

PREFACE

I begin by announcing that Charles Taylor has agreed to join two sessions of our 2014 Annual Meeting in San Diego. For more information, see the Call for Papers that leads off “News and Notes” on p. 2. There, you will also find updates on this summer’s Poteat Conference and other matters. Minutes and Treasurer’s Report from the 2013 Polanyi Society Board meeting can be found on pp. 61-63.

At the center of this issue of *Tradition and Discovery* is Michael Polanyi’s intriguing little essay, “Forms of Atheism.” Written for a 1948 meeting of the Moot, it was not published until 1981 in *Convivium*. Phil Mullins’ “Prefatory Note” puts Polanyi’s essay in its historical context. The text of Polanyi’s “Forms of Atheism” is then followed by three interpretive essays. Martin Moleski, S.J., sees in the piece Polanyi’s rejection of the false gods of the age and asks the reader to be circumspect in attributing too much to Polanyi’s invocation of the God of the Bible. Diane Yeager undertakes an intellectual history by showing how “Forms of Atheism” represents an important step in Polanyi’s emerging ideas of moral passion and moral inversion. Richard Gelwick briefly contrasts the atheisms Polanyi describes in his essay with the new atheism of today, but mostly explores how his oblique references to the God of the Bible might cohere with Polanyi’s larger work.

We also reprint David Rutledge’s “William Poteat: the Primacy of the Person” for an American audience. The essay first appeared in 2008 in *Appraisal*, the journal of the UK’s Society for Post-Critical and Personalist Studies. We are grateful that Richard Allen and *Appraisal* has allowed us to do this, for it seems timely in light of this summer’s Yale Conference (again, see “News and Notes” for the latest information on this event). In this essay, Rutledge, a former student of Poteat, carefully lays out the contours of Poteat’s ideas. Whether it is possible to craft a straightforward introduction remains to be seen, however, for in email correspondence, Rutledge wryly observes that “true Poteat disciples believe, of course, that if you make Poteat clear (which I tried to do), you’ve misunderstood him.”

By way of book reviews, we have Walter Gulick’s review essay of Paul Craig Roberts’s new *The Failure of Laissez Faire Capitalism*, to which Roberts responds. Roberts was one of Polanyi’s last graduate students and was Assistant Secretary to the Treasury in the Reagan Administration, so his views command attention. In addition, we have reviews of two new books, the first a collection of essays on Polanyi’s relation to 20th-Century liberalism edited by Richard T. Allen and the second Creighton Rosenthal’s appropriation of Thomas Aquinas to resolve debates on the relationship between faith and reason, a topic of ongoing interest to Society members. We also have a review of one older book, Jeremy Begbie’s 1991 book on theology and the arts.

That about sums it up for this issue, which in retrospect, almost completely follows the old adage of, “Something old, something new, something borrowed...” Now, if we only had something blue...

Paul Lewis

P.S. Observant readers will note that membership renewal information is included again in this issue. This is *not* an attempt to get anyone to pay twice, but a friendly reminder directed to those who have misplaced or forgotten to respond to the October mailing. Everyone gets the information, however, since U. S. Post Office regulations require all issues to be identical in weight.