

Preface

It was Stanley Paulson who suggested that I take a closer look at Karl Olivecrona's legal philosophy, and I would like to thank him very much for doing that. At the time I did not realize that writing a monograph on Olivecrona's legal philosophy could be so rewarding, or that such a monograph could be of interest to the international community of jurists. But over the past few years, I have learned that Paulson knew what he was talking about. In addition, my work on Olivecrona's legal philosophy has given me the opportunity to pay more attention to the legal-philosophical work done by Swedish and other Scandinavian jurists and legal scholars than I have previously done, and this, too, has been rewarding. Many times the quality of Scandinavian legal philosophy is impressive, and one can only deplore that so little of it is available in English, or German, or some other world language.

I could not, of course, have written this book without the help from my colleagues in Uppsala and elsewhere, and this means that there are a number of people whose help I would like to acknowledge. To begin with, I would like to thank the participants in the advanced seminar in jurisprudence at the Department of Law, Uppsala University: Anders Fogelklou Åke Frändberg, Minna Gräns, Cyril Holm, Bo Wennström, Lennart Åqvist, and Mauro Zamboni for stimulating discussions over the past few years. Åke Frändberg, in particular, has been of great help to me ever since I wrote my doctoral dissertation under his supervision about twenty years ago, and he continues to help me, even though he is now retired. And Lennart Åqvist is usually at hand to discuss any finer logical or philosophical points.

I would also like to thank the participants in the advanced seminar in practical philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, for helpful comments on various parts of the manuscript. Jan Österberg, in particular, has been a patient tutor in philosophical matters. I can only hope that I have been able to pick up some of the many things he has tried to explain to me again and again.

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I have benefited enormously from Thomas's incisive comments. Another expert on the Scandinavian realists, Jes Bjarup, has been kind enough to provide extensive written comments on an earlier version of the whole manuscript, many of which have forced me to think more about particular issues. While I disagree with him on a number of issues, I appreciate his efforts to make me see the light.

In addition to the ones already mentioned, I would like to thank Uta Bindreiter, Mats Kumlien, Thomas Olivecrona, Erland Strömbäck, and Stig Strömholm for helpful comments on Chap. 2, Olivecrona: a Biographical Sketch, and two anonymous readers for Springer, who made a number of valid points. Uta Bindreiter has also helped me by suggesting English translations of German book titles and expressions and by finding relevant passages in Kelsen's voluminous German texts.

The usual caveat applies, of course. The author is solely responsible for any remaining mistakes and imperfections.

Finally, I would like to thank Robert Carroll very much for checking my English and for translating the Swedish, Norwegian, and German quotations into English, and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation for generously financing my work on this project as well as Carroll's language review. Bob's attentive reading of my manuscript has been of great help to me, and the funding that I have received from the above-mentioned institution is what made this book possible.

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