

## *In Memoriam*

LAWRENCE KOHLBERG

October 25, 1927-January 19, 1987

Larry Kohlberg will be long remembered for his pioneering contributions to understanding a hierarchy of seven stages in moral development during the growth of individuals. He was a University of Chicago friend of *Zygon* from its beginning in 1966 and a continuing friend during his years as professor of Education and Social Psychology at Harvard from 1968 until his death. He was a member of our Editorial Advisory Board since 1974, a contributor of papers to our conferences in 1971 and 1972, and an author of three papers published in *Zygon*. Inspired in part by Jean Piaget's earlier work on stages of human development, Kohlberg's further findings led James Fowler, then at the Harvard Divinity School, to search and find similar empirically demonstrable stages in religious development; and the two of them together have produced evidence for the dynamic union of religious and moral convictions. These views, added to a number of understandings of human biological and cultural evolution, have been highly significant in gaining increased scientific understanding and appreciation of religion and morals. Among Kohlberg's important findings has been the dependency of higher stages of moral development upon proper foundations in the previous stages. This gives theoretic and empiric reinforcement to some long-known practices of religious institutions, that moral education requires a long sequence of proper enculturation, appropriately timed for certain critical stages in human development. To him we are indebted not only for his help and encouragement but also for carving out and painting an important piece of the complex, multi-disciplinary picture that portrays religion and morals scientifically.