

Tradition & Discovery

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The Polanyi Society

Preface

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With this issue comes the annual subscription renewal flyer. I encourage you, while you are thinking about it, to pull out the inserted colored page and put it—with your check or credit card information—back in the mail to me. Given the general spectrum of professional societies, the Polanyi Society is certainly on the low budget end. We soon shall need modestly to increase our \$20/year subscription rate, but we are presently able to meet our basic expenses which are primarily printing and ever-rising mailing costs. At the annual meeting upcoming in November, there will be discussion of a plan to have the Polanyi Society incorporate and apply for official non-profit status. This status would allow the Polanyi Society to accept tax deductible contributions which could help address future increases in expenses.

The schedule for the annual meeting to be held November 20 and 21, 1998 in the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida is included on page 5. One session will feature a paper by Paul Craig Roberts, who was one of Polanyi's last students working in the social sciences. Roberts has held important U.S. government positions and has been a prolific writer; his paper will focus upon Polanyi's economic thought. The second session will feature a panel, Dale Cannon, Diane Yeager and David Rutledge, seasoned teachers addressing the theme "Teaching Polanyi and Polyanian Teaching." You can get the prepared papers sometime in early November by downloading them from the Polanyi Society WWW site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>).

Please also particularly note the information in "News and Notes" on *Polanyiana*, the journal of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association in Hungary. Inquiries imply that there is some confusion about *Polanyiana*. English issues are on WWW; contribution to support the continued publication of *Polanyiana* are welcomed by the MPLPA.

The articles in the current issue are an interesting set. There are two different review articles on recent Polanyi-related publications as well as responses to the reviews by the authors. Walter Gulick looks carefully at Stephen Turner's exploration of the social dimensions of practices in Turner's 1994 book, *The Social Theory of Practices: Tradition, Tacit Knowledge and Presuppositions*. Stephen Turner's thorough response to Gulick helps the reader see what is at stake in the discussion, to wit, some genuinely different construals

continued on p. 3

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*.

NEWS AND NOTES

of the notion of practice and equally different takes on Polanyi. Both derive insights from Polanyi but believe it is important to revise Polanyian claims in light of recent new insights; these writers tend to emphasize different aspects of the Polanyian heritage. Jeff Pflug's review article treats Stephania Jha's 1995 Harvard dissertation titled Michael Polanyi's Integrative Philosophy; both Pflug and Jha comment on Polanyi's late notion of from-at knowing, a notion that Marjorie Grene criticized. Jha's response also outlines her effort to provide, in her dissertation, important elements of what she dubs an "intellectual biography" of Polanyi.

Last but not least in this issue is Philip Mirowski's "Economics, Science and Knowledge: Polanyi vs. Hayek," a fascinating article which documents and explores the relationship between Friedrich Hayek and Polanyi's philosophical and economic ideas. Mirowski is a scholar interested the connection between economics and philosophy of science; he has followed the personal links between Hayek and Polanyi and tied this historical to the publications of these figures. He cogently argues these thinkers have some sharp differences about government policy and that this grows out of their rather different ideas about science and epistemology.

Phil Mullins

An *Appraisal*-sponsored Polanyi Conference at Sheffield, UK occurred in April of 1998; revised versions of the papers will be published in the next 2 issues of *Appraisal*. *Appraisal* will sponsor a conference on Friday, April 9th and Saturday April 10th, 1999, at the University of Surrey, Guildford. Fee, with room, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, plus papers in advance, will be about L40 Sterling. Papers are invited, especially proposals primarily interested in the further application of Polanyi's ideas. Not all papers need be directly related to Polanyi. Please send proposals and enquiries to R.T. Allen, 20 Ulverscroft Rd., Loughborough, Leich. LE113PU, England or e-mail (Richard_Allen_21@compuserve.com).

Richard Allen has forwarded the following list of paper topics from the *Appraisal*-sponsored Sheffield UK conference held in April of 1998: Marty Moleski, "Polanyi and Fuzzy Logic"; Norman Wetherick, "Polanyi and Psychology"; James Lund, "Philosophy and Paideia: Their History and Relation to Pragmatism"; Julian Ward, Polanyi's Epistemology and Kant's"; Paul Dean, "Polanyi and the Teaching of Literature"; Norman Sheppard, "Polanyi and "Philosophy of Science"; Percy Hammond, "Technical Knowledge"; Robin Hodgkin, "What Is A Tool?" Revised versions of all papers will appear in the next two issues of *Appraisal* (Vol. 2, No's 2 &3).

Walter Mead's article entitled "William H. Poteat's Anthropology: Mindbody in the World," appeared in September in the 1998 volume of *The Political Science Reviewer: An Annual Review Of Scholarship*, XXVII: 455-533. Copies are available from 14 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, PA 19010-3275 (\$12). Portions of Parts I and II of this essay appeared in *TAD* 21:1(1994-95): 33-44.

Update on *Polanyiana*

Professor Éva Gábor, one of the editors-in-chief of our sister journal *Polanyiana* which is published by the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association (MPLPA) in Budapest, recently visited the United States and met with several members of the Polanyi Society. The following information about *Polanyiana* is based upon conversations with Gábor.

Since 1991, MPLPA has published both English and Hungarian numbers of *Polanyiana*. The most recent issue in English is Volume 6, Number 2, 1997, which came out in the late Spring of 1998. The publication of *Polanyiana* has for several years been supported by a grant from the Soros Foundation. Unfortunately, this grant will very soon be expended and MPLPA will not be able to get additional support from the Soros Foundation.

The cost of mailing copies of *Polanyiana* from Budapest to many distant areas of the world is extremely high. MPLPA has therefore begun a program of putting issues of *Polanyiana* on the World Wide Web. Complete articles identical to those in the printed issues can be downloaded and printed locally by anyone wishing to read them. You can find the *Polanyiana* home page at either of two sites:

- (1) <http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi>
- (2) <http://www.ch.bme.hu/chemonet/polanyi/>.

On the home page, there is a link to the electronic archive of four earlier *Polanyiana* issues, two in English and two in Hungarian. You may reach the archive directly at <http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/archive.html>.

Also on the home page is a link to the most recent issue available on the WWW; you can reach this issue directly at <http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/9702/contents.html>. The Table of Contents for the most recent *Polanyiana* (Volume 6, Number 2) follows:

To the Hungarian reader

ELŐSZÓ

Hírek és közlemények

Phil Mullins: “Polanyi’s Participative Realism”

Tibor Frank: “George Pólya And The Heuristic Tradition”

Gábor Palló: “The Role Of Morality: A Comparison Of Michael Polanyi And Imre Lakatos”

Judit Szapor: “Laura Polanyi 1882-1957: Narratives Of A Life”

Robin A. Hodgkin: “Making Space For Meaning”

István Hargittai: “John C. Polanyi-Interview”

You can also find a list of materials in *Polanyiana* through the Polanyi Society home page (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi/>) under Other Journals with Special Interest in the Thought of Michael Polanyi. Links are provided there to *Polanyiana* internet sites.

At this stage, the continued publication of *Polanyiana* is in some jeopardy. Alternative, cheaper means of publication are being investigated. Anyone interested in making a donation to the MPLPA may do so by sending a check or a credit card number (with name and expiration date) to Phil Mullins (Polanyi Society, MWSC, St. Joseph, MO 64507; fax 816-271-4386; e-mail: mullins@griffon.mwsc.edu). Please clearly indicate that your check or credit card debit is for the MPLPA. If you consolidate Polanyi Society membership renewal with a donation for MPLPA, you must provide explicit instructions about the division of funds. Since there are problems with currency exchange, please do not send checks directly to the MPLPA. I will aggregate all donations to MPLPA and do a single bank transfer late in the Fall. Given the difficulties in currency exchange and credit card policies, the suggested minimum donation is \$25.

To contact Professor Éva Gábor directly, use any of the following: (1) mail: Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association, 1111 Budapest, Műgyetem rkp. 3. K. I. 59, Hungary; (2) phone: (36 1) 463 1181; (3) fax: (36 1) 463 1042; (4) e-mail: GABORE@TTTK2.TTTK.BME.HU.

Phil Mullins

Schedule for November 1998 Polanyi Society Meetings

The Polanyi Society will have two meetings on November 20 and 21, 1998 at its gathering held in conjunction with the 1998 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature. Meetings will be in the rooms listed below in the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida. You do not have to register for the AAR/SBL meetings to attend Polanyi Society meetings.

The papers to be discussed are listed below; as in past years, the focus of each session will be on discussion. Participants are requested to read the paper before the session. By early November, papers can be printed from the Polanyi Society WWW site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi/>); if you have difficulty accessing the WWW version, you may write or e-mail Phil Mullins (CSTH, MWSC, St. Joseph, MO 64507 or mullins@griffon.mwsc.edu) to request a copy by US mail for a nominal fee.

Special Session With Paul Craig Roberts 9-11 p.m. November 20, 1998 Dolphin--Europe 3

Phil Rolnick, Greensboro College, Presiding

Paul Craig Roberts, “The Economic Thought Of Michael Polanyi”

“Teaching Polanyi and Polanyian Teaching” 9-11:30 a.m. November 21, 1998 Dolphin--Europe 4

Ron Hall, Francis Marion University, Presiding

Panelists:

Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University

“A Polanyian Approach to Conceiving and Teaching Introduction to Philosophy”

Diane Yeager, Georgetown University

“Reclaiming ‘Science as a Vocation’: Learning as Self-Destruction, Teaching as Self-Restraint”

David Rutledge, Furman University

“‘Beyond Logic and Beneath Will’ — Teaching in a Polanyian Spirit”

11:15 a.m. Business Meeting

Marty Moleski, Presiding