

SOCIETY OF EXPLORERS

QUARTERLY BULLETIN VOL I No 2

WINTER - 1972-73

This second issue of the "Society of Explorers" Quarterly Bulletin is the first "working" issue. The first issue was devoted primarily to the introduction of members. While this issue devotes some space to new members who have joined the Society since the last issue, it is devoting most of its space to information which members have sent to us.

Most members responded to the "feedback sheet" which accompanied the first Bulletin. Members seem generally well satisfied with the design, name and fees for the society. Several members felt that we ought to come up with a better name, but none had any concrete suggestions at the moment. Two members felt the fees were too high---one felt they ought to be raised if necessary to keep the Society going. This issue includes a financial statement. So far we seem to be doing well. We intend to keep the first to a minimum, and will readjust the fees as necessary to continue the service. If funds are left after the first year of operation we can reduce the fees for the following year.

Again, we are enclosing a "data gathering" sheet. Please be sure to send us any information you deem of interest to other members of the society. So far no members have elected to use the Bulletin as a means of raising questions or exchanging ideas. That seems to us to be one of the more fruitful possibilities of the Bulletin. This is intended to be a "working" society---its success depends on everyone's active participation. The deadline for information for the Spring issue will be May 15, 1973.

MEMBERSHIP LIST AND PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

Mr. Michael John Barton
1711 Currier Lane, Avenue #124
Knoxville, Tenn. 37916

Interested in potential for a conceptual realism as 'perspective' metaphysics, aesthetics; also interested in possible connections between Polanyi's work and Wittgenstein's work; also theories of metaphor; 'generic' work on 'symbolic activity.'

Mr. William A. (Gus) Broyspraak
Rt. 2, Box 495
Durham, N.C. 27705

Primarily interested in the borrowing of Polanyi's contributions on certain problems arising in the sociologies of knowledge of Durkheim, Mannheim, Berger and Luckmann.

MEMBERSHIP LIST AND PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST, CONT.

Mr. Dale H. Heckman
1949 Princeton Avenue
Stockton, California 95204

Ethics: Implications for value judgments, decision-making, and thence into risk-taking for human cause/conviction.
Education: Implications for "the higher learning" as more of a holistic emphasis, etc., than at present in most institutions of higher education.

Ms. Vicky A. Johnson
8530 Greenback Lane
Fair Oaks, California 95628

Trying to use Polanyi's conceptions of man, culture, science etc., as a base for an alternative "philosophy of education" and "intelligence." An alternative method of "research" in Educational Psychology seems to be implied---the formalization of that method is a long range orientation.

Brother Bruno Manno
50 A Russell St.
Brookline, Mass. 02146

Polanyi's overall philosophy with particular emphasis on the implication for culture in his later writings.

Mr. Ronald Mills
923 South Normandie
Los Angeles, California 90006

The psychology of religious consciousness, religious experiences as identity experiences.

Professor Eamonn F. O'Doherty
University College
Dublin 4, Ireland

Theory of Knowledge

NOTE: Professor William C. Vardonk, University of Dayton, listed in the Fall issue of the Membership List, officially became a naturalized citizen of the USA, December 14, 1972. His new name is Reverend William Patrick Frust.

Professor James W. Stines
Department of Phil-Religion
Appalachian State Univ.
Boone, North Carolina 28607

Polanyi's epistemology as it relates to the matter of humanizing education; also the political implications of his thought.

Mr. Claude Stulting, Jr.
524 Valley Road
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

Allowing the works of Polanyi to complement, in part, my own developing ideas on what I refer to as "plottedness" as lived in and by Painin.

Professor Charles Taylor
344 Metcalfe Ave.
Montreal 215, Canada

Political Science.

I. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Hillett, W. Roy, "The Survival of Higher Education," Chemist, May, 1972, pp. 44-48. (Notes the importance of a "more directly 'active' or 'experimental' kind of learning" and for "indwelling" for empirical and social sciences--quotes Polanyi, p. 46.)

Huff, D., How to Lie With Statistics, New York: W.W. Norton, 1954. (Its obvious relation to Polanyi on 'judgment' should not be overlooked--hence should be included in studies on Polanyi).

Larper, H., "Behavior Modification and Operant Psychology: An Anthropological Critique," American Educational Research Journal, IX-3, Summer, 1972. ("Operant behaviorism neglects symboling, the peculiarity of the human species . . . pieces the polymorphism of learning channels, social influence, exchange over time and over space and institutions. Its proposed solutions disregard the complexities of culture . . ." Sorry this quotation from the abstract is so abstract! But the article by this anthropologist is well worth adding to the Bibliography of Polanyiana.)

The above contributions by Dale M. Heckman

Leavis, F. R., Nor Shall My Sword (Barnes & Noble, 1972) (Does fairly extensive use of Polanyi's Knowing and Being, especially as Polanyi's thought relates to Leavis' insights concerning William Blake and (behind that) Leavis' commentary on our contemporary culture. Leavis finds Polanyi's descriptions of scientific discovery closely parallel with his own discussions of poetic creation. At the least, this source shows one more place where Polanyi's thought is winning acceptance. Beyond that, I think it should be useful to Polanyians concerned with literary or cultural criticism.)

---The above contribution by Samuel D. Watson, Jr.

A letter from Paul Craig Roberts, Research Fellow with the Hoover Institution, Stanford, California, expresses some interest in the Society of Explorers and offers the following bibliographical information:

Roberts, Paul C., Alienation and the Soviet Economy: Toward a General Theory of Marxist Alienation, Organizational Principles and the Soviet Economy, (University of New Mexico Press, 1971.) (Dedicated to Polanyi, develops some of this insights.)

Prof. Roberts also published articles in Ethics (April 1969) and The Colorado Quarterly (Autumn, 1971) which deal with certain aspects of Polanyi's thought. He has presented a paper on Polanyi's economics at the 46th Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association in 1971.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, CONT.

Taylor, Charles, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," The Review of Metaphysics, September, 1971 (LXXV, No. 1) (A study of the problem of interpretation which deals with many of Polanyi's central concerns--machine identifiable brain data value free inquiry in psychology, politics, etc.)

Heckman, Dale M., "If it Were Higher Learning, It Might Be Social Change," Soundings, Fall, 1972 (LV,3) (Probably would not count as Polanyi studies, but rather take into their preview certain contributions of Polanyi.)

Lansing, John, "Similarities and Differences Between Scientific and Theological Thought," Zygon, June, 1972.

Stines, James W., "Some Reflections on the Conditions of Cultural Pluralism," (Published in Triple-T News; presented at Triple-T conferences in Washington, D.C. and Lincoln, Nebr.) (Based partly on Polanyi's "The Message of the American Revolution," the paper finds its context in the revolt against traditional "melting pot" imagery of American culture and of the plea for an authentic pluralism. It espouses the position that no society can successfully harbor or nurture a pluralism so radical that there are no joint, cross-cultural commitments which are more fundamental than a mere commitment to cultural pluralism. The "parity of power" sought by cultural minorities commitment to "truth" conceived as having more than purely immanent reference.)

NOTE: A note from Michael Polanyi expresses his strong desire to cooperate with our work. We can help him by providing him with selective requests. Accordingly, if anyone in the "Society" has some specific bibliographic requests regarding his current work, or a specific area, please pass your request on to us and we will secure information from Michael.

II. MEMBER PROJECTS

Bruno Manno.

Working on a paper (which is near completion) on the subject of the issue of science and religion from Polanyi's perspective; an attempt to synthesize Polanyi's more recent, unpublished writings and show how they are consistent with his earlier works. Will be submitted for publication soon.

J. W. Stines.

Currently working on a paper entitled "Phenomenology of Language in the Thought of Soren Kierkegaard," an interpretation of Kierkegaard much influenced by Polanyi's epistemology.

Introduced local mathematicians and scientists to Polanyi's thinking in the context of an interdisciplinary team-taught honors program with very favorable results. Local professor of mathematics recently presented a Polanyian meditation on the teaching of mathematics to the faculty of the Department of Mathematics.

MEMBER PROJECTS, CONT.

Samuel D. Watson, Jr.

I am currently writing a dissertation which will probe the contributions I believe Polanyi's thought holds for rhetorical studies. The cultural exigencies which have provided Polanyi's philosophic calling have also led to a resurgence of interest in rhetorical theory. In response to those exigencies, theoreticians of rhetoric are developing positions strikingly similar to those of Polanyi and his students, though each school is largely uninformed by the other's work. A major concern of my study will be to show the common principles espoused by Polanyi and such contemporary rhetoricians as Richard Weaver, Henry Johnstone, and Chaim Perelman. They, like Polanyi, seek a meaningful restitution of some concept of "reason," they are concerned with modes of non-formal inference, many of their insights depend on an organic understanding of discourse, and they seek a theory which is ethos--(or "personally--") based. Furthermore, my comparison should accord with the application of Polanyi's thought to problems within contemporary rhetorical theory itself. For example, rhetoric still tends to labor under post-positivistic epistemology, though positivism is inimical to rhetorical studies. Polanyi's logic of tacit inference should provide a viable epistemological alternative. Finally, as well as offering corrections to rhetorical theory, Polanyi offers important extensions to rhetorical studies. For example, he provides rhetorical criticism of scientific arguments, a direction which rhetoricians themselves see as crucial but for which, they have had inadequate methodology.

Vicky Johnson

Working on two projects:

1. Relating Jean Piaget's conception of growth to Polanyi's conception of everything.
2. Using A. Maslow as an example of the formalization of some of Polanyi's insights.

Don Milavec

Currently preparing a PhD dissertation: "Christian Revelation Interpreted from the Vantage Point of Michael Polanyi's Re-interpretation of Scientific Method."

Friedrich Salomon Rothschild

Wrote a paper on "Biosemiotic Aspects of Human Evolution" for the Study Group on Foundations of Cultural Unity in August, 1966, in which the role of principles different from those of physics in the morphogenesis and in the experience and behavior of man was explained through man's constitution by intra-organismic sign systems such as the central nervous system. The analysis of the intra-organismic sign systems by biosemiotic methods provides further arguments in favor of the ideas of Polanyi. Now working on a biosemiotic theory of evolution and describing the different levels of sign systems and the principles relating to them--working on this aspect of evolution, its relation to the neo-Darwinistic theory and its relevance to the present situation of man.

MEMBER PROJECTS, CONT.

R. Taylor Scott

Article on "Man and Modernity: Reflection on the Archimedean Point."

Allen R. Dyer

R. D. Laing and the madness of Sanity; A Post-critical Inquiry.

Walter B. Gulick

Ph.D. Dissertation dealing with Kant shows that Kant's notions of judgment and imagination are the functional equivalents of Polanyi's personal dimension in knowing, although their status is obscured by Kant's ultimately unappreciable exaltation of transcendental analysis. I hope to return to explicit development of Polanyi's thought after dissertation.

III. "SOCIETY" MEETINGS

Dale M. Heckman (209-466-2338) (Address in membership list) is interested in a West coast meeting of Polanyians. If anyone else on the West coast is interested in a meeting either let us know or contact Dale.

James W. Stines suggests the Appalachian State University's Center for Continuing Education (a new facility just opened in January of this year) as a site for a future meeting of the Society. The Center provides a wide range of modern facilities and services including trout stream fishing. Anyone interested?

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A meeting of the Society of Explorers is scheduled for MARCH 16 (Friday afternoon) at 4:30 P.M. at Emory University, in conjunction with the Southeastern Region meeting of the AAR to be held there on March 16-17. Dr. Richard Gelwick is coordinating the Society meeting, which will last for about an hour and a half (dinner is at 6:30). Dr. Gelwick and several other Polanyi scholars will lead a discussion on issues of mutual interest and explore some of the areas of research that members are engaged in. Bob Osborn will assign a room to the Society for this meeting. Be certain to check on the specific location of the meeting when you register.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES

The February, 1973 issue of the Bulletin of the Council on the Study of Religion (Vol. 4, No. 1) is soliciting proposals in the "Religion and the Social Sciences" section (pp. 35-36) "for topics which lend themselves to interdisciplinary analysis." The bulletin suggests some sample topics, among them are several which lend themselves to a Polanyian analysis---in fact, Polanyi's name is mentioned in connection with one of the topics. Anyone desiring to participate in this aspect of the AAR's work should contact Dr. Henry Clark, Department of Religion, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706 before MARCH 15th.

We received word that Harry Prosch is in England for at least the next few months. He will be spending time with Michael. This might be a good time for our friends in England to get together. If you are interested, why not get in touch with Dr. Prosch through Michael. I'm certain Dr. Prosch would help coordinate the meeting.

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(As of January 31, 1973)

INCOME

Membership Dues \$ 371.86

EXPENSES

Postage, Material & Telephone \$ 35.48

Secretarial Services 37.86

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 73.34

BALANCE \$ 298.52