
NEWS AND NOTES

Poteat Conference Seeks Donations

A conference on the legacy of William H. Poteat will be held at Yale Divinity School on June 6, 7, and 8 of 2014. The conference aims to be a space for articulating and acknowledging his work in ways that will make it accessible to others who have yet to learn of and benefit from it. Poteat (1919-2000) was a distinguished graduate of Yale's School of Divinity (MDiv '44) and Duke University (PhD '51), where he taught philosophy and religion for most of his career. At Duke, Poteat became a leading, early exponent of the thought of Michael Polanyi, who delivered Yale's Terry Lectures in 1962. This conference will be of special value to those interested in exploring the nature of personhood and the important implications of the tacit dimension of knowing.

Planners believe that this conference is especially important at this time. First, an archive of Poteat's letters, papers, unpublished manuscripts, and student lecture notes has just been established at the Library of Yale Divinity School, where he received his B.D. The conference will formally recognize this important step while affording a glimpse into the potential of the archive for future research. Second, since many of Poteat's students have retired or soon will, this event may be the last and best opportunity to communicate and embody the heart of Poteat's legacy as a teacher of undergraduate, graduate and divinity students, i.e., his personal and conversational relationships with others. Moreover, the conference could be an important "tipping point" in determining whether similar conferences will take place in the future so that the intellectual legacies of Polanyi and those who followed after him can be advanced.

In order to cover the deposit, planners must raise \$2,500 as soon as is practical. Such gifts will be tax exempt because The Polanyi Society, as a 501 (c) 3 organization, has graciously offered to be the conference's contracting sponsor, with the expectation that fundraising and fees are sufficient to cover all costs. Contributors will receive a tax-exempt letter and be acknowledged in *Tradition and Discovery*,

at the Annual Meeting of the Polanyi Society, and of course at the conference itself. Any extra monies left over once registrations are fully received will be used to meet unanticipated miscellaneous costs of the conference and offset expenses for students and other persons in hardship circumstances.

Donations can be made by (1) sending a check to Dale Cannon, 287 N Warren St., Monmouth, OR 97361 or (2) when paying Polanyi Society dues, by designating a contribution to the Poteat Conference on both the dues form and your check. If you use PayPal, you may designate the contribution by clicking on the plus sign (+) next to "Add any special instructions here" and type: "Donation to Poteat Conference." *See also information on "How to Pay" in the last item in News and Notes.*

Information on proposals and registration will come later, but planners anticipate that the fee to cover registration, on-campus residence, and all meals will come to about \$360.00, with a substantial reduction for enrolled students.

For more information, contact Dale Cannon at cannodw@wou.edu or 503-838-3489.

Recent Publications

Jon Fennell has published, "Polanyi, Universals, and the Nominalism Controversy," in the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 27:4: 365-387.

Walt Gulick has published, "Religious Naturalism: Framework of Interpretation and a Christian Version" in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 34:2 (May, 2013):154-174.

Paul Lewis, Kelly E. Reffitt, and Mark L. Jones have co-edited *Toward Human Flourishing: Character, Practical Wisdom, and Professional Formation* (Mercer University Press, 2013). Lewis contributed two pieces to the book and Polanyi is discussed explicitly in another chapter by Jack Sammons.

The June 2012 Loyola Conference sponsored by the Polanyi Society included a panel on “Polanyi and Politics/Political Philosophy.” These presentations have evolved into a “Symposium on the Political Thought of Michael Polanyi” recently published in *Perspectives on Political Science* 42:3 (July-September 2013). The following essays are part of the “Symposium”:

Phil Mullins, “Michael Polanyi’s Thought and Political Philosophy: An Introduction” (152-153) and “Michael Polanyi’s Early Liberal Vision: Society as a Network of Dynamic Orders Reliant on Public Liberty” (162-171);

Jon Fennell, “On Authority and Political Destination: Michael Polanyi and the Threshold of Postmodernism” (154-161);

Walter B. Mead, “Michael Polanyi’s Social/Political Order: Design for a Society of Explorers” (172-177);

Murray Jardine, “Michael Polanyi’s Response to the Crisis of Modernity and Its Relation to Recent Developments in Theology” (178-187).

It's Fund-Raising Time

The Society offers four important opportunities to support the Society’s work:

1. Dues Payment. Dues remain \$35 (\$25 for libraries and \$15 students), a bargain in the academic journal world. These funds support the cost of annual meetings and the production of *TAD*. The Oct. and Feb. issues of *TAD* include a membership flyer and an addressed envelope to make it more convenient to pay dues and make contributions. (Do note that because US postage regulations require that every copy of *TAD* must weigh exactly the same, you will, nevertheless, receive these membership materials in your February copy of *TAD* even if you pay your annual dues in October.)

2. Travel Assistance Fund. Limited travel support is available for students and other young scholars planning to attend the Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in Baltimore in November 2013.

Society members are urged to inform worthy candidates about this assistance. Those who wish to request funds (or nominate someone) should contact the fund administrator, Walter Mead (wbmead@ilstu.edu). Contributions to the travel fund are, of course, always welcome. Those who wish to contribute should e-mail Walter Mead and send their contributions to Charles Lowney, as indicated below.

3. Endowment Fund. This fund was created in 2010 by the Board as a long-term solution to funding Society projects such as the Loyola conferences. Again this year, there will be a **year-end challenge match** to build endowment resources which presently total approximately \$12,000. We already have donors willing to match the first \$1000 of gifts to the endowment by December 31, 2013.

4. The Poteat Conference. See the first item in News and Notes.

All donations beyond \$35 (dues) are eligible for an IRS letter certifying a charitable deduction. Related information about travel funds is available on the Polanyi Society web site (www.polanyisociety.org).

How to pay? Please use the enclosed payment form and check the appropriate designation(s) for funds above and beyond dues. Also, be sure to note on the check how the funds are to be used.

Because the Society can no longer process credit cards, there are two ways to pay:

(1) those living in the United States should send a check to Charles Lowney, Dept. of Philosophy, Baker Hall 124, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450. Again, if you are paying dues AND contributing to a particular fund(s), be sure to make the designations clear on the form and on the check.

(2) those living outside of the U.S. should use the Pay Pal payment option on the Polanyi Society membership web page (<http://polanyisociety.net/register/join-renew.php>).