

# *In Memoriam*

## HUDSON HOAGLAND

December 5, 1899-March 4, 1982

Hudson Hoagland was one of the founding fathers and persistent supporters of the enterprise that has flowered in the publication of *Zygon*. He served on the journal's Joint Publication Board from 1969 to 1974 and as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board until his death.

With degrees from Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University, Hoagland pioneered studies on the electrical activity of the brain, brain chemistry, and their relation to behavior. During his career he authored, coauthored, and edited more than 250 publications including six books in the areas of his scientific research and on science and human affairs. He taught at Harvard University, Clark University, and Cambridge University and was research professor at Tufts Medical School and Boston University. In 1944 he co-founded and became the executive director of one of the world's great, private scientific research centers, the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, where the birth control pill was developed.

In the early 1940s, as a fellow and recording secretary of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Hoagland and his good friend Harlow Shapley, then president of the Academy, began to develop a series of meetings and conferences to elucidate what science and scholarship might reveal about what was good and evil for humans. These conferences led to the formation of the Committee on Science and Values of the American Academy. Throughout his term as secretary and later as vice-president and president of the Academy, Hoagland continued to lead in the exploration of the relationship between scientific knowledge, human values, and religious concerns. After the Academy Committee on Science and Human Values in 1954 became one of the two parent organizations of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, Hoagland became involved in the directing of IRAS and served as vice-president from 1965 to 1968 and as president from 1969 to 1971. Recently he was made honorary vice-president for life.

Those who were closely involved with him remember well his friendliness and sense of humor, coupled with his hard-headed thinking on both scientific and religious questions. Hoagland stated a purpose for humans, based on contemporary scientific pictures, in his article "Reflections on the Purpose of Life" in *Zygon*, March 1971: "Man's unique place as a spectator of the grand cosmic drama is, to some of us, a sufficiently rewarding purpose of life. In addition, and more important, are the deep satisfactions derived from functioning as effective members of the human adventure through understanding, loving, working, and striving. These drives are deeply ingrained as a result of millions of years of biological evolution, and their realizations constitute for most of us the major purposes of being." As a scientific humanist Hudson Hoagland fulfilled these purposes. He not only was a spectator, but he was a significant participant in the evolution of human life on earth.