The Tanner Lectures on Human Values
THE TANNER LECTURES
ON HUMAN VALUES

1980

I

Eric Ashby, Edward O. Wilson, Thomas Nagel, Karl Popper, R. M. Hare, Amartya Sen, and Joel Feinberg

Sterling M. McMurrin, Editor
THE TANNER LECTURES ON HUMAN VALUES

Appointment as a Tanner lecturer is a recognition of uncommon capabilities and outstanding scholarly or leadership achievement in the field of human values. The lecturers may be drawn from philosophy, religion, the humanities and sciences, the creative arts and learned professions, or from leadership in public or private affairs. The lectureships are international and intercultural and transcend ethnic, national, religious, or ideological distinctions.

The purpose of the Tanner Lectures is to advance and reflect upon the scholarly and scientific learning relating to human values and valuation. This purpose embraces the entire range of values pertinent to the human condition, interest, behavior, and aspiration.

The Tanner Lectures were formally founded on July 1, 1978, at Clare Hall, Cambridge University. They were established by the American scholar, industrialist, and philanthropist, Obert Clark Tanner. In creating the lectureships, Professor Tanner said, “I hope these lectures will contribute to the intellectual and moral life of mankind. I see them simply as a search for a better understanding of human behavior and human values. This understanding may be pursued for its own intrinsic worth, but it may also eventually have practical consequences for the quality of personal and social life.”

Permanent Tanner lectureships, with lectures given annually, are established at six institutions: Clare Hall, Cambridge University; Harvard University; Brasenose College, Oxford University; Stanford University; the University of Michigan; and the University of Utah. Each year lectureships may be granted to not more than four additional colleges or universities for one year only. The institutions are selected by the Trustees in consultation with an Advisory Commission.
The sponsoring institutions have full autonomy in the appointment of their lecturers. A major purpose of the lecture program is the publication and wide distribution of the Lectures in an annual volume.

The Tanner Lectures on Human Values is a nonprofit corporation administered at the University of Utah under the direction of a self-perpetuating, international Board of Trustees and with the advice and counsel of an Advisory Commission. The Trustees meet annually to enact policies that will ensure the quality of the lectureships.

The entire lecture program, including the costs of administration, is fully and generously funded in perpetuity by an endowment of the University of Utah by Professor Tanner and Mrs. Grace Adams Tanner.

Obert C. Tanner was born in Farmington, Utah, in 1904. He was educated at the University of Utah, Harvard University, and Stanford University. He has served on the faculty of Stanford University and is presently Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Utah. He is the founder and chairman of the O. C. Tanner Company, manufacturing jewelers.

Sterling M. McMurrin
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PREFACE TO VOLUME I

It was late in the autumn of 1975 that Professor Tanner resolved to endow a major lectureship on human values. Over the ensuing months the appropriate legal instruments were fashioned, an international Board of Trustees was created, and basic policies on the lectureships were set in place. However, before the formal establishment of the Lectures at Cambridge, England, in 1978, lectures had already been given during the academic year 1976–77 at Brasenose College, Oxford University, Stanford University, and the University of Michigan. The first lectures at Clare Hall, Cambridge University, and the University of Utah were given during the academic year 1978–79, while the first lecture at Harvard University was delivered in 1980. The lectures given during 1979–80 will be published in The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, 1981, Volume II of the series. It is anticipated that hereafter the lectures will be published in an annual volume.

The lecture by Professor R. M. Hare of Oxford University, "Moral Conflicts," was delivered at Utah State University.