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Preface

This year’s annual meeting is a special one. The late session (9-11 PM.) on Friday, November 18 will focus on the long-awaited Polanyi biography published by Oxford University Press in May. William T. Scott and Martin X. Moleski’s *Michael Polanyi, Scientist And Philosopher* now provides the standard reference point for Polanyi’s career. It is a reference point that we have needed and that future scholarship will certainly rely upon. Marty Moleski along with the late Bill Scott’s wife, Ann Scott, and others who have had a hand in the biography project will be present for the discussion. We will have a small party after the session in celebration of the book. The second session the following morning (9-11:30 A. M.) will examine the Hungarian influence on Polanyi’s heuristic outlook in his epistemology and philosophy of religion. Speakers will be Leslie Muray, Andy Sanders and Richard Gelwick. See p. 5 for details.

The articles in this issue complement each other nicely. Both articles dig into history a bit more than most essays in this journal. Paul Knepper is interested in Polanyi’s relation to Zionism in the thirties and forties, and particularly in his little known 1943 article titled “Jewish Problems.” The other article, which Struan Jacobs and I wrote, discusses Polanyi’s renewed friendship with Karl Mannheim in the period just after the writing of “Jewish Problems.” Polanyi in fact planned to include this essay and several others from the period in a never published book in a Routledge series edited by Mannheim. These articles provide some perspective on Polanyi as he struggled with issues during the war. It is interesting to link the themes here to philosophical ideas found in later publications. Finally, note that this issue has two reviews, including one of Jeffrey Stout’s celebrated *Democracy and Tradition*.

Phil Mullins
As was noted in the last issue, the long-awaited Polanyi biography, *Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher* by William Tausig Scott and Martin X. Moleski is now available from Oxford University Press. Used copies are already available on the web site for Amazon.com. If you are looking for shorter biographical material on the web, there are a number of sites to choose from. Among them is a short biographical statement about Michael Polanyi that focuses on his work in chemistry. This was written by Mary Jo Nye and appears in *HYLE—International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry*, Vol. 8, No.2 (2002), pp. 123-127 at [http://www.hyle.org/journal/issues/8-2/bio_nye.html](http://www.hyle.org/journal/issues/8-2/bio_nye.html). Also on the web on the Gospel and Culture site ([http://www.deepsight.org/articles/polanyi.htm](http://www.deepsight.org/articles/polanyi.htm)) is a short biographical statement about Polanyi with attached brief comments on philosophy, religion and Polanyi’s thought. This was written by Phil Mullins and includes a short bibliography of Polanyi’s writing and a very abbreviated bibliography of writing about Polanyi’s ideas.


YU Zhenhua, a member of the Department of Philosophy, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China ([ecnuyu@hotmail.com](mailto:ecnuyu@hotmail.com)), recently read a paper on the problem of tradition treated from a Polanyian perspective at an international conference in Shanghai. He reports a very interesting discussions followed delivery of the paper.

Recently, there have been some discussion on the Polanyi discussion list about Polanyi and Voeglin. Maben Walter Poirier’s “Eric Voegelin on Christ and Christianity” was in *The Thomist*, 68: 2 (April 2004): 259-286.

The following letter to Craig Mattson, author of “Vico and Polanyi on Knowing and Making” in *TAD* 31:2, recently was forwarded to the editor.

**Dear Professor Mattson,**

Thank you for your article on Vico and Polanyi, which I have just gotten around to reading. I think you’ll find the following anecdote interesting.

My wife and I spent the summer of 1972 bicycling around England. I was then just beginning my dissertation study of Polanyi (“Michael Polanyi and the Recovery of Rhetoric,” U. Iowa, 1973), and Michael generously offered to spend several hours with us, at his home in Oxford. (I had met him at the Dayton conference that spring.) Here’s how I represented the anecdote in my own dissertation (n. 13 to Ch. V, p. 389):

At one point during that conversation [August 1, 1972], Polanyi shared with me [translating from the original French into English as he read] a passage he had been reading, one whose eloquence (and sentiments) he admired. The passage praised Vico, whose name had not been mentioned until then, and it can be found in Paul Hazard, *La Pensee Europeene au XVIIIeme Siecle, de Montesquieu a Lessing* (Paris: Bolvin, 1946), I, 46. After Polanyi finished reading, I mentioned that Vico had been a rhetorician, a fact which he greeted with surprise [sic] and, I think, pleasure.

As I recall, in that passage Paul Hazard was arguing that if Vico’s thought had been taken seriously at the time, the whole subsequent history of European thought — and events — might have been very different.

The possible philosophical kinships between Polanyi and Vico are ones I had hoped to follow up but never did. It’s good to see that you are exploring those connections.

With best wishes,

Sam Watson
Emeritus Prof. of English, UNC Charlotte
Polanyi Society WWW Site Updated

In addition to the five Polanyi essays that have for some time been available on the Polanyi Society web site, links to nine additional Polanyi essays have recently been added.

TAD Digital Archives Are Open Access

In the last issue of TAD, it was announced that the new digital archives for TAD (accessed from the Polanyi Society web page at http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/) include issues from the present back to Volume 17, Numbers 1 & 2 (1990-1991). You can download a full issue or a particular article from the table of contents. Although the archives were earlier password protected, this has now been removed so anyone can retrieve materials. A Google search engine for the Polanyi site, including the archives, has been installed but it is not yet working. It should be functional before the end of the year.

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.

Phil Mullins
Missouri Western State University
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507
Phone: (816) 271-4386
Fax (816) 271-5680
E-mail: mullins@missouriwestern.edu

Walter Gulick
Montana State University, Billings
Billings, Montana 59101
Fax (406) 657-2187
Phone: (406) 657-2904
E-mail: WGulick@msubillings.edu

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. If you have difficulty, send an e-mail to Doug Masini (masini@etsu.edu) and someone will see that you are added to the list.
This year’s annual meeting of the Polanyi Society will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 18 and 19, 2005. As in past years, our meeting technically will be an “Additional Meeting” held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. For additional information on the AAR/SBL, go to http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/default.asp.

This year’s sessions are celebrating the publication by Oxford University Press in May of the long-awaited biography by William T. Scott and Martin X. Moleski, S. J., Michael Polanyi Scientist and Philosopher. The first session on Friday evening will look specifically at the biography with the late Bill Scott’s wife, Ann, Martin Moleski, and others. We will have a small party after the session in celebration of the book, its authors and collaborators. The second session will examine the Hungarian influence on Polanyi’s heuristic outlook in his epistemology and philosophy of religion.

Note that the AAR/SBL Program Book listing for the sessions inverts the session titles. The 9:00 p.m. Friday, November 18 session focuses on the new Polanyi biography, Michael Polanyi, Scientist and Philosopher by William T. Scott and Martin X. Moleski, S. J. The 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 19 session should have been titled “The Hungarian Roots of Michael Polanyi’s Heuristic Philosophy of Religion.” Information about both sessions is correctly listed below. Check AAR/SBL Annual Meeting Program At-A-Glance (available in Philadelphia) or the Polanyi Society web site (http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/) later in the fall for room locations for sessions.

Friday, November 18, 2005
9:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Theme: Discussion of Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher by William T. Scott and Martin X. Moleski

Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, opening commentary and moderator

9:00 Reflections on the process of the book’s creation with Martin Moleski, Ann Scott, and others

9:45 Group discussion: What about the book most stimulated your thought or produced new insights?

Saturday, November 19, 2005
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

9:00 Theme: The Hungarian Roots of Michael Polanyi’s Heuristic Philosophy of Religion

Moderator: Paul Lewis, Mercer University

Panelists:
Richard Gelwick, Bangor Theological Seminary
Les Muray, Curry College
Andy Sanders, University of Groningen

11:00 Business Meeting: Walter Gulick, Montana State University-Billings, presiding