

In Memoriam

HARLOW SHAPLEY

November 2, 1885–October 20, 1972

In 1960, before *Zygon* was born, this famous astronomer edited *Science Ponders Religion*, containing nineteen papers by scientists who had addressed the conferences of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS). As vice-president of IRAS from 1954 to 1960, he was among those who wanted it to publish a journal, but since the funds for such a project were not at hand, papers were published in book form. Harlow Shapley, one of the founders and perennial leaders of IRAS, served as its president from 1960 to 1963. In 1964 he helped persuade Meadville Theological School to join with IRAS in the publication of *Zygon* and became a member of the editorial advisory board. Renowned at Star Island IRAS conferences as master of ceremonies at the late-night “owl sessions” where he generated many lively, fruitful discussions, he helped make cosmic science significant for theologians.

A tribute to his influence on religion was an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Meadville Theological School in 1969. It is fitting to quote that citation here:

“Harlow Shapley, man of stars and star of men, already possessing a galaxy of academic and scientific honors, his revelation and illumination—by such flashes as *Of Stars and Men* and from such perspectives as *The View from a Distant Star*—of man’s creation, sustenance, and destiny have pointed to the possibilities of reforming man’s understanding of his own marvel, his frailty, his duty, and his hope in the grand context of cosmic space-time, mass-energy, and the universal principles underlying evolution.

“Through his missionary journeys across the country and around the world, he has stimulated the scientific community, has preached and exemplified human brotherhood to all, and has pointed to the need for and the possibility of religious and ethical views growing out of the scientific pictures of man and the reality in which he lives. His wise ministry to institutions from the Vatican to Meadville, including the Jewish Theological Seminary’s Conference on Science, Philosophy, and Religion, and the independent Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, has encouraged them to relate religion and ethics to the natural sciences.

“Finally, his many unpublicized personal ministries to the young, to the unpopular, to the fallen and to the unjustly persecuted, often risking hostility to himself, through which he has manifested the divinity within the Samaritan’s not passing by, has won him praise and admiration as a minister’s minister, a scientist’s minister, a true doctor of divinity.”

ALFRED P. STIERNOTTE

1908–1972

Alfred P. Stiernotte, who died at his home in Hamden, Connecticut, on May 18, 1972, had served as one of the voluntary contributors to *Zygon* over several years. He produced our “In the Periodicals” section, which from time to time has brought *Zygon* readers brief summaries of a portion of the literature on religion and science appearing in diverse periodicals. Stiernotte was born in Belgium in 1908 and earned his doctorate at Harvard in history and philosophy of religion. He was professor of philosophy at Quinnipiac College.

FOWLER McCORMICK

November 15, 1898–January 6, 1973

An account of Fowler McCormick and what he has meant to *Zygon* was given in our editorial for March 1972. His deep spiritual sensitivity, his psychological understanding of human needs, and his liberal practical realism were reflected after his death in the unusual and impressive service read at his memorial on January 11 in Chicago, a service he had himself written in the previous year. Readers of *Zygon* remain indebted to this unique man for his encouragement of the editor and for major fiscal support that has enabled *Zygon* to remain in being.