In Memoriam Jean Piaget
August 9, 1896-September 16, 1980
A man of singular purpose and great vision Who dared to bring down to earth
what philosophers had kept in the clouds, Who humanized a barren psychology
that had the illusion it could function without a philosophical framework. An innate rationalist to
some psychologists, A biological experimenter to most philosophers, An idealist to dialectic
thinkers, A relativist to positivists, He has single-handedly shown a way
To bridge the baneful split
Between knowing and acting Between subject and object Between heredity and environment By
establishing the science of genetic epistemology: He has given empirical substance to the theory
of knowledge
Through observing its development in infants and children And confirmed Kant’s a priori
By rooting it in biology
But putting it at the end, not at the beginning of the evolutionary history.
Hans Furth