This collection represents the latest research from leading scholars whose work has helped to frame our understanding of Bentham since the publication of H.L.A. Hart’s *Essays on Bentham*. The authors explore fundamental areas of Bentham’s thought, including the relationship between the rule of law and public opinion; law and popular prejudices or manipulated tastes; Bentham’s methodology versus Hart’s; sovereignty and codification; and the language of natural rights. Drawing on original manuscripts and volumes in *The Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham*, the chapters combine philosophical and historical approaches and offer new and more faithful interpretations of Bentham’s legal philosophy and its development. As a coherent whole, the book challenges the dominant understandings of Bentham among legal philosophers and rescues him from some famous mischaracterizations.

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BENTHAM’S THEORY OF LAW AND PUBLIC OPINION

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This book has its origins in the International Symposium on Bentham’s Legal Philosophy held at the Law School of Zhengzhou University in May 2012. The symposium also marked the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of H.L.A. Hart’s collection of *Essays on Bentham*. The contributions to this volume consist of revised and updated versions of the English-language papers that were first presented at the symposium.

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X.Z. & M.Q.
ABBREVIATIONS

Apart from the standard abbreviations, the following should be noted:


UC  Bentham Papers in the Library of University College London. Roman numerals refer to boxes in which the papers are placed, Arabic to the leaves within each box.