Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

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The Polanyi Society

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Preface

For several years, I have encouraged any scholars who told me of their interest in Polanyi's political and economic ideas to consider putting together an article for submission to TAD. A few articles and reviews touching these areas have appeared earlier, but not many, although there have been a number of publications treating these areas outside TAD. We are fortunate in this issue to have two essays which explore some of this territory. Lee Congdon is a historian who has written much about the social milieu in which the young Michael Polanyi's thought began to grow; Walter Gulick reviewed his fine 1991 book, Exile and Social Thought: Hungarian Intellectuals in Germany and Austria, in TAD 23:2 (pp. 44-46). Congdon's article "Between Brothers: Karl and Michael Polanyi on Fascism and Communism," originally a paper delivered in Budapest, offers an interesting account of the sharply different perspectives of Karl and Michael Polanyi. While Michael's analysis of the problems of modern culture is likely well known by readers, Karl's account may not be so familiar. Congdon does a very nice job of contrasting perspectives, of relating each to the general context, and of reminding us of the links between these brothers. Struan Jacobs, who teaches social theory in Australia and is the author of "Michael Polanyi and Spontaneous Order, 1941-1951," has done careful historical work with a decade of early (nonscientific) Polanyi writing. He ferrets out Polanyi's ideas about order and public liberty which are foundational for Polanyi's broader discussions of economics, science and society. Jacobs documents the link between Polanyi and the ideas of the social and economic theorist F. A. Hayek, Polanyi's good friend, and shows some of the differences between Hayek and Polanyi's perspectives on order and liberty. Ron Hall's article, "The Primacy Of The Explicit: On Keeping Romanticism At Bay," was a provocative paper much discussed at a recent Polanyi Society meeting. As his title suggests, Hall argues for the importance of the explicit, questioning some of Polanyi's notions about wholly tacit knowledge and, particularly, warning against the inclinations toward Romanticism which Hall believes lurk in the hearts (if not the minds) of many Polanyians. Take a look also at the overdue review of David Rutledge's Polanyian book on the ecological crisis, at the report on the November 1997 Polanyi Society annual meeting (with an update on the Polanyi biography), the call for papers for the November 1998 meeting in Florida, and, last but not least, the "News and Notes" section which provides interesting, recent bibliographic information.

Phil Mullins

Tradition and Discovery is indexed selectively in The Philosopher's Index and Religion One: Periodicals. Book reviews are indexed in Index to Book Reviews in Religion.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy will be held August 10-16, 1998 in Boston, Massachusetts. This is an opportunity for members of the Polanyi Society to show the contributions and implications of Polanyi's philosophy. Richard Gelwick has arranged for the Polanyi Society to have a session at the World Congress with presentations. Individuals may also submit papers to the 44 sections ranging from Theory of Knowledge to Philosophy and Children. Every major area of philosophical inquiry has a call for papers, including both theoretical and applied fields. A representative of the World Congress attended the November 1997 Polanyi Society annual meeting to encourage Polanyi Society participation. For detailed information about this meeting, contact: Congress Secretariat, American Organizing Committee, Inc., Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA02215; tel. 617-353-3904; fax. 617-353-5441; email. paideia@bu.edu; internet. http://web.bu.edu/WCP. Besides the hotel accommodations, dormitory rooms at Boston University will be available for those who register early. Anyone wishing to present a paper or organize a panel at the Polanyi Society session must contact Richard Gelwick immediately at the address on the inside TAD cover, by phone (207-283-0171, x 230) or email: (rgelwick@mailbox.une.edu).

There will be a weekend conference, sponsored by the UK journal *Appraisal*, titled "Michael Polanyi Today" on April 17th and 18th of 1998 at University of Sheffield, UK. Bed and breakfast accommodations are available. *Pro rata* terms are available for those who cannot attend every session and for non-residents. Papers, which do not have to be narrowly focused on Polanyi, are invited. Forward proposals and inquiries to **Richard Allen**, Editor, *Appraisal*, 20 Ulverscroft Rd., Loughborough, Leich. LE11 3PU, England or write Allen at his e-mail address (Richard_Allen_21@compuserve.com). By phone, Allen can be reached at (44) 01509 215438.

The fourth number of *Appraisal* came out in October of 1997 and included a number of articles on Polanyi and other thinkers including the following: **Martin X. Moleski, S.J.**, "Illiative Sense and Tacit Knowledge: A Comparison of the Epistemologies of John Henry Newman and Michael Polanyi" (Part II); **Phil Mullins**, "Michael Polanyi and J. H. Oldham: In Praise of Friendship"; **Chris Goodman**, "Polanyi and Liberal Neutrality" (also in *TAD*, 23:3) and **Phil Mullins**, "More on Macmurray and Polanyi." Also included were **Robin Hodgkin's** review of R. T. Allen's new collection of Polanyi essays, *Society, Economics, Philosophy: Selected Articles* and **R. T. Allen's** review of the collection of papers from the Polanyi Kent State Polanyi Conference in 1991, *From Polanyi to the 21st Century*, which Richard Gelwick put together.

Two special numbers of Appraisal (Vol. 1, Supplementary Issues 1997, Parts I and II) came out late in the Fall of 1997 with the papers from the March, 1997 conference on "Fundamental Beliefs and Presuppositions" held in the UK. Included were the following papers touching upon Polanyi's thought: R. T. Allen, "On Presuppositions and Presupposing"; Chris Goodman, "Wittgenstein and Polanyi on Meaning"; Martin X. Moleski, S. J., "Self-Emptying Knowledge: Michael Polanyi's Vision of the Moral Foundations of Scientific Revolutions"; John Preston, "Feyerabend's Polanyian Turns"; Robert Brownhill, "Polanyi and Interpretative Frameworks" and Julian Ward, "Polanyi's Ontological Hierarchy." Inquiries about Appraisal subscription or purchase of individual numbers can be directed to Richard Allen at the address listed above.

Polanyiana, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1996 published last Spring is another English edition (accidentally not noted in the last *TAD*) of the periodical of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association centered in Budapest. Included were the following articles: **R. T. Allen**, "Polanyi's

Overcoming of the Dichotomy of Fact and Value"; **Mary Jo Nye**, "Scientific Practice and Politics: A Preliminary Look At Blackett and Polanyi in Manchester" and **Stephania Ruzsits Jha**, "Michael Polanyi's Integrative Philosophy."

Recently, the new edition of *Polanyiana*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1997 has been issued. This number is a Hungarian translation of all the articles in the 1982 special edition of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* (17:1) which was dedicated to discussion of Polanyi's ideas about religion. Information about *Polanyiana* is available by writing (or phoning or faxing) the editors **Márta Fehér** and **Éva Gábor**, Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association, 1111 Budapest, Mûegyetem rkp. 3. K. I. 59. Phone (361)4631181 Fax: 4631042. Information about *Polanyiana* is available on World Wide Web at the following address:

http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/ Complete copies of all of the articles in *Polanyiana* Vol. 5, No. 2, 1996 and Vol. 6, No. 1, 1997 (noted above) as well as Vol. 5, No. 1, 1996 (noted in *TAD* 23:2) and Vol. 3, Number 3, 1993 (an issue in Hungarian) are available at the *Polanyiana* WWW address.

Brian Gowenlock, until recently professor of chemistry at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, and a one-time pupil of Polanyi sent the following comment after reviewing the record of Polanyi's correspondence contained in the *Guide to the Papers of Michael Polanyi* in *TAD* 23:1 (also available now at the Polanyi Society World Wide Web site: http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi):

I found the list of correspondents on pp. 11-12 quite fascinating. It interested me that there was no mention of his colleagues and collaborators such as E. C. Bangham, M. G. Evan, C. E. H. Bawn, R. A. Ogg. I recall visits to Manchester in the '46- '48 period of Herman Mark and Linus Pauling but they do not seem to have been involved in the correspondence at that time. Also M. P. presided at a lecture

given in the university by Emil Brunner during that period--again no specific mention in the list of correspondents. The range of his correspondents with their wide diversity of interests and standpoints is, however, the most striking feature.

Robin Hodgkin's article "Making Space for Meaning" which treats John Macmurray's thought in relation to Langer, Winnicott and Polanyi appeared in *Oxford Review of Education* (23:3 (1997): 385-399. It will also appear in Harry A. Carson, *The Post Modern Thought of John Macmurray: The Primacy of the Person as an Agent in a Field of Agents* (forthcoming 1998 from The Humanities Press).

Harold Turner has done a lengthy review of Joan Crewdson's *Christian Doctrine in the Light of Michael Polanyi's Theory of Personal Knowledge* in *Stimulus*, (5:1 (February, 1997): 12-19).

Havey Birenbaum has recently published *The Happy Critic: A Serious But Not Solemn Guide To Thinking and Writing about Literature* (Mayfield Publishing Co, 1997) which he describes as a textbook in many respects Polanyian.

Jere C. Moorman presented a paper on William Poteat and humor ("Imagine A Man Who Is Note Sensitive and Melody Deaf") to the annual meeting of the International Society of Humor Studies in Sydney, Australia.

During December of 1997, participants in the electronic discussion group sponsored by the Polanyi Society were surprised to receive much e-mail from a librarians' discussion list. Many list subscribers removed their names from the Polanyi list to stop the flood. John Apczynski, moderator for the Polanyi discussion list, reports that somehow the librarians' discussion list which is also on a Saint Bonaventura University computer, absorbed the Polanyi list! The damage has now been repaired. If you signed off the list, it is now safe to sign back on. Information about the discussion list is on page 43.

Report on 1997 Annual Polanyi Society Meeting

The three sessions of the Polanyi Society annual meeting held on November 21 and 22, 1997 in San Francisco involved more than forty people. The two sessions with formal papers and responses were typical for annual gatherings: there was more to say than time to say it. The dinner honoring Charles S. McCoy was a convivial occasion at which McCoy's exploits in a long academic career were roasted.

The annual business meeting treated several topics. Ann Scott gave a brief history of the work of her husband Bill on a Polanyi biography, running from the request for a biography from Magda Polanyi down to the present. Since Bill is now incapacitated, Martin Moleski will carry on the work of preparing two versions of the manuscript in which Bill has invested many years. Moleski will put in order a complete edition of Bill's lengthy manuscript; this work will likely eventually become part of the Polanyi Papers at the University of Chicago and may perhaps also be available to scholars elsewhere. Moleski will also be working on an abridged edition that may be attractive to a university press.

Richard Gelwick requested help in developing Polanyi-related papers for the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy to be held in August 1998 in Boston; a representative of the Congress briefly described the meeting. There was some discussion of an effort to put together in 2001 in North America an international conference on Polanyi's thought. Phil Mullins reported that members of the Society are today doing a better job of remembering to pay annual dues; nevertheless, there is room for further improvement. There was some discussion of the Polanyi Society web materials assembled by Mullins; he was asked to add a FAQ file (frequently asked questions) to the material.

The discussion of possible paper or session topics for the 1998 annual meeting included the following: the significance of Polanyi's thought for business; teachers as practitioners, using Polanyi's ideas to help students; Polanyi, Hayek, and their economic ideas. Phil Rolnick reported that Craig Roberts, an early Polanyi student who has written much about politics and economics and been prominent in U.S. government, might be willing to do a keynote paper focusing a session; Rolnick will initiate further discussion with Roberts. It was agreed that the planning committee will explore these possibilities but the call for papers will also entertain other topics.

Call for Papers for 1998 Polanyi Society Meeting

The Polanyi Society will have its 1998 annual meeting in conjunction with the November 21-24, 1998 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in Orlando, Florida. The Polanyi Society session or sessions will likely be on the evening of Friday, November 20, and the morning of Saturday, November 21.

As the report above on the 1997 meeting indicates, several topics were discussed for the 1998 meeting. Although some of these possibilities are being explored, the committee planning the annual meeting has not yet made any firm decisions. Proposals of any sort are invited, although proposals treating topics proposed in the 1997 meeting (and at earlier meetings) are especially sought. The deadline for receiving proposals is March 27, 1998. Please be aware that the planning cycle for the Polanyi Society annual meeting must conform to the process which the AAR/SBL annual meeting (which accommodates about 7000 people) sets forth. Also remember that some topics proposed for Polanyi

Society annual meetings (e.g., discussing how to teach Polanyi and how to teach in a Polanyian style) may be treated in papers included in a regular AAR/SBL meeting session (e.g., a paper on Polanyi and pedagogy might fit into the AAR Academic Study and Teaching of Religion section--see the AAR Call for Papers).

Since Marty Moleski, the annual meeting convener, is on sabbatical and will not be in the U.S., please mail, fax or e-mail paper and or session proposals (or questions) to Phil Mullins. Moleski can be reached only at his regular e-mail address (moleski@canisius.edu) in the Spring semester. Proposals should include a title and a 250 word abstract which can be used in AAR/SBL publications as well as used in *Tradition and Discovery* and on the Polanyi Society web site.

Phil Mullins e-mail: mullins@griffon.mwsc.edu fax: 815-271-5987

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Submissions for Publication

Articles, meeting notices and notes likely to be of interest to persons interested in the thought of Michael Polanyi are welcomed. Review suggestions and book reviews should be sent to Walter Gulick (see addresses listed below). Manuscripts, notices and notes should be sent to Phil Mullins. Manuscripts should be double-spaced type with notes at the end; writers are encouraged to employ simple citations within the text when possible. Use MLA or APA style. Abbreviate frequently cited book titles, particularly books by Polanyi (e.g., *Personal Knowledge* becomes *PK*). Shorter articles (10-15 pages) are preferred, although longer manuscripts (20-24 pages) will be considered.

Manuscripts should include the author's name on a separate page since submissions normally will be sent out for blind review. In addition to the typescript of a manuscript to be reviewed, authors are expected to provide an electronic copy (on either a disk or via e-mail) of accepted articles; it is helpful if original submissions are accompanied by an electronic copy. For disks, ASCII text as well as most popular IBM and MAC word processors are acceptable. Be sure that electronic materials include all relevant information which may help converting files. Persons with questions or problems associated with producing an electronic copy of manuscripts should phone or write Phil Mullins (816-271-4386). Insofar as possible, *TAD* is willing to work with authors who have special problems producing electronic materials.

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