to “final form.” At the request of Susan Leff, we have not included a very small number of entries dealing with Roman Law subjects, which largely begin with letters other than “A”, “B”, or “C”. Both Professor Leff’s typescript and his manuscript of those entries and of the rest of the *Dictionary* are available in the archives of the Sterling Memorial Library of Yale University.