SOCIETY OF EXPLORERS

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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 the society, 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 were generally well satisfied with the design, name, and fees for the society, although some felt that we ought to come up with a better name, none had any other 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 costs 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 and items 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, 1972.

MAILING LIST AND PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

Mr. Michael Johnston
1714 Columbia Ave., #124
Kansas City, Iowa 52201

Mr. William A. (Gus) Bryantspun
Rt. 2, Box 403
Durham, N.C. 27705

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The above contributions by Dale H. Heckman

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, F. C. C., Alienation and the Soviet Economy: Toward a General Theory of Human Alienation, Organizational Principles, and the Soviet Economy, University of New Mexico Press, 1971. (Dedicated to Polanyi, as mentioned in the note above.)

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, CONT.

Taylor, Charles, "Interpretation and the Science of a Man," The Review of Metaphysics, September, 1972. (A study of the problem of interpretation that deals with Polanyi's central concerns: machine identity, the hierarchic data value from inquiry in psychology, politics, etc.)

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


Stines, James W., "Some Reflections on the Conditions of Cultural Plurality," (Published in Triple-T Review, volume 2, number 5, Lincoln, Nebraska.) (Based partly on Polanyi's "The Heritage of the Himley Revolution," the paper finds its context in the novel against traditional nationalism, setting a new social, cultural, and institutional framework for a pluralistic society. It emphasizes the necessity of cultural plurality and pluralism past borders that there are no joint, cross-cultural communities which are more fundamental than mere commitment to cultural plurality. The "parity of power" sought by cultural minorities is commitment to truth, conceived as having more than just an immediate 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 Mann.

Working on a paper (which is nearing completion) on the subject of the issue of science and religion from Polanyi's perspective; an attempt to synthesize the scientist'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 interpretative of the tenets of Kierkegaard's philosophy 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.
WORKING ON TWO PROJECTS:

1. Relating Jean Piaget's conception of growth to Polanyi's conception of everything.

2. Using Ausubel as an example of the formalization of some of Polanyi's insights.

Don Milavec.

CURRENTLY PREPARING A PhD DISSERTATION: "CHRISTIAN REVELATION INTERPRETED FROM THE VATICAN POINT OF VIEW."

Friedrich Aron Rothchild.

Wrote a paper on "Biosynthetic Aspects of Human Evolution" for the Study Group on Foundations of Cultural Unity. In August, 1961, in which the role of principles derived from those of physics in the morphogenesis and in the experience and behavior of man was explained through man's constitution by intra-organic sign systems such as the central nervous system. The analysis of the intra-organic sign systems by biosynthetic methods provides further arguments in favor of the ideas of Polanyi. Now working on a biodynamic 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-Darwinian theory and its relevance to the present situation of science.
IV. OPPORTUNITIES

The February, 1971 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. 15-36) 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 ACR's work should contact Dr. Henry Clark, Department of Religion, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706 before MARCH 15th.

I've received word that Harry Froesch 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 friend in Eng and to get together. If you are interested, why not get in touch with H. Froesch through Michael. I'm certain Dr. Froesch would help coordinate the meeting.

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(As of January 31, 1971)

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TOTAL EXPENSES $73.34
BALANCE $298.52