JOHN AUSTIN

LECTURES ON JURISPRUDENCE

OR THE PHILOSOPHY OF POSITIVE LAW

VOLUME ONE

FIFTH EDITION, REVISED AND EDITED BY ROBERT CAMPBELL

CHINA SOCIAL SCIENCES PUBLISHING HOUSE CHENGCHENG BOOKS LTD.

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

法理学讲演录:英文/(德)奥斯丁著.-影印本. -北京:中国社会科学出版社,1999.12 (西学基本经典·法学类/西学基本经典工作委员会 编) ISBN 7-5004-2650-X

I.法··· Ⅱ.奥··· Ⅲ.法理学-英文 Ⅳ.D90

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 68356 号

版权总代理:TAO MEDIA INTERNATIONAL
(2790 19th Avenue, Ste. 20, San Francisco, CA 94132 U.S.A)

西学基本经典·法学类 西学基本经典工作委员会 编 中国社会科系出版社 出版发行

(北京鼓楼西大街甲 158 号 邮编 100720)

 $E-mail: 5004@People space.\ net$

诚 成 图 书 有 限 公 司 制 作 中国建筑工业出版社密云印刷厂印刷

新华书店经销

1999 年 12 月第 1 版 1999 年 12 月第 1 次印刷 开本 880×1230 1/32 印张 165.25 法学类全 9 册 定价:450.00 元

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TO THIS EDITION.

IT must be gratifying to all who value and appreciate the work of the late JOHN AUSTIN to know that a new edition of these Lectures has been urgently called for. The circumstance is significant not only as a public recognition of the merit of the lectures themselves, but also as a proof of the growing interest which is becoming awakened in this country towards the philosophical study of jurisprudence.

The present edition has been prepared with the assistance of notes of the original lectures which have been preserved by Mr. J. S. Mill, and were kindly furnished by him to the late Mrs. Austin for the purpose of a new edition which she meditated, but did not live to complete. These notes have now been collated with the lectures as already published, and are found so accurate and full in the parts where the printed lectures are complete that they may be confidently relied on for supplying the lacunæ which, owing to the state of the author's MS. were in the former publication inevitable.

In revising the six lectures which formed the volume published in the author's lifetime, care has been taken to make no material alteration except in accordance with a clearly expressed intention of the author contained in his memoranda preserved by the late editor, and published in the notes to the former edition. Where, however, such intention was clear upon the face of that text and notes, the present editor has chosen rather to venture on the attempt to embody it explicitly in the text, than to leave the task to each reader of collecting that intention from the scattered passages and fragments. In the instances, confined to the matter of a few pages, where any such alteration has been made, the nature and extent of the alteration is explicitly stated in the foot-notes by the present editor, distinguished by the initials 'R. C.'

With regard to the remaining Lectures, free use has been made of the notes above described (hereafter shortly referred to as 'J. S. M.'s notes'), both for purposes of arrangement and addition. For the purpose of arrangement, these notes have often furnished the clue where, for want of such a clue, inevitable misplacement of passages had taken place in the former edition. Of the additions the most important are in the 39th and 40th lectures. The latter part of the 39th lecture, on the important topic of 'Codification,' formed an entire lecture in the course preserved in J. S. M.'s notes. The 40th lecture, which is described in the former edition as missing, is now restored, and forms the leading chapter of one of the author's main divisions of his subject.

Neglect could not have effaced the impress which John Austin and his work has stamped upon the thought of posterity. But that so much has been recorded in explicit and substantive form, is due to the ability and diligence of the lady whose preface heads the following pages. Mrs. Austin died at Weybridge on the 8th of August 1867, and it may be interesting to the reader, and can scarcely be inappropriate here, to supplement the ensuing preface with a short account of her own life. In doing so the editor takes the liberty of borrowing from the pen of one entitled to speak from long and intimate

acquaintance. The *Times* of the 12th August 1867 contains the following notice:—

It has already been announced, in another part of these columns, that Mrs. Austin, widow of the late John Austin, well known as one of the most eminent professors of the science of jurisprudence whom this country has produced, expired on the 8th inst. at her residence at Weybridge, after an acute attack of a malady of the heart, with which she had long been afflicted. Although the life of Mrs. Austin was spent in the active discharge of her private duties, and although no one was less disposed to court celebrity, which she might have enjoyed in a far larger degree had she cared to seek it, she undoubtedly filled so considerable a place in society and in literature that some record of so remarkable a woman may not unfitly appear in this place. To the attractions of great personal beauty in early life, and of a grace of manner undiminished by years, Mrs. Austin added a masculine intellect and a large heart. It was not by the play of a vivid imagination, or by an habitual display of what is termed wit, that she secured the affections and the friendship of so many of the wisest and noblest of her contemporaries. The power she exercised in society was due to the sterling qualities of her judgment, her knowledge, her literary stylewhich was one of great purity and excellence-and, above all, to her cordial readiness to promote all good objects, to maintain high principles of action, and to confer benefits on all who claimed her aid.

'Mrs. Austin was descended from the Taylors of Norwich, a family which has in several generations produced men and women distinguished by literary and scientific ability. was born in 1793, and she received in her father's house an education of more than common range. In 1820 she married Mr. John Austin, then a barrister on the Norfolk Circuit, and came to reside next door to Mr. Bentham and Mr. James Mill. in Queen Square, Westminster. Although that house could boast of none of the attractions of luxury, for the fortune of its owners was extremely small, it soon collected within its walls as remarkable an assemblage of persons as ever met in a London drawing-room. There might be seen-a dim and flitting figure of the past-Mr. Bentham and his two disciples, James and John Stuart Mill, the Grotes, the rising lawyers of that day whose success has justified the promise of their dawn, Bickersteth, Erle, Romilly, and Senior; and all this wisdom and learning

was enlivened in later years by the wit of Charles Buller, by the hearty sallies of Sydney Smith, by the polished eloquence of Jeffrey, by the courteous amenity of Lord Lansdowne, and by the varied resources of foreign visitors who found a home by Mrs. Austin's hearth.

'Mrs. Austin never aspired to original literary composition. Except in some of the prefaces to her translations, she disclaimed all right to address the public in her own person. She therefore, devoted the singular power of her pen to reproduce in English many of the best contemporary works of German and French literature. Her translations from the German, more especially, were of the highest excellence, and amongst these her version of Ranke's *Popes of Rome* has been commended by the best judges as deserving to retain a place in English historical literature.

'Much of Mrs. Austin's life was spent abroad, and not a few of the most eminent persons in continental society enjoyed her friendship. She had inhabited two German Universities for the prosecution of her husband's studies, after he had quitted the bar for a chair of jurisprudence in the London University. She had accompanied him to Malta when he was sent as a commissioner to that island. She remained for some years in Paris, where her small salon had an intellectual stamp and charm not inferior to that of her London circle. The revolution of 1848 drove the Austins back to England; they established themselves in the village of Weybridge, and calmly anticipated the day when they should rest side by side in Weybridge churchyard. Mrs. Austin, however, survived her husband for several years, and that interval was employed by her in accomplishing a task which to most women would have seemed hopeless. The greater part of the Lectures delivered by Professor Austin on the principles of jurisprudence had remained in manuscript. His ill-health led him constantly to postpone the task of preparing them for the press. After his death his widow, assisted by one or two legal friends on whose judgment she could rely, succeeded in completing the imperfect edifice from the fragments of it that remained; and we owe to Mrs. Austin, already advanced in years, and struggling with a painful disease, the production of a work on jurisprudence, which is unquestionably the noblest monument that could be raised to the memory of her husband.'

In pursuance of a bequest of Mrs. Austin's, the books

on jurisprudence (chiefly of German authors), which had been preserved as those of her husband's which he had chiefly valued and studied, and many of which are filled with observations and analytical notes in his handwriting, are now placed in the library of the Inner Temple in a separate compartment. As these are the volumes which are chiefly denoted by the references in the ensuing Lectures, and as they are there sometimes referred to by their pages, it is important to state the particular editions. A list is accordingly here subjoined of the books forming the collection so placed in the Inner Temple Library.

Ŋ	o. of
Friedrich Carl von Savigny, Geschichte des römischen Rechts im	OIE.
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" Lehrbuch eines civilistisches Cursus; 4 volumes of different	
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Berlin, 1823	4
Gaii Institutionum Commentarii IV., ed. J. F. L. Göschen, Berlin,	
1823. (Full of analytical notes by Mr. Austin)	1
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In the following pages the notes which belonged to the Author's work published in his lifetime are distinguished by letters thus (a). The notes of the late editor are generally marked by the initials 'S. A.' Those of the present editor by the initials 'R. C.'

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LECTURE VI.

The connection of the sixth lecture with the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth.—The distinguishing marks of sovereignty and independent political society.—The relation of sovereignty and subjection.—Strictly speaking, the sovereign portion of the society, and not the society itself.

is independent, sovereign, or supreme.—In order that a given society may form a society political and independent, the two distinguishing marks which are mentioned above must unite.—A society independent but natural.-Society formed by the intercourse of independent political societies .- A society political but subordinate .- A society not political, but forming a limb or member of a society political and independent. -The definition of the abstract term independent political society (including the definition of the correlative term sovereignty) cannot be rendered in expressions of perfectly precise import, and is therefore a fallible test of specific or particular cases. In order that an independent society may form a society political, it must not fall short of a number which cannot be fixed with precision, but which may be called considerable, or not extremely minute.—Certain of the definitions of the term sovereignty, and of the implied or correlative term independent political society, which have been given by writers of celebrity.-The ensuing portion of the present lecture is concerned with the following topics:-1. The forms of supreme government; 2. The limits of sovereign power; 3. The origin of government, or the origin of political society.-The forms of supreme government.-Every supreme government is a monarchy (properly so called), or an aristocracy (in the generic meaning of the expression). In other words, it is a government of one, or a government of a number. —Of such distinctions between aristocracies as are founded on differences between the proportions which the number of the sovereign body may bear to the number of the community. Of such distinctions between aristocracies as are founded on differences between the modes wherein the sovereign number may share the sovereign powers.-Of such aristocracies as are styled limited monarchies.-Various meanings of the following terms:-1. The term 'sovereign,' or 'the sovereign;' 2. The term 'republic,' or 'commonwealth;' 3. The term 'state,' or 'the state;' 4. The term 'nation.'-Of the exercise of sovereign powers by a monarch or sovereign body, through political subordinates or delegates representing their sovereign author. Of the distinction of sovereign, and other political powers into such as are legislative, and such as are executive or administrative. The true natures of the communities or governments which are styled by writers on positive international law half sovereign states.-The nature of a composite state or a supreme federal government: with the nature of a system of confederated states, or a permanent confederacy of supreme governments.—The limits of sovereign power.—The essential difference of a positive law.-It follows from the essential difference of a positive law, and from the nature of sovereignty and independent political society, that the power of a monarch properly so called, or the power of a sovereign number in its collegiate and sovereign capacity, is incapable of legal limitation.—Attempts of sovereigns to oblige themselves, or to oblige the successors to their sovereign powers.—The meanings of the epithet unconstitutional, as it is contradistinguished to the epithet illegal, and as it is applied to conduct of a monarch, or to conduct of a sovereign number in its collegiate and sovereign capacity.—The meaning

of Hobbes's proposition, that 'no law can be unjust.'-Just or unjust, justice or injustice, is a term of relative and varying import.-Considered severally, the members of a sovereign body are in a state of subjection to the body, and may therefore be legally bound, even as members of the body, by laws of which it is the author.-The nature of political or civil liberty, together with the supposed difference between free and despotic governments.-Why it has been doubted, that the power of a sovereign is incapable of legal limitation.-The proposition is asserted expressly by renowned political writers of opposite parties or sects.—A sovereign government of one, or a sovereign government of a number in its collegiate and sovereign capacity, has no legal rights (in the proper acceptation of the term) against its own subjects .- 'Right is might.' -'Right' as meaning 'faculty,' and 'right' as meaning 'justice.' -'Right' as meaning 'faculty,' and 'right' as meaning 'law.'-From an appearance of a sovereign government before a tribunal of its own, we cannot infer that the government lies under legal duties, or has legal rights against its own subjects.-Though a sovereign government of one, or a sovereign government of a number in its collegiate and sovereign capacity, cannot have legal rights against its own subjects, it may have a legal right against a subject or subjects of another sovereign government.—The origin or causes of political government and society. -The proper purpose or end of political government and society, or the purpose or end for which they ought to exist. The position 'that every government continues through the people's consent,' and the position 'that every government arises through the people's consent,' examined and explained .- The hypothesis of the original covenant or the fundamental civil pact.-The distinction of sovereign governments into governments de jure and governments de facto. General statement of the province of jurisprudence as defined in the foregoing lectures. Page 219

ANALYSIS OF PERVADING NOTIONS.

LECTURE XII.

Recapitulation.—Natural and moral rights, or rights which are merely sanctioned religiously or morally.—Ideas, the analysis of which is inevitably involved in that of right. Obligations or duties are positive or negative.—Forbearances cannot be styled with propriety negative services.—Obligations are relative or absolute.—Rights imply persons, things, acts, and forbearances.—Persons, natural or fictitious.—Meaning of 'physical person,' or 'person' simply.—'Person' frequently synonymous with 'status' or 'condition.'—Fictitious or legal persons. Page 343

LECTURE XIII.

Recapitulation.—Meaning of 'thing.'—Distinctions between things.—Things signifying acts and forbearances.—Corporeal and incorporeal things.—Distinction between jura rerum and jura personarum briefly introduced 357