

# Tradition & Discovery

## The Polanyi Society Periodical

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Preface.....	2
News and Notes.....	3
Information on Polanyi Society Electronic Discussion List .....	3
Polanyi Society Travel Fund and Procedure for Applying For A Travel Grant.....	4
2006 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting .....	6
Submissions for Publication/WWW Polanyi Resources.....	7
“Discerning the Spirits of Modernity and Postmodernity”.....	8
David Nikkel	
“David Naugle on Worldviews”.....	27
Dale Cannon	
Notes on Contributors.....	31
“A Response to Cannon’s Comments on My Book”.....	32
David Naugle	
Polanyi Society Membership.....	35
Reviews.....	36

J. Wentzel Van Huyssteen, *Alone in the World? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology*  
Reviewed by Walter Gulick

Malcolm Gladwell, *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*  
Reviewed by Dick Moodey

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## Preface

This issue includes David Nikkel's "Discerning the Spirits of Modernity and Postmodernity," which is an interesting effort to chart the course of what he terms a "moderate postmodernism." Along the way to this path, Nikkel provides interesting criticisms of modernist and immoderate forms of postmodernism. Dale Cannon has a review article on David Naugle's book, *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Cannon both appreciates and challenges Naugle's analysis of the concept of worldview, which is drawn from an Evangelical Reformed perspective with the aim of converting the concept. to Christian use.

The program for the upcoming Polanyi Society annual meeting in Washington is included. "News and Notes" identifies a new book on Polanyi and reports on a number of changes on the Polanyi Society web site. Again in this issue, there is information about the Polanyi Society Travel Fund which was created to help supplement meager travel funds for those who wish to come to the annual meeting. At this writing, I think there have been a couple of applicants. While the deadline is past, it might be possible to squeeze one more allocation into this allocation cycle. The Travel Fund, of course, welcomes contributions. Simply mark any donation as intended for the Travel Fund. In this issue, there is stuffed the colorful flyer designed to get your attention and remind you that this is the beginning of the season in which members are requested to pay dues.

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.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

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Mark Mitchell's introduction to Polanyi's thought, in the Library of Modern Thinkers series published by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, has just been published. The book is titled *Michael Polanyi: The Art of Knowing*. Go to <http://www.isi.org/books/titles.aspx?SBy=Title&SFor=Michael%20Polanyi> for more information.

The Polanyi Society web site's collection of primary materials (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/essays.htm>) now includes an audio file of the 1966 dialog between Michael Polanyi and Carl Rogers. You can play the MP3 file or you can download it. A text version of this dialog that was later published in William R. Coulson and Carl R. Rogers, eds., *Man and the Science of Man* (Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1968), pp. 193-201 is also available on the site. Thanks go to William Coleson for permission to use this material, and to William Coleson, Jere Moorman, Phil Mullins, and John Flett for working to put this together.

Plans are being made soon to post links, on the Polanyi Society's web site, to audio files of Polanyi's 1962 McEnerney Lectures in Berkeley, California. Polanyi gave these four lectures in February and they were recorded by a local radio station, KPFA, that is owned by the Pacifica Foundation. The lectures were apparently played on air in the summer of 1962, but have been, since then, a little-known recording in the Pacifica archives. The lectures had the general title "History and Hope; An Analysis of Our Age." The four lectures had the following titles: "The Destruction of Reality," "The Realm of the Unspoken," "The Vindication of Reality," and "A Society of Explorers." John Flett and Phil Mullins have been working on this material along with the folks at KPFA.

Two additional photographs have been added to the collection on the Polanyi Society web site. There is now a photograph of some faculty, including Michael

Polanyi, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes from about 1930. There is also a photograph of Polanyi standing with other members of the physical chemistry faculty of Manchester University from 1933 or 1934. These photographs were donated to the Polanyi Society by John Martins whose father came from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes to Manchester with Polanyi and served for a period as Polanyi assistant in Manchester.

The Polanyi Society web site now has a link to the finding aid for the Guide to the Michael Polanyi Papers, 1900-1975 in the Special Collection Research Center at the University of Chicago Library. There has for several years been a link to the version of the Guide published in *TAD* 23:1 (1996) but that version of the Guide has now been updated.

### Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group that explores implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can join. To join yourself, go to the following address: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi\\_list/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi_list/join). If you have difficulty, send an e-mail to Doug Masini ([masini@etsu.edu](mailto:masini@etsu.edu)) and someone will see that you are added to the list.

# 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> or the August 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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, papers, listed below, will be posted on the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>) in October (as soon as they become available).

The Polanyi Society annual meeting again this year is an "Additional Meeting" held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. The program below is listed in the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting Program (p. 31 and p. 38). 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 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Washington Convention Center, Room 153**

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 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Grand Hyatt Washington, Bullfinch Room**

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, Montana State University-Billings, 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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## WWW Polanyi Resources

The Polanyi Society has a World Wide Web site at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>. In addition to information about Polanyi Society membership and meetings, the site contains the following: (1) the history of Polanyi Society publications, including a listing of issues by date and volume with a table of contents for recent issues of *Tradition and Discovery*; (2) a comprehensive listing of *Tradition and Discovery* authors, reviews and reviewers; (3) digital archives containing many past issues of *Tradition and Discovery*; (4) information on locating early publications not in the archive; (5) information on *Appraisal* and *Polanyiana*, two sister journals with special interest in Polanyi's thought; (6) the "Guide to the Papers of Michael Polanyi", which provides an orientation to archival material housed in the Department of Special Collections of the University of Chicago Library; (7) photographs of Polanyi; (8) links to a number of essays by Polanyi.