

Polanyi Chronology
M. Moleski, S.J.--Used in Nov. 2016 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting Presentation

1. **Hungary** -- *medicine, physical chemistry*

- 1891 Born in Budapest, Hungary (*TD*, opposite title page) of Viennese parents (*Pollacsek-->Polanyi*).
- 1914 Received doctoral degree in **Medicine** from the University of Budapest
- 1914 First paper on adsorption published (*K&B*, 87).
- 1914-18 Medical officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army (*K&B*, 89).
- 1917 Theory of adsorption accepted as Ph.D. thesis in **Physical Chemistry** at University of Budapest thanks to the "complete ignorance of the professor of theoretical physics" (*K&B*, 93).
- 1919 Baptized a Catholic (apparently for the sake of convenience; Scott, "Religious Reality," 86).

2. **Germany** -- *adsorption, crystals, reaction kinetics*

- 1920 Institute of Fibre Chemistry in Berlin-Dahlem (crystals, *K&B*, 97).
- 1923 Institute of Physical Chemistry (reaction kinetics, *K&B*, 104).
- 1929 Made Life Member of Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physical Chemistry (*TD*, opposite title page)
- 1930 Joint paper with London, based on quantum-mechanical resonance and "inverse third power law" (*K&B*, 90).
- 1932 **Atomic Reactions**. London: Williams and Norgate, 1932. This is a book about the simplest form of *chemical* reactions--those that take place between two atoms. It is not about *nuclear physics*, which developed later and gave us the "atomic bomb."

3. **England**

A. Economics, social analysis

- 1933 Fled Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Elected professor of physical chemistry at the Victoria University of Manchester, England (*TD*, opposite title page).
- 1935 "I first met questions of philosophy when I came up against the Soviet ideology under Stalin which denied justification to the pursuit of science" (*TD*, 3). In the decade that followed, Polanyi devoted a great deal of time to **economics and social analysis**.
- 1936 **USSR Economics: Fundamental Data, System and Spirit**. Manchester University Press, 25 pp.

B. Philosophy, theology, aesthetics

- 1940 **The Contempt of Freedom**. London: Watts and Company, 1940.
- 1945 **Full Employment and Free Trade**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 1946 **Science, Faith and Society**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; "Background and Prospect" added in 1963 edition.
- 1948 Retires "from the professional pursuit of science to take up **philosophy**" (*K&B*, 87). "Manchester University has made it possible for me to accept the invitation of Aberdeen and to spend nine years almost exclusively on the preparation of this book. The generosity of Senate and Council in allowing me to exchange my Chair of Physical Chemistry for a Professorial appointment without lecturing duties . . ." (*PK*, ix).
"I turned to philosophy as an afterthought to my career as a scientist" (*TD*, 3).
- 1950 Lectures "as Visiting Professor or Senior Fellow, at the universities of Chicago, Aberdeen, Virginia, Stanford, and Merton College, Oxford" (*TD*, opposite title page).
- 1950 "Scientific Beliefs," *Ethics* 61 (1950) 27-37.
- 1950 "This work [*Personal Knowledge*] owes much to Dr. Marjorie Grene. The moment we first talked about it in Chicago in 1950 she seemed to have guessed my whole purpose, and ever since she has never ceased to help its pursuit. Setting aside her own work as a philosopher, she has devoted herself for years to the service of the present enquiry. Our discussions have catalyzed its progress at every stage and there is hardly a page that has not benefitted from her criticism. She has a share in anything that I may have achieved here" (*PK*, ix).
- 1951 **The Logic of Liberty: Reflections and Rejoinders**. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- 1951-2 Gifford Lectures, University of Aberdeen (basis of *Personal Knowledge*, *PK* ix).
- 1953 "Science and Conscience," *Religion in Life* 23 (1953) 47-58.
- 1958 **Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy (epistemology; endorsed Protestant theology)**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- 1959 **The Study of Man** -- "a theory of **historiography**" (*TD*, ix). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 1960 "Beyond Nihilism," *Encounter* 14 (1960) 34-43, reprinted in *K&B*, 3-23.
- 1961 University of Virginia lectures--first public lectures on the substance of *The Tacit Dimension* (*TD*, acknowledgments).
- 1961 "Faith and Reason," *The Journal of Religion* 41 (1961) 237-47.
- "Knowing and Being," *Mind* 70 (1961) 458-70, reprinted in *K&B*, 123-37.
- 1962 Terry Lectures at Yale, from which *The Tacit Dimension* was developed (*TD*, acknowledgments).
- 1962 "The Unaccountable Element in Science," *Philosophy* 37 (1962) 1-14, reprinted in *K&B*, 105-120.
- "The Republic of Science: Its Political and Economic Theory," *Minerva* 1 (1962) 54-73, reprinted in *K&B*, 49-72.
- "Tacit Knowing: Its Bearing on Some Problems of Philosophy," *Review of Modern Physics* 34 (1962) 601-616, reprinted in *K&B*, 159-180.
- 1963 "Science and Religion: Separate Dimension or Common Ground?" *Philosophy Today* 7 (1963) 4-14.
- 1964 Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Palo Alto, at Duke University (summer; (*TD*, acknowledgments).
- 1965-6 Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at Wesleyan University (*TD*, opposite title page).
- 1965 "The Structure of Consciousness," *Brain* 88 (1965) 799-810, reprinted in *K&B*, 211-224.
- 1966 **The Tacit Dimension**. New York: Doubleday and Company. "The present volume is the first account in book form of the work done during these nine years. The delay was caused by hope and by fear. The lure of the next bend behind which new sights might appear distracts us from the labor of taking stock, and the effect of this distraction is reinforced by the anxiety that our theories might be defeated at the next turn" (*TD*, ix).
- 1966 "The Logic of Tacit Inference," *Philosophy* 41 (1966) 1-16, reprinted in *K&B*, 138-158.
- "Faith and Reason," *Journal of Religion* 41 (1961), reprinted in *Scientific Thought and Social Reality*.
- 1967 "The Growth of Science in Society," *Minerva* 5 (1967) 533-545, reprinted in *K&B*, 73-86.
- "Sense-Giving and Sense-Reading," *Philosophy* 12 (1967) 301-321, reprinted in *K&B*, 181-207.
- 1968 "Life's Irreducible Structure," *Science* 160 (1968) 1308-1312, reprinted in *K&B*, 225-239.
- 1969 **Knowing and Being**. Edited by Marjorie Grene. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- "On Body and Mind," *New Scholasticism* 43 (1969) 195-204.
- 1974 **Scientific Thought and Social Reality: Essays by Michael Polanyi**, edited by Fred Schwartz. New York: International Universities Press.
- 1975 **Meaning**, with Harry Prosch (dealing, in part, with **aesthetics**). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 1976 Died February 22.

John C. Polanyi (1929 --), University of Toronto, 1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry with Dudley R. Herschbach and Yuan T. Lee for their contributions concerning the dynamics of chemical elementary processes. Polanyi's younger son. He won the Nobel Prize for his work in reaction kinetics.

Polanyi's Commitment to Realism and the Reality of Ideals

Undated, unsigned. Found in a folder labeled: letters Davies (sent) from (Pol. related) 1958--> in the MP: to/from section of Bill Scott's files.

It is necessary for me, and others of my kind of convictions, to believe that **science possesses reality**; that it is discovered by man but not made by man; that it is not 'artificial' but possesses an ungovernable life of its own. Unless **such a reality, external to man's action**, is recognized, science--and truth in general, and the whole realm of intellectual and moral statements--inevitably becomes subordinate to man's material needs. There is no sense of this inevitability in people, who in T. S. Eliot's phrase, live near the Bank and the Police Station, (i.e. can rely on a steady flow of tradition, for the time being)--but to me this theoretical subordination appears as a catastrophic reality. I know the phrases in which it was formulated to persecute our fellow scientists in Soviet Russia, I recall the almost identical form of words on Hitler's and Himmler's lips when they settled on the fate of German scholars resisting their historical and anthropological theories.

I cannot rely on the mercies of common sense against logic in these matters. Your conception of reality has been recently elaborated to its final conclusion on academic grounds in **Logical Positivism**. This is a complete denial of validity in any theoretical statement. It reduces all moral, aesthetic, and religious conceptions to "ways of talking."

There seems only one way to fight, however hopelessly perhaps, for the rehabilitation of civilized thought: **to secure by an act of faith the reality of our ideals**. Unless we accept that position, we open, as Logical Positivism has clearly demonstrated it, the central citadel of all human convictions to the rule of **nihilism**. We lay down our arms and abandon any ground on which Hitler and Himmler (in their million shapes all over the world) can be resisted.

Addendum

Marty Moleski, S. J.'s "longer chronology" (e-mailed to W.Gulick and P.Mullins on 5/2/18) indicates it was "touched up" in the spring of 2018; it apparently incorporates some of the document that Magda Polanyi prepared for Wigner and Hodgkin when they were preparing the Royal Society Biographical Memoir:

https://moleski.net/cac/Polanyi_Chronology

Autobiographical, Biographical, Historical/Contextual Resources

Autobiographical: what is generally called the "Midcentury Authors" statement is in *World Authors, 1950-1970: A Companion Volume to Twentieth Century Authors*, 1975, pp. 1151-1153.

The July 20, 1966 draft of "Midcentury Authors" is in Box 38, Folder 8, Michael Polanyi Papers.

The Royal Society Biographical Memoir: E.P. Wigner and R. A. Hodgkin, "Michael Polanyi 1891-1976," *Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society*, vol. 23 (1977); 413-448.

William Taussig Scott and Martin X. Moleski, S.J. *Michael Polanyi, Scientist and Philosopher*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Mary Jo Nye. *Michael Polanyi and His Generation, Origins of the Social Construction of Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Lee Congdon, *Seeing Red: Hungarian Intellectuals in Exile and the Challenge of Communism*. DeKalb, IL: Northern IL University Press, 2001

Lee Congdon, *Exile and Social Thought, Hungarian Intellectuals in German and Austria 1919-1933*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

There are many essays with historical/contextual details about Michael Polanyi, his friends and colleagues and/or the formation of his ideas in *Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Journal* (archived on polanysociety.org), *Polanyiana: Journal of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association* (archived here: <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu/periodical/period.php?lang=en>) and *Appraisal: Journal of the British Personalist Forum* (archives are not currently open access; for information go to <http://www.britishpersonalistforum.org.uk/contents.html>). Some resources are also directly available under the link on the Polanyi Society web page for [Essays, Lectures \(audio files\) and a Film by Michael Polanyi](#).

There are also essays with historical/contextual discussions (e.g., Polanyi and Marjorie Grene, Polanyi and Popper, Polanyi and Mannheim, Karl and Michael Polanyi, Polanyi and Edward Shils) in books and other journals. Feel free to ask Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu) or Walter Gulick (wgulick@msubillings.edu) about topics of interest or journal issues and books with historical/contextual material.

Polanyi Bibliographies

Richard Gelwick, "A Bibliography of Michael Polanyi's Social and Philosophical Writings" in *Intellect and Hope: Essays in the Thought of Michael Polanyi*. Thomas A. Langford and William H. Poteat (eds.). Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 1968: 432-446. This is an update version (covering some of the 1968 publications) of Gelwick's original bibliography (covering through early 1963) which is online on the Polanyi Society web site ([Gelwick Microfilm Collection](#)).

William Taussig Scott and Martin X. Moleski, S.J. *Michael Polanyi, Scientist and Philosopher*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Harry Prosch, *Michael Polanyi, A Critical Exposition*. Albany: SUNY, 1986.

Maben Walter Poirier, *A Classified and Partially Annotated Bibliography of Michael Polanyi, the Anglo-Hungarian Philosopher of Science*. Toronto, Canadian Scholars Press, 2002 (primary and secondary, out of print).

Richard Allen (Ed.), *Society, Economics and Philosophy—Selected Papers*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction, 1997. An important 1997 collection of Polanyi materials with two useful bibliographies at the end.

A bibliography of scientific papers compiled by John Polanyi is in *The Logic of Personal Knowledge*. Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1961: 239-247.

Polanyi Reader

What is usually called the "Polanyi Reader," *Recovering Truth: A Comprehensive Anthology of Michael Polanyi's Writing*, by Walter Gulick (with help from others) is available for downloading at polanysociety.org. This is a topically organized reader that illumines each chapter's topic with a large selection of quotations from a wide array of Polanyi's writings. More than 100 people from across the world have, in fact, inquired about the Polanyi Reader and downloaded it. A future issue of TAD will discuss the reader and include a response from Walt Gulick. A bound copy of the Polanyi Reader is available for review at the 2018 Nashotah Conference in the Polanyi materials room. Eventually, the Polanyi Reader may be turned into a cheap Amazon.com book which is printed on demand.

Archival Polanyi Resources

The 60 boxes (30 linear feet) of the Michael Polanyi Papers are in the Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago Library (1100 East 57th St., Chicago, IL 60637, USA). The *Guide to the Michael Polanyi Papers 1900-1975* is online at

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/view.php?eadid=ICU.SPCL.POLANYI>.

There is a link to the *Guide* (also known as the "Cash Guide") on the Polanyi Society homepage at polanysociety.org. [TAD 23\(1\) in 1997](#) provides an easily printable copy of the *Guide* but 10 boxes have subsequently been added to the collection and there may have been some reorganization. The Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association (MPLPA) received a Soros Foundation grant several years ago to digitize 44 boxes of the collection. Some archival materials have been published in issues of *Polanyiana* and a database in English is posted on the [MPLPA/Polanyiana site](#).

The Bruno V. Manno collection of Polanyi materials (7 linear feet) at the University of Dayton has an online finding aid at http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/view?docId=ead/ODaU0009.xml;chunk.id=c01_1F;brand=default. There are Polanyi materials in the William T. Scott archives at the University of Nevada, Reno, the Richard Gelwick archives at the University of Houston, the Doug Adams archives at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, the Edward Shils Papers (in the same location at the University of Chicago as the MPP), the J. H. Oldham archives in Edinburgh University, Scotland and the John Polanyi archives at the University of Toronto. There are interesting materials in the archives of Manchester University Department of Chemistry. The Scott and Gelwick archives are not yet available; the Shils Papers and the John Polanyi archives require special permission for admission. Hillsdale College is presently considering a Polanyi collection that will, among other things, contain Martin Moleski, SJ materials and things Polanyi scholars have passed on to Phil Mullins when they retired or died. Inquiries about the MPLPA materials and materials identified in this paragraph should be directed to Phil Mullins (<mailto:mullins@missouriwestern.edu>).

POLANYI'S WORK 1958-71

EXTENDED STAYS AT UNIVERSITIES

<u>Keele</u>	<u>Edinburgh</u>	<u>Oxford</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Yale</u>	<u>Menlo Park/ Stanford</u>	<u>Duke</u>	<u>Wesleyan</u>	<u>Chicago/ Austin</u>
Study of Man 1958	Gunning Lects. 1960	Merton Lects. 1960-61	History and Hope 1961	Terry Lects. Tacit Dim. 1962, 1966	Ctr. Beh. Sci. 1962-63 No Publ.	Man in Thought 1964	Ctr. Adv. St. 1965-66 No Publ.	Meaning 1968-71

KEY ARTICLES IN FIVE CATEGORIES

<u>History and Society</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Tacit Knowing</u>	<u>Stratification</u>	<u>Religion and Art</u>
Tyranny and Freedom 1958	Unaccountable Element in Sci. 1960	Knowing and Being 1961	Epic Theory of Evolution 1960	Sci. and Relig. Sep. Or Common 1963
Politics of Humanity 1958	Sci. Academic and Industrial 1961	TK and its Bearing. . . 1962	Science and Man's Place 1964	A b o u t Relig. Faith 1964
Beyond Nihilism 1959	Study of Man (Calcutta) 1961	Creative Imagination 1965	Life Transc. Phys. and Chem. 1967	Transc. and Self-Transc. 1968
Faith and Reason, The Sci. Rev. 1961	Republic of Sci. (1962)	Logic of T. Inference 1966	Life's Irred. Structure 1967	Acceptance of Religion 1968
Why Destroy Europe? 1965	Science and Reality 1967	Sense-Giving and Sense-Reading 1967	Clues to Mind and Body 1962	What is a Painting? 1970
Message of the H. Rev. 1966	Genius in Science 1969	Logic and Psychology 1967	Structure of Consciousness 1965	On Viewing A Painting 1970
Sixty Years in Universities 1967	Science and Man 1970		On the Modern Mind 1965	
Growth of Sci. in Soc. 1967				