

Tradition & Discovery

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This is the last issue of *Tradition and Discovery* before the June 8-10 conference at Loyola University, Chicago, sponsored by the Polanyi Society. *TAD* has been plugging this conference since last summer. It is still not too late to submit a proposal for a paper (see the facing page), but it will be after March 31, 2001. You certainly don't have to present a paper to attend the conference. Come and enjoy the plenary sessions, the papers by other participants, and a trip to the archival collection of Polanyi materials at the Regenstine Library. The conference registration form is in this issue (p. 4) as is the tentative schedule (p. 5). Since the planning of this event has turned out to be somewhat more complicated than originally anticipated, co-chair Marty Moleski and I would appreciate it if you sent in your conference registration early. If you have not paid your annual Polanyi Society dues, please do, since we need funds to support this conference in addition to other Polanyi Society activities. At the end of this issue (pp.46-47) is membership information and a form. You can also find a conference registration form and other information about the conference on the Polanyi Society web site: <http://www.mWSC.edu/~polanyi/>.

In this issue is a note (p. 7) about the special program of the Polanyi Society annual meeting that is being planned for next November in Denver. Thanks to the hard work of Phil Rolnick, two promising discussion sessions with Phil Clayton and others who are currently working on religion and science questions are slated.

There are four interesting but quite different essays included here. Chris Goodman offers a lucid account of Polanyi's discussion of a free society. Thomas Torrance's essay is a very personal recount of his relationship with Michael Polanyi and his understanding of Polanyi's religious ideas and practices. The discussion of Polanyi's religious ideas and commitments is, of course, a topic that reaches back many years, with several articles in *TAD*, in other journals as well as a few books. Percy Hammond's brief piece is actually a response to the discussion of Polanyi's "realism" treated in the essays included in *TAD* 26:2. Speaking as an engineer, Hammond offers some interesting comments on the philosophical discussion of realism, on Polanyi's account of technology and on Polanyi's discussion of the ontological aspect of tacit knowing. Finally, Richard Gelwick's essay introduces Lesslie Newbigin's (Polanyi-influenced) theology and George Hunsberger's discussion of Newbigin. In dialogue with Newbigin, Gelwick raises some very interesting questions about pluralism.

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*.

Polanyi's Post-Critical Thought and the Rebirth of Meaning

Call for Papers

The Polanyi Society will sponsor a conference on the theme "Polanyi's Post-Critical Thought and the Rebirth of Meaning" on June 8, 9, and 10, 2001 at Loyola University, Chicago. This conference is an occasion to reflect on themes and possibilities found in Polanyi's thought twenty-five years after Polanyi's death in 1976. Chicago is an apt site for the conference, since interested participants will be able to access the archival Polanyi papers at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago.

Proposals are invited for papers that examine connections between Polanyian perspectives and those of other thinkers, schools of thought or domains of inquiry. Papers can explore prospects for post-critical thought. The following are some suggested general categories within which specific papers might be grouped. [Please do not think of them as a limit for submissions but as a springboard for your own reflections. The final program will reflect groupings adjusted in light of proposals submitted.]

Postmodernism and Post-Critical Thought
Polanyi and the Analytic Tradition
Polanyi and American Thought
Polanyi and Continental Thinkers

Polanyian Approaches to Conceiving God
Polanyian Links Between Religion and Science
Polanyi and World Religions
Polanyi and Education

Polanyi in the Light of Developments in Psychological Theory
The Tacit Dimension: Skills, Practice and the Subliminal
Personal Knowledge As True, Public, and Reasonable

Post-Critical Ethics
Polanyi's Axiology
Post-Critical Aesthetics

Polanyi's Antireductionism and the Logic of Emergence
Metaphysical Issues in Polanyi's Philosophy
Thought
Developing Polanyi's Notion of Meaning
Community and Conviviality in Post-Critical Perspective

Polanyian Responses to Pluralism
Polanyi's Social/Political

Polanyian Foundations of Law
Polanyian Themes in Management

Putting Polanyi into Practice: Art, Artistry, and Audience

Polanyian Explorations in Economics

Proposals for panel presentations on any topic are invited.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of jurors and should be no more than 250 words. Mail an electronic copy (preferred) to Phil Mullins at mullins@mWSC.edu. Paper copies may be sent to Phil Mullins, MWSC, St. Joseph, MO 64507. Proposals should include e-mail address (or fax number) as well as preferred mailing address and phone number of the author. Proposals cannot be considered after March 30, 2001. Please forward proposals early in order to facilitate conference planning. The conference registration form is on the following page and is online at the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mWSC.edu/~polanyi>).

Respondents and Moderators Needed

If you are willing to be a respondent to papers presented in one of the concurrent sessions or if you are willing to moderate a session, please contact Phil Mullins at the addresses provided above.

**“Polanyi’s Post-Critical Thought and the Rebirth of Meaning”
June 8-10 Loyola University, Chicago
Conference Registration Form**

Name_____

Address_____

E-mail_____

Telephone: Day_____ Evening_____

Date of Arrival_____

Date of Departure_____

(Limited accommodations are available before and after the conference for those who wish to work in the Polanyi Archives at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago)

Check desired dormitory accommodation:

_____Room (double occupancy) plus meals : \$50/day

_____Room (single) plus meals: \$70/day

If you elect for double occupancy, please indicate either the name of your roommate or that you wish to be assigned a roommate.

Name of Roommate:_____ Please Assign _____

Total number of nights in residence: _____ x per diem = _____ subtotal (room/board).

Conference Fee(registration, banquet and coffee breaks): \$100

Late registration surcharge (after May 8): \$25.

Choice for Saturday night banquet: _____beef _____chicken _____vegetarian.

Wine at banquet: yes_____ no_____ (\$5 charge).

Bus to Regenstein Library for Polanyi Archives--Leave Friday at 11a.m.: \$10: yes_____ no_____

Total Fee_____

Proposals for presentations can be accepted until March 31, 2001.

Payment of Conference Fees

Please make checks to the Polanyi Society and send them to Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, MO 64507. If you wish to pay by credit card (sorry but no American Express), please provide the exact name on the card _____, card number _____, and date of expiration _____.

Tentative Conference Schedule

Friday June 8

9 a.m. Registration Opens

11 a.m. -Trip by bus to Regenstine Library, University of Chicago for a visit to the Polanyi Archives.

6 :30 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m.

Plenary Address: Andy Sanders (University of Groningen), author of *Michael Polanyi's Post-Critical Epistemology*

9:15 p.m. Social Hour

Saturday June 9

7:30 -8:30 Breakfast

9 a.m. Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers

10:30 a..m.Coffeebreak

11 a.m Christopher Fuchs

12:15 p.m. Lunch

2 p.m. Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers

3:30 p.m. Coffeebreak

4 p.m. Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers

6 p.m. Banquet

Plenary Address: John Haught (Georgetown University), author of *God After Darwin*

8 p.m. Social Hour

Sunday, June 10

7:30 -8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9 a.m. Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers

10: 30 a.m. Coffeebreak

11--Concluding Plenary: "Michael Polanyi Remembered"

Charles McCoy--Professor Emeritus, Pacific School of Religion

Richard Gelwick--Professor Emeritus, University of New England

Marty Moleski, S.J.--Canisus College, Polanyi biographer, with William Scott

12 p.m. Lunch

NEWS AND NOTES

Mary Jo Nye's essay "Laboratory Practice and the Physical Chemistry of Michael Polanyi" was recently published in *Instruments and Experimentation in the History of Chemistry* (eds. Frederick L. Holmes and Trevor H. Levere, MIT Press, 2000: 367-400). This essay includes a clear, readable summary of Polanyi's work as a chemist. The discussion of Polanyi's early career experience is also helpful for understanding themes that are developed in Polanyi's philosophical thought.

Please note the following changes for *Appraisal: A Journal of Constructive and Post-Critical Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies*: The telephone and fax for *Appraisal* is now 01509 552743. The *Appraisal* web site is now found at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rt.allen>. The October 2000 issue of *Appraisal* (3:2) has as its theme "Minds and Machines, God." Included in the issue are two articles: Wolfe Mays, "Turing and Polanyi On Minds and Machines"; Philip van der Elst, "Is There No God? The Implausibility of Atheism." Additionally, R. T. Allen reviews both Aurel Kolnai's *Political Memoirs* and Harold Turner's *The Roots of Science*. Robin Hodgkin reviews the Mars Hill Audio Book *Tacit Knowing, Truthful Knowing*.

Philip Rolnick's "Persons, Purpose and Grace" was included in a *festschrift* for the late Thomas Langford: Robert K. Johnson, L. Gregory Jones, and Jonathan R. Wilson (eds.) *Grace Upon Grace: Essays in Honor of Thomas A. Langford* (Abingdon Press, 1999).

Barbara Baumgarten's *Teach Us to Number Our Days* was published by Morehouse in 1999.

James H Charlesworth's essay "Polanyi, Merleau-Ponty, Arendt, and the Foundation of Biblical Hermeneutics" (*Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, Supplement Series 289 [Sheffield Academic Press, 1998]) argues these three thinkers show how

"we engage an ancient author in ways analogous to the means we communicate among ourselves *viva voce*."

The publication of the Mars Hill Audio Book *Tacit Knowing, Truthful Knowing* has stimulated interest in Polanyi and the Polanyi Society; perhaps, especially inquiries from physicians are notable. Some recent medical literature seems also to pick up Polanyi articles or Polanyian themes: An article by Hewson, Kindy, Van Kirk, Gennis and Day titled "Strategies for Managing Uncertainty and Complexity" (*Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 11 [1996]: 481-485) investigates the role of tacit knowledge in promoting clinical competence in medical students and residents. Kristi Malterud's "The Legitimacy of Clinical Knowledge: Towards A Medical Epistemology Embracing the Art of Medicine" (*Theoretical Medicine* 16 [1995]: 183-198) suggests that the concept of tacit knowing seems an appropriate expansion of traditional medical epistemology. Mark Tonelli's "The Philosophical Limits of Evidence-based Medicine" (*Academic Medicine: Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges* 73 [1998]: 1234-1240) calls for a broader understanding of medical knowledge and reasoning.

Lee Congdon's *Seeing Red: Communism and Hungarian Emigre Intellectuals* will soon be published by Northern Illinois Press. *TAD* will review this book in which Michael Polanyi is to be one of the major figures.

Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in November 2001

The Polanyi Society will have its annual meeting, as in previous years, in November 2001 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. An application is pending for a Friday night session, November 16, and a Saturday morning session, November 17, at the meeting in Denver.

Since the Polanyi Society is sponsoring a special conference at Loyola University, Chicago on June 8-10, 2001 (and this conference will include many papers by Society members), the November annual meeting sessions will be utilized for a new venture in outreach. The Friday night session will feature Philip Clayton, author of *God and Contemporary Science*, in a discussion of his Templeton Award winning book. There will be two formal responses to Clayton's book, followed by a reply from Clayton, an exchange among panelists and response to questions from the audience. Participants in the session are encouraged to read *God and Contemporary Science* (available from Amazon.com for \$25) before the session.

The Saturday morning session will focus on the topic "Emergence and Supervenience." Philip Clayton will give a position paper (to be posted on the Polanyi Society web site in the fall) which will relate these themes in the current science and religion dialog to Polanyi's earlier development of similar ideas. Following Clayton's paper, there will be three responses, one from a Polanyi scholar, one from a theologian, and one from a scientist.

The 2001 meetings featuring Philip Clayton are an opportunity for the Polanyi Society to broaden its contacts with persons in the AAR Science and Religion program unit, which is a large and active section of the AAR annual meeting. Convinced that Polanyi deserves an important place in the current discussion, the Polanyi Society is exploring the option of co-sponsoring, with the Science and Religion program unit, the upcoming November 2001 sessions with Philip Clayton. Every effort will be made to invite to the sessions those who have participated in the recent science and religion programs.

Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group exploring implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can subscribe; send a query to owner-polanyi@lists.sbu.edu Communications about the electronic discussion group may also be directed to John V. Apczynski, Department of Theology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778-0012 E-MAIL: apczynsk@sbu.edu PHONE: (716) 375-2298 FAX: (716) 375-2389.