FOREWORD

TO THE FRENCH EDITION

FRANÇOIS EWALD

From 1952 to 1969, when he was nominated to the chair of the History of Systems of Thought at the Collège de France, Michel Foucault taught in several universities and institutions: psychology at the École normale supérieure (from 1951), Lille (1952–1955), and Clermont-Ferrand (1960–1966), and then philosophy at Tunis (1966–1968) and Vincennes (1968–1969). In addition, in October 1965 he lectured at the University of São Paulo on the subject that is addressed in *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (1966).

Foucault kept only some of the manuscripts of the lectures he delivered during this period. These are deposited in the Foucault collection of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (under NAF 28730). In the same boxes in which the lectures are kept, there are also some texts from the same period, some of which are highly developed. We thought it useful to include them in the volumes that make up this series of “lectures and works” from the period prior to Foucault’s election to the Collège de France.

The volumes are edited according to the following rules:

– The text is based on the manuscripts deposited in the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The transcriptions are as faithful as possible to the manuscripts and have been subject to collective

review within the editorial team. The difficulties that the reading of some words gives rise to are indicated in footnotes. Only minor modifications have been made (the correction of obvious errors, punctuation, and layout) in order to assist the reading and clear understanding of the text. They are always indicated.

– Quotations have been checked, and references to the texts used are indicated. The text is accompanied by a critical apparatus that seeks to elucidate obscure points and clarify critical points.

– To make the text easier to read, each lecture is preceded by a brief summary that indicates its principal articulations.

– As with the editions of the Collège de France lectures, each volume ends with a “context” for which the editor is responsible: it seeks to provide readers with elements of the context needed for them to understand the texts and situate them in Foucault’s published work.

The members of the editorial committee responsible for the project are Elisabetta Basso, Daniel Defert, Claude-Olivier Doron, François Ewald, Henri-Paul Fruchaud, Frédéric Gros, Bernard E. Harcourt, Orazio Irrera, Daniele Lorenzini, Philippe Sabot, and Arianna Sforzini.

We would like to extend particular thanks to the Bibliothèque nationale de France for enabling us to consult the manuscripts on which this edition is based.

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