

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

This issue of TAD has three major articles which should be of special interest to those working in philosophy and religious studies. Taylor Scott's essay is a very straightforward introduction to the thought of William H. Poteat, a thinker who has made good use of Polanyi's writing for many years as a philosopher and teacher. Many members of The Polanyi Society, including Scott, are former Poteat students. Poteat will be the invited guest of The Polanyi Society at the upcoming meeting in Washington D. C. See David Rutledge's invitation to this meeting (p. 5) for details. Elizabeth Newman's essay is an interesting piece of constructive theology which examines questions about what constitutes "post-critical" thought. Her essay was originally a paper presented to the 1992 Polanyi Society meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature. John Apczynski's essay, originally a paper for the 1991 Kent State Polanyi centennial conference, treats a topic which needed careful examination: he explores in some detail the congruence between Polanyi's and Augustine's theory of knowledge. He locates Polanyi's thought within the Augustinian stream in order to offer Polyanian suggestions about the nature of the reality of God.

Please notice that there is information on page 42 about the electronic Polanyi discussion list available through INTERNET and BITNET. John Apczynski recently publicized the existence of this discussion forum in the INTERNET listing of new groups. There are now over 40 persons from across the world who are subscribers. Interestingly, a great many of these folk are not members of The Polanyi Society. Many, but not all, are academics; they come from a wide range of disciplines and have quite an array of different interests in Polanyi's thought.

This issue of TAD is the first of the 1993-94 academic year. If you have not already renewed your membership in The Polanyi Society, please use the red page inserted in this issue to do so.

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

R. MELVIN KEISER of Guilford College has edited with Tony Stoneburner a book *Stanley Romaine Hopper, The Way of Transfiguration: Religious Imagination as Theopoeisis* (Louisville: Westminster Press, 1992) and also published *Inward Light and the New Creation: A Theological Meditation on the Center and Circumference of Quakerism* (Wallingford: Pendle Hill, 1991).

DENNIS CATO adds to the education list from ERIC online files one of his articles missed: "The Philosophic Pretense of Linguistic Analysis: A Polanyian Perspective on Joe Green's Drawing Out Paul Hirst's Concept of Reason," *The Journal of Educational Thought*, 20, no. 3, December, 1986.

We regret to inform The Polanyi Society that WALTER JAMES NEIDHARDT, M.E., M.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology died suddenly this summer. Jim was a strong and generous supporter of our work. Besides his work in physics, he was very active in science and theological writing and discussion. One of his last works was coauthored with James E. Loder, *The Knight's Move - The Relational Logic of Spirit in Theology and Science* (Colorado Springs: Helmers and Howard, 1992).

It is no news about the special opportunity for dialogue with WILLIAM H. POTEAT at this year's American Academy of Religion meetings, but it is important to get your plans made. The AAR is expecting the largest meeting that it has so far held. One session with Poteat will be presided over by RON HALL of Francis Marion College who was a student of Poteat and the other by CHARLES MCCOY of the

Graduate Theological Union and Pacific School of Religion who also has guided many doctoral students into the thought of Michael Polanyi.

JOHN PUDDEFOOT returned from his meetings in New Zealand with promising thoughts about the interface of science and theology and also the alternatives of post-modernist and post-critical thought. He has plans for sharing some of his insights at a later time in *TAD*.

JOHN PUDDEFOOT also reports that *CONVIVIAM* will sponsor a one day conference at Cambridge University on March 5, 1994. Speakers and details will be announced later.

WILLIAM T. SCOTT is progressing on his monumental biography of Michael Polanyi which contains a wealth of information that will aid the work of scholars in many fields from physical chemistry to theology. At this point, Bill has one more chapter to complete and then the introduction and other details.

PHILIP A. ROLNICK'S *Analogical Possibilities: How Words Refer to God* was recently published by Scholars Press. RON HALL'S *Word and Spirit: A Kierkegaardian Critique of the Modern Age* also is a new publication from Indiana University Press. Both of these books will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of *TAD*.

WALTER GULICK returned in July from a Spring semester as a Fulbright Scholar in Budapest, Hungary teaching at the Technical University of Budapest. While in Hungary, Gulick met and worked with some members of the Michael Polanyi Liberal

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Philosophical Association. He helped with the project of putting out another issue of *Polanyiana*, the journal produced by the MPLPA. A future issue of *TAD* will carry an article by Gulick on his semester in Hungary.

RICHARD ALLEN is working on a collection of Polanyi's published papers on politics, economics and philosophy; he hopes eventually to publish a selection of these papers not included in other collections. He also is doing some bibliographic work on Polanyi and has encountered difficulties locating some materials. The following difficulties regarding Polanyi materials have surfaced: (1) Polanyi apparently gave a talk on the Russian Revolution (the basis for some later publications) to the historical association in Manchester in 1936; was this ever published? (2) Two speeches on modern revolution are reported to have been published in *The Spectator* (London) in 1945-46 but are not published there. (3) A speech to the Congress Lyceum is reported to have been published in *Quest* (Bombay) in December 1960 but is not in any issue of *Quest* in 1960-61. Allen (20 Ulverscroft Road, Loughborough, Leic. LE 11 3PU) would much appreciate hearing from any scholar working on Polanyi who can shed light on these problems.

JOHN APCZYNSKI'S "Belief in God, Proper Basicity, and Rationality" *JAAR*, LX,2 was briefly mentioned in the News and Notes of *TAD* 19:1; below is an update on ensuing discussion of this 1992 article: The essay attempts to defend the position outlined by Alvin Plantinga that belief in God is "properly basic" by arguing that understanding Plantinga's claims from within a historical tradition (the Augustinian-Reformed) can respond to challenges that have been posed to his claim. While no explicit references to Polanyi's position were indicated, the notion of "indwelling" clearly informs this defense of Plantinga's argument. In his "rejoinder" to J. Wesley Robbins' criticism of his

argument, Apczynski characterizes Robbins' position as "Rortian" and states that a reading of indwelling along Polanyian lines does not lead to the consequences Robbins fears. This is to appear in the *JAAR*, LXI,601-4.

JOHN APCZYNSKI'S essay entitled "John Hick's Theocentrism: Revolutionary or Implicitly Exclusionist?" was included in a recent issue of *Modern Theology* (8:1, 1992). Apczynski provided the following brief statement about his article: "John Hick has attempted to articulate a generalized theory of religion as a basis for inter-religious dialogue. Using a particularist approach dependent on a Polanyian perspective and employing insights from Alasdair MacIntyre, this essay argues that Hick's proposal fails because implicitly he is intruding an "Enlightenment" model of religion into the process, an intrusion which is provincial and distortive of genuine dialogue."

Richard Gelwick
General Coordinator

To: Members of The Polanyi Society

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RE: Polanyi Society Meeting with William H. Poteat

The Polanyi Society has invited William H. Poteat, Professor Emeritus of Christianity and Culture at Duke University, to be present and discuss his work at both sessions of this year's Polanyi Society function held at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature. In the spirit of Poteat's thought, we are not planning our usual formal papers and responses; we thus hope to encourage a genuinely open conversation with Bill himself about *Polanyian Meditations: In Search of a Post-Critical Logic* (1985), *A Philosophical Daybook*, *Post-Critical Investigations* (1990) and the collection of essays that is due out this fall.

Members of The Polanyi Society are cordially invited to participate in these sessions in Washington. Times and location are listed below:

Friday evening, November 19, 1993, 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the Calvert Room of the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Saturday morning, November 20, 1993, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Calvert Room of the Omni Shoreham Hotel (located across the street from the Sheraton Washington).

AAR/SBL members are reminded that this schedule is printed in the annual meeting program in the "Additional Meetings" section.

I am excited about the prospect of another stimulating gathering, and look forward to seeing many folk in November.