

# Tradition & Discovery

## The Polanyi Society Periodical

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# The Polanyi Society

## General Coordinator

Richard Gelwick  
University of New England  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
(207)283-0171

## General Editor-*Tradition & Discovery*

Phil Mullins  
Missouri Western State College  
St. Joseph, MO 64507

## Book Review Editor

Walter Gulick  
Montana State University--Billings  
Billings, MT 59101

## Art Studies

Doug Adams  
PSR/Grad. Theol. Union  
Berkeley, CA

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Sam Watson  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

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Bates College

## Religious Studies

David Rutledge  
Furman University

## Member At Large

Harry Prosch  
Skidmore College

## UK Coordinator

John Puddefoot  
Benson House, Willowbrook  
Eton  
Windsor, Berks SL4 6HL

# Preface

Many publications reflecting an interest in Polanyi's thought are now coming forth. You will find comments on the new journal *Appraisal* as well as the new issue of *Polanyiana: The Periodical of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association* in "News and Notes." The tentative program is included (p. 5) for the upcoming Polanyi Society meeting in New Orleans; there are two sessions each including two papers which will be available in the Fall.

I am especially pleased to place in this issue of *TAD* Marjorie Grene's 1991 Kent State address which is a careful reconsideration of Polanyi's distinction between the personal and the subjective. I recall hearing the address and recognizing, at its conclusion, that this was an important analytical comment on Polanyi's thought; thanks go both to Professor Grene and the editors of *Polanyiana* (where it originally appeared) for allowing *TAD* to make this essay more broadly available.

Nicely complementing Professor Grene's essay is an article by Paul Nagy, another American philosopher, who originally prepared his paper as a contribution to the Project on the Tradition of Liberal Philosophy in Central Europe which was sponsored by the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association. Nagy comments on the place of Polanyi's philosophical thought, its major themes and its roots in the traditions of central Europe.

Last but not least, are reviews and discussions of interesting new publications that make use of Polanyi's thought. Several of the books are by Polanyi Society members. Walter Gulick offers an extended comment on Ron Hall's *Word and Spirit: A Kierkegaardian Critique of the Modern Age*; Hall, true to form, has produced a spirited response. Dale Cannon's new book, *Six Ways of Being Religious: A Framework for Comparative Studies of Religion* is briefly reviewed by Paul Lewis and Robin Hodgkin provides a glimpse of Robert Innis' dense but interesting *Consciousness and the Play of Signs*.

Phil Mullins  
May 1996

*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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Resources available to those wishing to study Polanyi's thought or uses made of Polanyian perspectives are beginning to multiply. The following list identifies some particularly interesting recent additions.

The March 1996 first edition of the new journal *Appraisal* (ISSN 1358-3336), edited by **R. T. Allen**, has a 1930's picture of Polanyi on the cover and includes the following articles which focus on or make use of Polanyi's thought: **Csaba Pléh**, "The Computer as an Inspiring and a Limiting Factor in the Conceptual Development of Psychology"; **Percy Hammond**, "Polanyi's Distinction Between Pure Science and Technology"; **Endre Nagy**, "Civil Society in Michael Polanyi's Thought." In addition to other reviews and articles, there is also **Julian Ward's** interesting review of **Marjorie Grene's** *A Philosophical Testament* which treats the links between the thought of Polanyi and Grene. *Appraisal* is available at an annual individual subscription rate of £9 per year. Checks should be sent to R. T. Allen, 20 Ulverscroft Road, Loughborough, LE11 3PU, England. Allen can also be reached by fax (01509 215438) and e-mail (101625.3010@compuserve.com).

A new issue of *Polanyiana: The Periodical of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association* centered in Budapest, Hungary, has recently been published. The whole issue is devoted to an article, in both English and Hungarian, by **Béla Hidegkuti** titled "Arthur Koestler and Michael Polanyi: Two Hungarian Minds in Partnership in Britain." The article itself is fascinating and is based upon extensive research in the archival materials on both Koestler and Polanyi. Included are photographs and copies of letters found in the Polanyi Papers at the Regenstein Library of The University of Chicago.

"Postmodern Ethics: Richard Rorty and Michael Polanyi". **John Rothfork**. *Southern Humanities Review* (Winter

1995), vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 15-34. An abstract of this article appeared in the last issue of *TAD*. This article is now available on WWW (and can be printed off ) at the following address: <http://www.cramer.nmt.edu/~rothfork/rorty.html>

A conference on Polanyi to be held in Sheffield, England in March or April of 1998 is in the planning stages. *TAD* will include details and a call for papers when this is available. Interested parties should write to **R. T. Allen** (at the address listed above) for additional preliminary information.

The Polanyi Society's electronic discussion list has made clear that a growing number of scholars are interested in links between the thought of Michael and Karl Polanyi. The Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, located at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada ([518] 848-2480) will be holding its sixth annual conference November 7-10, 1996. The conference is entitled: "Reciprocity, Redistribution and Exchange: Re-Embedding the Economy in Culture and Nature." **James Stodder** will be giving a paper in a session entitled "Substantive Formalizations: Polanyi and the Anthropology of Economics."

**Endre Nagy** received a Fulbright Fellowship to come from Hungary to the United States to work on scholarly projects related to the thought of Polanyi. Nagy spent six weeks at the Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago working in the Polanyi Papers. He will be in Berkeley, California, in residence at Pacific School of Religion until early June; Nagy is working on a Hungarian translation of *Science, Faith and Society* and is having regular conversations about Polanyi and social philosophy with **Charles S. McCoy**.

A new book, *God and the Mind Machine*, by **John Puddefoot** will be published in the fall and will be reviewed in *TAD*.

**James Hall** has recovered remarkably and is now able to participate in the Polanyi Society electronic discussion group. His story is a lesson to remember and on which to meditate. En route to the Kent State Polanyi Centennial in April, 1991, where he was to give a paper, he suffered an unforeshadowed pontine (on the ventral surface of the brain stem) stroke.

Recalling for us that near fatal experience, Hall says: “It was, curiously, the anniversary of my father’s fatal stroke. It was expected that I would die. In fact, I was asked to choose whether I wished a comfortable death rather than live if my condition never improved. At that time, my only voluntary movement was to blink my eyes. I felt mentally unchanged. I chose to live. My wife, my best friend, and an old girlfriend flew to Akron to see me, presumably for the last time. Eleven days after the stroke I was felt stable enough to transport. A former patient had offered to air evac me to Dallas, where an old friend, a neurologist, met us. At Zale-Lipshey Hospital a tracheotomy was done to help me clear secretions. At the same time a stomach tube was surgically implanted for that tube. The trach tube was removed on Christmas eve. After several months in each of two facilities, I was allowed a trial home visit, then soon discharged. Gradually, I recovered enough to use my right hand and forefinger to operate a computer keyboard.”

Hall continues to pursue his interest in relating Polanyi to Jung and to ESP. He welcomes any exchange on these subjects by “snail-mail” or e-mail. Address: James Hall, Box 7877 Inwood Station, Dallas, TX 75209; [WBFL81A@PRODIGY.COM](mailto:WBFL81A@PRODIGY.COM). All of those in the Polanyi Society who have known James rejoice in this news and look forward to his contributions to our thought and discussions.

# Preliminary Polanyi Society Meeting Notice

Although all the details are not yet worked out, the tentative schedule below outlines the program for the Fall, 1996 Polanyi Society meeting to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature in New Orleans. The hotel and/or convention center rooms for meetings as well as the final program will be included in the next issue of *TAD*. As in past years, papers will not be read at meeting sessions but can be ordered (for a small fee) before the meeting.; paper discussion will be initiated by a designated respondent. It is likely that at least some papers will be available via FTP; a notice will be posted on the Polanyi Society discussion list (polanyi@sbu.edu). If you need additional information about plans for meetings, please contact David Rutledge, Department of Religion, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613-1474 (fax: 803-294-3001, e-mail: rutledge\_david@furman@furman.edu).

## **Friday evening, November 22, 1996 9-11 p.m.**

Richard Gelwick, University of New England  
“Polanyi and Postmodernism”

Ronald Hall, Francis Marion University  
“The Primacy of the Explicit: On Keeping Romanticism at Bay”

## **Saturday morning, November 23, 1996 9:11:30 a.m.**

Robert Martin, Yale Divinity School  
“The Pedagogical Significance of Personal Knowledge  
for Theological Education”

Russell Willoughby, Claremont Graduate School  
“Polanyi and Albert Bandera”