

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

The Polanyi biography was published a little more than a year ago. At the last annual meeting, there was a robust discussion of this book. For this issue, several people who knew Polanyi and/or who early recognized the importance of his work have been invited to respond to the biography. The essays by Lee Congdon, Paul Craig Roberts, Ruel Tyson and Richard Gelwick should be regarded as comments on *Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher* rather than full-scale reviews. But this is a particularly interesting set of commentators and I think you will find a particularly interesting set of comments. Marty Moleski kindly agreed to respond to these commentators. Also you will find in this issue an essay by Zhenhua Yu, as well as three reviews. Additionally, there is information about the new Polanyi Society Travel Fund and the procedure for applying for a grant. The program for the annual meeting is included and there are bibliographic notes and other interesting matters in News and Notes.

Please remember that the Polanyi Society now publishes a web edition of each issue of the journal that is identical to the printed copy. All issues back to 1991 are archived. You can access this without a password at the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). One of the objectives of web publishing is to avoid the expense and increasing difficulty in dealing with the U.S. Post Office. These days almost all professional societies either turn journal publishing over to a major publisher (and the journal becomes very expensive) or shift to web publishing. But web publishing does offer new opportunities. As long as enough Polanyi Society members continue to pay our minimal annual dues so that we can meet the Society's minimal expenses (and we are doing that), we can expand our electronic mailing list. If you know someone who might like to try the journal, please send me an e-mail address and I will add them to the growing list of folk who are notified when a new issue of *TAD* is available on the web site.

Phil Mullins

Tradition and Discovery is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and is included in the EBSCO online database of academic and research journals.

NEWS AND NOTES

Carlo Vinti has recently been notified he will receive support from the Templeton Foundation to translate *Science, Faith and Society* into Italian.

Mark Mitchell's new introduction to Polanyi's thought, titled *Michael Polanyi: The Art of Knowing*, is due out in August. The book is a component of the Library of Modern Thinkers for ISI Books (<http://www.isi.org/books/titles.aspx?SBY=Forthcoming>). Mitchell's essay "Personal Participation: Michael Polanyi, Eric Voegelin, and the Indispensability of Faith" appeared in *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 33:1: 65-89.

Aaron Milavec's "How Acts of Discovery Transform Our Tacit Knowing Powers in Both Scientific and Religious Inquiry" appears in *Zygon*, 41:2: 465-486.

Some of the material in the William T. Scott Papers at the Library of the University of Nevada, Reno is now being processed. Eventually, a great body of materials, including many things that Bill Scott gathered for the Polanyi biography (including an early draft of the biography), is to be available in Reno. You can see what is apparently the library's plan for the material at <http://www.library.unr.edu/specoll/mss/99-26.html>.

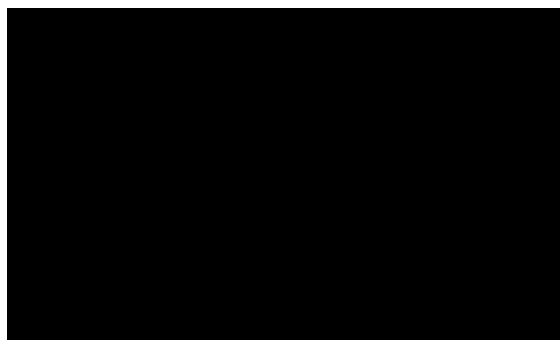
Personal Knowledge is now available as an e-book for \$27.17 in a Microsoft Reader format. See <http://www.ebookmall.com/ebook/82216-ebook.htm>.

As in most recent summers, the Society web site will be updated and somewhat restructured in the summer of 2006. Among other things, at least one additional Polanyi essay will be added to the site which already has links to 14 Polanyi articles.

The 2007 SPCPS Annual Conference is set for March 30 and 31, at Nightingale Hall, Nottingham. Proposals for papers are invited. For additional information, contact Richard Allen (rt.allen@ntlworld.com).

Struan Jacobs and Phil Mullins recently published papers written for a 1944 meeting of the Moot by T.S. Eliot, Karl Mannheim and Michael Polanyi along with a lengthy introduction ("T.S. Eliot's Idea of the Clerisy, and its Discussion by Karl Mannheim and Michael Polanyi in the Context of J. H. Oldham's Moot") in *Journal of Classical Sociology*, Vol. 6 (2): 147-176.

Struan Jacobs' essay "Two Sources of Michael Polanyi's Prototypal Notion of Incommensurability" appeared in *History of the Human Sciences*, Vol. 16 (2) (2003): 57-76.



Support Welcomed For Polanyi Society Travel Fund

The assumptions and paradigms that Michael Polanyi brilliantly challenged in the middle of the twentieth century still, sadly, dominate much of academic thinking to this day. Nearly half a century after the publication of his major epistemological and social works, it is not at all unusual to receive blank stares from philosophers, social scientists, and physical scientists—even in major colleges and universities—at the mention of Polanyi’s name.

For several decades the Polanyi Society has devoted its efforts, through its journal and its annual meetings, and – more recently – through its internet discussions and website, to the dissemination and further development of Polanyi’s seminal ideas. Many of those who have taken a lead in these efforts find themselves in the ranks of graying emeriti and are acutely aware of the urgency of reaching out to more young people – undergraduates, graduates, and post-graduates – to assure the perpetuation of Polanyi’s rich legacy.

To promote this effort, the Society has established a modest Travel Fund to assist those young people who have an interest in attending its annual meetings but whose financial conditions make this difficult. Recently, as we have attempted to spread the word regarding the availability of this fund, an unprecedented number of prospective beneficiaries of this assistance have been brought to our attention.

This is a most encouraging development in terms of the Society’s central objective of furthering Polanyi’s influence within academia and the larger society. However, it appears that we may end up this year with considerably more eligible candidates than available funds. We can think of few projects more worthy and in-line with our common purpose than the expansion of the resources of this fund.

Any contributions, however modest, that Polanyi Society members would care to make to this fund will be welcomed. They are fully tax-deductible. Checks for this purpose should be made out to the “Polanyi Society Travel Fund” and sent to Walter Mead, the coordinator of this fund, at the address below, for deposit in the Society’s fund account. If you wish to consolidate a contribution to the Travel Fund with a check for annual dues or a general contribution to the Society, be sure that you clearly identify your intentions. Questions can be addressed to Walter Mead by regular mail (4 Kenyon Court, Bloomington, IL 61701) or e-mail (wbmead@ilstu.edu).

Procedure For Applying For A Polanyi Society Travel Grant

The purpose of the Polanyi Society Travel Fund is to assist those with a strong interest in Michael Polanyi—especially undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students—who have an interest in attending the Society’s annual meeting in November but whose financial conditions make this difficult.

Although the Society is interested in providing funding sufficient to make attendance at its annual meeting possible for eligible candidates, because of the modest amount of funds available, the Society must be selective in awarding a limited number of travel grants. The decision to award a grant and the amount of that grant will depend upon an evaluation of the following information to be provided by the applicant:

- (1) the applicant’s institutional affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number (in each case, alternate summer addresses and phone numbers should also be supplied);
- (2) the estimated cost for traveling to and from the Polanyi meeting by the most cost-efficient means (perhaps a shared automobile, where distances are short);
- (3) the most affordable housing for one night’s lodging between the two days of Society meetings;
- (4) the degree to which the applicant and/or the applicant’s institution can contribute to these costs; and
- (5) a brief statement (300-500 words) indicating (a) the applicant’s program of studies and/or research, (b) any background of reading or courses relating to Michael Polanyi’s ideas, (c) the particular interest the applicant has in attending the program of meetings, and (d) the applicant’s present or future career plans.

In addition, the applicant should request someone acquainted with his or her interests and qualifications to provide *directly* to the Fund Coordinator, by e-mail, a brief letter of reference. The writer should indicate that his or her assessment of the applicant has not been shared with the applicant. All materials will be held confidentially by the Polanyi Society Board of Directors.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their requests as early as possible in order to be able to secure the most economical travel and overnight accommodations and to assure the availability of funds. Deadlines for application for the following November annual meeting are: March 1 (results to be announced by April 1) and, given the further availability of funds, August 1 (results to be announced by September 1) and, again, given the availability of funds, October 1 (results to be announced by October 15).

The Board of Directors of the Polanyi Society will collectively decide on the awarding of grants. Some applicants for either the March 1st or the August 1st deadlines may be designated as “stand-bys” for consideration in the following round of evaluations.

The above information, including letter of reference, should be received by e-mail no later than the intended application deadline. All materials (and any questions) should be e-mailed to (Fund Coordinator) Walter B. Mead (wbmead@ilstu.edu).

2006 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting Program

The program for the 2006 annual meeting of the Polanyi Society is printed below; this year's sessions will be in Washington D.C. on November 17 and 18, 2006. As in recent years, a final rendition of the program (listing hotel meeting rooms, etc.) will be posted on the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>) in the late summer or early fall (as soon as they become available) and included in the next TAD issue, TAD 33:2. The papers listed below should be available for downloading in late October.

The Polanyi Society annual meeting will again this year will be an "Additional Meeting" held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. For information about the AAR/SBL meetings, go to the AAR/SBL web site: <http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/default.asp>. It is not necessary to register for the AAR/SBL meetings in order to attend the Polanyi Society annual meeting.

Friday, November 17, 2006

9:00 pm-11:00 pm

- 9:00 Walter Mead, Illinois State University
"A Polanyian Resolution of the Age-old Conflict between Faith and Reason"
- 10:00 Tony Clark, University of St Andrews
"Torrance, Polanyi, and Imaginative Vision"

Saturday, November 18, 2006

9:00 am-11:30 am

- 9:00 Chair: Jere Moorman, Polanyi Society
- Blythe Clinchy, Wellesley College
"Epistemological Development as the Aim of Education: A Polanyian Perspective"
- Respondents:
Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University
Esther Meek, Geneva College
Zhenhua Yu, East China Normal University
- 11:15 Business Meeting
Walter Gulick Presiding

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. MLA or APA style are preferred. Because the journal serves English writers across the world, we do not require anybody's "standard English." 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. Consistency and clear writing are expected. Manuscripts normally will be sent out for blind review. Authors are expected to provide an electronic copy as an e-mail attachment.

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