

## **Preparatory Principles—Inserenda.**

### **Structural Overview and Editorial Conventions.**

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Bentham appears to have set out, in or around the year 1776, to write a work entitled 'Preparatory Principles'. His initial attempt forms just six folios, UC Ixix. 70–75, comprising paragraphs numbered 1–53. He then began to draft 'Inserenda' for this text. The first series of Inserenda (including both new material to be inserted, and rewritten paragraphs) is at UC Ixix. 76, paragraphs numbered 1–5: these paragraphs are directly related to the Preparatory Principles text. A second series of Inserenda occupies UC Ixix. 86, 89, and 90, comprising paragraphs numbered 1–42. A third series of Inserenda, forming the great bulk of the work, occupies UC Ixix. 87–8, 91–241, together with two strays at UC cxi. 21 and 22, and comprises paragraphs numbered 1–[1175]. UC Ixix. 85 comprises a stray sheet of Inserenda, not in numbered paragraphs.

At some point, Bentham began to draw up a table of contents for Preparatory Principles (UC Ixix. 69). This bears a loose relationship to material in Inserenda (series 3), paragraphs, 234–49 and elsewhere, but must be regarded as an abandoned scheme. Three more developed lists of contents, one in Bentham's hand and two in the hand of an amanuensis, are at UC Ixix. 77–80, 82, 83–4 respectively: these appear to be based on marginal headings, but show variations from one another and from the final transcript. They have not been transcribed. A short alphabetical subject-index in the hand of an amanuensis is at UC Ixix. 081: it seems to cover the same broad subject areas of the nature and structure of Law as other parts of Preparatory Principles and Inserenda, but does not appear to refer directly to any of them. It has not been transcribed.

Bentham divided his work into short numbered sections, here termed 'paragraphs'. (This is a slight misnomer, as a numbered section may actually include multiple paragraphs in the accepted sense.) In the third series of Inserenda, the main body of the work, Bentham numbered paragraphs 1–746 (with minor aberrations, including occasional duplicated numbers and omitted numbers), but left the remainder of the series unnumbered. For convenience, the sequence has been editorially continued, as paragraphs [747]–[1175]: these inserted numbers are distinguished by the use of square brackets. The editorial division into paragraphs has necessarily been conjectural, and not too much weight should be placed on the precise placing of paragraph numbers.

The transcript of the long third series of Inserenda has been further broken into 33 parts. This has been done purely for organisational convenience: the divisions have no significance in the context of Bentham's thinking.

The work is written on a series of loose folios, each assigned a unique number at UCL in the early twentieth century. These folio numbers are inserted at appropriate points in the transcript (see note below on numbering conventions). The 'folios' are in fact virtually all bifolia (i.e. sheets folded in half to create four pages). Bentham himself numbered the pages rather than the folios, with separate sequences for Preparatory Principles itself, and for each of the three main series of *Inserenda*. Bentham's page numbers have not been reproduced in the transcript. Where he refers the reader to another part of his text, he frequently does so by page number (sometimes, but not always, in conjunction with paragraph number). These cross-references have been retained in the transcript, but more meaningful references by folio and paragraph number are supplied in square brackets within footnotes, or in endnotes.

Bentham reworked and re-arranged his text considerably. This transcript aims to present his work in the most advanced form to which he brought it. Where he gives alternative forms of wording, only what appears to be the last-written is transcribed. Elsewhere, other words and short phrases which are deleted or bracketed for deletion have been omitted. However, longer passages lightly deleted or bracketed have generally been included, even where there is some overlap in wording or meaning with undeleted passages: only in a very few places, where it is quite clear that Bentham intended to abandon his first attempt, have deleted passages been omitted entirely. The text comprises a series of disjunct thoughts and arguments: it has been reordered in places where Bentham's intentions of linking passages are explicit or reasonably unambiguous, but not otherwise. Some of these reorderings will be evident to the reader from the transcription jumping backwards and forwards between folio-numbers, but reorderings within a single folio are made silently.

Bentham's original spelling has been retained throughout. Some minor regularisation of punctuation and capitalisation has been made silently in the interests of clarity. Where a marginal heading is repeated with minor variations across two or more pages of the manuscript, the fullest or 'best' version has been adopted at the opening of the passage in the transcript, again silently. Elsewhere, a very small number of adjustments have been made to Bentham's wording to ensure grammatical consistency: these and all other editorial interventions, except those noted above, appear in square brackets and/or are identified in endnotes.

All footnotes, apart from matter in square brackets, comprise Bentham's own words. Since his intended layout is not always obvious, editorial discretion has been exercised in deciding whether certain phrases or passages should be included in the main text or treated as footnotes. Letters and other symbols denoting footnotes have sometimes been silently amended to create a consistent sequence.

Bentham frequently uses the symbol ∞ in his marginal headings. He explains its application in the following terms (UC lxix. 114–5, para. 300): 'When a Character consisting of two Semicircles placed back to back thus ∞

is placed between two words or phrases it is used as a mark of distinction or opposition and shews that the two words or phrases between which it stands are set in opposition to each other. It is used for this purpose in many Dictionaries. It is here adopted for Brevity sake in the marginal contents which the shorter they are, the better they answer their purpose. Thus Law ∞ Domestic Order is put instead of Difference betwixt a Law and a Domestic Order.

**Note on the numbering of folios.** The convention within the *Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham* is to refer to Bentham manuscripts in UCL custody by box number in Roman numerals, and folio number in Arabic numerals: thus UCL Library, box 69, folio 87, becomes UC lxxix. 87. This convention has been followed in the present introduction, but in the transcript (both in the body of the text and in cross-references) all-Arabic six-digit references in square brackets have been employed: there the same folio becomes [069-087].