



# The Polanyi Society

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## Preface

There are a number of things happening in the Polanyi Society. This issue of *TAD* includes the annual financial report on the Society (p. 4). We are an efficient low budget operation; we remain solvent, but it is imperative that members pay the very modest annual dues. Stuffed in this issue is a colorful flyer that reminds you that now is the time of the year in which dues are collected. You can write a check or use a credit card; dues can be sent to me by post, by fax or by e-mail. In this issue, there is information about the November 19 and 20 annual meeting in San Antonio (p. 5) There are details on the two programs; papers to be discussed (but not read in the sessions) are or soon will be available for downloading from the Polanyi Society web site. There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors in San Antonio. Feel free to write Walter Gulick (WGulick@msubillings.edu) about any issues you want discussed. Notice also that the Society is setting up a travel fund that seeks donations (p.6) and that some changes are in the making for the Polanyi Society electronic discussion list (p. 50). There is also a note about a survey that solicits input on a possible Polanyi Society summer program (p. 50). Finally, please read the letter from me that describes the new effort to produce an on-line edition of *TAD* and a digital archive (p. 5). A pdf version of this issue of *TAD* (as well as other issues since 2000) is now available for download on the Polanyi Society web site. Paper issues of the journal will continue to be distributed but the Society's Board of Directors has decided the time has come to explore alternatives since the cost of printing and mailing are increasingly burdensome.

This issue of *TAD* is primarily focused on reviews. There are review articles by Gulick and Smedes that cover several books. There are also three interesting reviews of individual books. But don't miss YU Zhenhua's essay in which he offers especially interesting commentary on parallels between some Kantian ideas about judgment and Polanyi's tacit knowing.

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*.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

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Andrew Grosso recently completed a Ph.D. at Marquette University with a dissertation titled "Personal Being: Polanyi, Ontology, and Christian Theology." The primary purpose of his study (according to the abstract) is "to examine the value of personhood as a means of engaging questions of divine and human existence, knowledge, and action within a unified conceptual horizon." In the first half of his project, Grosso examines Polanyi's post-critical philosophy and assesses its "usefulness as a foundation for personalistic theological inquiry." He then explores potential points of correspondence between, on the one hand, a Polanyian understanding of knowledge, language, and reality and, on the other, key areas of theological reflection, especially trinitarian theology. Grosso is currently serving as Curate at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka, KS, and can be reached by e-mail (at [grosso@gracecathedraltopeka.org](mailto:grosso@gracecathedraltopeka.org)).

*Polanyiana: The Periodical of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association* recently published a double issue: Volume 12, Numbers 1-2 (2003). Included are papers from a Budapest conference on Polanyi's contribution to science. Although many essays are in Hungarian, John C. Polanyi's essay (which is reprinted in this issue) in English is part of Number 1. In addition, the Hungarian language essay by Istvan Hargittai includes extensive and fascinating selections in English from Eugene Wigner, Melvin Calvin, and others, plus selections from Hargittai's interview with John Polanyi taken from Hargittai's *Candid Science: More Conversations with Famous Chemists* (London: Imperial College Press, 2003). The essays on topics in science by Erno Keszei ("Michael Polanyi's Pioneering Contribution to the Most Successful Theory in Chemical Kinetics," 63-74) and Gabor Somorjai ("Michael Polanyi, the Father of Catalytic Surface Reaction Mechanisms and the Mentor of Hungarian Scientists Abroad," 127-129) are also in English. Two essays in Number 2 are in English: C. P. Goodman, "The Tacit Dimension"

(133-158) and Phil Mullins, "Polanyi on Science Policy" (159-178). The double issue is not yet on the *Polanyiana* web site (<http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/>) but it should soon be posted.

*Appraisal* is now the journal of The Society for Post-Critical and Personalist Studies (SPCPS), which was formed earlier this year, and took over the publication of *Appraisal*. The Society aims to promote interest in and further application of, the work of Michael Polanyi and similar thinkers through its endeavors, which include publishing a journal, organizing conferences, and other activities. All individual members of the Society receive the journal, which is published in March and October each year. *Appraisal* welcomes articles, working papers, discussion items and book reviews, on all aspects of philosophy and on the application of philosophical ideas to other areas of thought and practice. SPCPS is sponsoring a conference Saturday, April 5, 2005 at Hugh Steward Hall, The University of Nottingham. Proposals are invited. For more information about SPCPS, *Appraisal* or the upcoming conference contact R. T. Allen ([rt.allen@ntlworld.com](mailto:rt.allen@ntlworld.com)).

The October 2004 issue of *Appraisal* (vol. 5, no. 2) is just out. The following are the main articles in this issue: R. J. Brownhill, "The Organization of Experience and Making Judgments" (59-64); Tony Clark, "Polanyi Among the Theologians" (65-74); C. P. Goodman, "Human Excellence" (75-83); David Britton, "Poetic Inspiration and Metaphysical Knowledge" (84-90); Wendy Hamblet and Giorgio Baruchello, "Is Violence Always Cruel?" (91-94). Additionally, there are reviews.

# Polanyi Society Financial Statement

September 1, 2003 – August 31, 2004

Beginning Bal. Checking	\$422.14
Income	
Membership dues, gifts, & dividends	\$3000.58
Expenses	
Travel award	\$300
TAD 29:3 + 30:1	\$1248.74
TAD 30:2	\$954.38
Total Expenses	\$2503.12
Year End Checking	919.60

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Beginning Bal. Savings	\$2070.82
Income	
Dividend + interest	\$9.45
Other income	-0-
Expenses	-0-
Year End Savings	\$2080.27

John V. Apczynski, Treasurer

## Polanyi Society Travel Fund Established--Donations Solicited

At the suggestion of a Polanyi Society member, the Board of Directors has set up a special travel fund. Money in this account will go to persons who are interested in attending the Polanyi Society annual meeting but who do not have access to sufficient institutional travel funds or other resources. Those interested should apply by October 1 in a letter sent as an e-mail attachment to the President of the Polanyi Society.

The Society is now actively seeking donations to this fund. If you wish to contribute, send a check or credit card information to Phil Mullins (mullins@mwsc.edu) History, Philosophy, Geography, MWSC., St. Joseph, MO 64507. If donations are combined with membership dues, please clearly designate how many dollars are intended for the travel fund.

## A Second Open Letter to *TAD* Subscribers

In the last issue of *TAD*, there was an open letter from me describing the problems that the Polanyi Society now faces in handling and affording mailings of *TAD* going outside of North America. In a word, the price has gone up and will go up more; the processing necessary for small packets in the era of terrorism is laborious and promises to become more so. This situation led the Board of Directors of the Polanyi Society to authorize producing not only a printed version of *TAD* but also an electronic pdf version of each issue that will be available on the Polanyi Society web site. The idea, of course, is to encourage at least some members of the Polanyi Society living outside North American to try printing their personal copy of *TAD* from the web site.

I am very pleased to report that about 15% of those receiving *TAD* outside of North American have been in contact with me and have agreed to retrieve their personal copy of issues of *TAD* from the electronic versions that are now posted for downloading on the Polanyi Society site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/polanyi>). If you go to that site and scroll down you will see the link for the digital archive. When you hit this link, you will be asked for a user name and a password. I shall be delighted to send a user name and a password to anyone living outside of North American who reads *TAD*; just contact me by e-mail. If your computer does not have installed the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software that is now broadly used to access pdf files, you simply hit the Adobe button at the bottom of the web site page and this will be installed on your computer.

The project of putting together an electronic version of *TAD* is well ahead of schedule. I originally thought that a pdf version of *TAD* would not be available on the web site until this issue. However, the experiment during last summer had very few glitches. Not only is the last issue of *TAD* (30:3) already on the web site along with this present issue, but there are also all the issues of *TAD* back to the fall of 2000 (27:1). The plan calls for expanding this collection over the coming year. Eventually, there should be at least the last thirty issues of *TAD* available electronically to anyone who needs to access them for scholarly work.

The web site version of *TAD* is the full version, identical to the printed version, although the print size is slightly larger. You can download and print on your local printer an entire issue or whatever article in the issue that you need. The electronic material is thus packaged in a way that should prevent some of the problems that sometimes occur in downloading large pdf files if you have a printer with a small buffer.

Those who responded to my open letter in the last *TAD* I invited to go into the digital archive and download the July 2004 issue. Several who did reported that they were pleased to see how easy it is to retrieve the pdf version of *TAD*. As I emphasized in last issue's open letter, the Society's Board is presently committed to a policy of sending a paper copy of *TAD* to any Society member anywhere in the world. It is clear, however, that we will need in the future to make some adjustments to remain solvent. Already *Polanyiana* and *Appraisal*, *TAD*'s two sister journals, economize by making electronic versions available.

My hope is that more readers will try the electronic version. If you are willing, send me an e-mail. It is perfectly acceptable to continue receiving the printed edition while you experiment with the pdf version.

**Phil Mullins, Editor**  
**mullins@mwsc.edu**

# 2004 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in San Antonio

The year's Polanyi Society annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas on November 19 and 20, 2004. As in past years, meetings are to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. To secure hotel reservations in the immediate convention area, it is necessary to register for the AAR annual meeting. However, anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the Polanyi Society meetings, whether or not they are attending the AAR meetings. Other hotels in San Antonio are not reserved for the AAR. If you want information about registration for the AAR meetings, go to <http://www.aarweb.org/> or phone (1-404-727-3049) or fax (1-404-727-7959) or e-mail ([aar@aarweb.org](mailto:aar@aarweb.org)). Information about the program is listed in the AAR Annual Meeting Program as Additional Meetings (pages 200 and 204) Information about the meeting is also available on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). Papers will not be read in session so be sure to download papers from the web site by clicking on the title.

## Program

*Friday, November 19, 9 - 11 P.M.  
Convention Center 007B*

Topic: Polanyi and Whitehead

Joseph Bracken, Xavier University  
"Emergent Monism and Final Causality: A Field-Oriented Approach"

Respondents:  
Walter Gulick, Montana State University-Billings  
Richard Moodey, Gannon University

Polanyi Society Annual Business Meeting: 10:30 PM

*Saturday, November 20, 9:00 -11:30 A.M.  
Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, Conference 16*

Topic: Responses to Esther Meek's *Longing to Know*

Respondents:  
Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University;  
Jere Moorman, Resident Fellow, Center for Studies of the Person, La Jolla, California  
David Rutledge, Furman University

Comment: Esther Meek, Geneva College

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