

# Tradition & Discovery

## The Polanyi Society Periodical

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# The Polanyi Society

## Preface

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On the following two pages, you will find important information coming from the November, 1999, business meeting of the Polanyi Society in Orlando, Florida. Some changes are in the making and a few are worth mentioning: (1) Thanks are due to Richard Gelwick for many years of service as General Coordinator. Richard has retired from his university post and wants to shift his Polanyi Society role to that Treasurer rather than General Coordinator; Walter Gulick has agreed to become our new General Coordinator. (2) The Polanyi Society is on the way to becoming an official non-profit organization. That is, we are applying for a tax status which allows us to receive contributions and provide contributors with a tax letter. If you are curious about the financial status of the Polanyi Society, it is safe to say we are solvent, but not very much so. Each year, we collect dues about equal to our expenditures to publish and mail *TAD*; additionally, we have a few other expenses such as space rental for the annual meeting. We don't anticipate, after our change in tax status, any large fund drives, but we will accept contributions from those interested in Polanyi Society projects. We will begin publishing basic financial information on the Society. (3) Some reorganization of the *TAD* editorial board will occur in the next year. After many years of having area coordinators, we will shift to a more functional structure. (4) Finally, you will note the general concern to involve younger scholars in the Polanyi Society. This is an important issue for any professional society. I hope if you have ideas, you will forward them to Marty Moleski or Walter Gulick. On the next page, you will also find the Call for Papers for the Boston November, 1999, meeting. Please remember that it is imperative that proposals come in by the March 31, 1999, deadline. For many years, the Polanyi Society annual meeting has been held in conjunction with the much larger American Academy of Religion annual meeting. The AAR calls the shots in setting up deadlines for room reservations and publications; we simply must abide by their timetable.

The article in this issue by Éva Gábor, "Michael Polanyi And The Liberal Philosophical Tradition In Hungary" was originally a paper she did in August, 1998, as a part of the Polanyi Society session at the World Congress of Philosophy in Boston. It is an interesting essay that helps to situate Polanyi's political ideas in their Hungarian context. The other three essays by Dale Cannon, David Rutledge and D.M. Yeager were the papers given in November, 1998, at the Orlando Polanyi Society meeting. The authors are all seasoned teachers who have been thoughtfully reflecting, for more than twenty years, on the bearing of Polanyi's thought on their practice. Those who attended the Orlando session found the set of papers to be sensitive reflections which produced a lively discussion; sharing the set with the larger *TAD* audience seemed an excellent idea.

Phil Mullins

*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*.

# Call for Papers

The next meeting of the Polanyi Society will be held in Boston, November 19-20, 1999. Presently, I anticipate we will host two sessions (Friday evening and Saturday morning) prior to the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature.

We are interested in nominations for a presentation by an invited speaker for either the Friday night or Saturday morning session. We have not as yet narrowed the focus for our sessions. Some possible topics of interest suggested at our 1998 meeting in are listed in the Minutes of the Business Meeting for November 21, 1998 (p. 4). We are open to further suggestions or refinements in these topics or other topics.

The welfare of the Polanyi Society depends upon your tacit awareness of what matters most and your personal commitment to write something excellent for us to consider in Boston. By March 31, 1999, please send comments and proposals to:

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## 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. Use MLA or APA style. 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.

Manuscripts normally will be sent out for blind review. Authors are expected to provide a hard copy and a disk or an electronic copy as an e-mail attachment. Be sure that electronic materials include all relevant information which may help converting files. Persons with questions or problems associated with producing an electronic copy of manuscripts should phone or write Phil Mullins (816-271-4386). Insofar as possible, *TAD* is willing to work with authors who have special problems producing electronic materials.

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**Minutes of Polanyi Business Meeting**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
**November 21, 1998**

1. Richard Gelwick is retiring as coordinator of the Polanyi Society, since he is also retiring from his university position. He will continue to act as Treasurer for the group.
2. Charles McCoy and Phil Rolnick moved that Phil Mullins should be authorized to establish the Polanyi Society as a not-for-profit corporation. The motion was adopted unanimously. We will have to develop By-Laws for the group that will allow those who can attend the Annual Meeting to continue to act on behalf of the whole Society.
3. David Ruttledge and Charles McCoy moved that Walt Gulick be appointed Coordinator of the Polanyi Society and that Richard Gelwick continue to serve as Treasurer. The motion was adopted unanimously. The change will take place at the end of the current academic year.
4. Phil Mullins discussed the reorganization of the editorial board for Tradition and Discovery. Charles McCoy recommended that every effort be made to obtain international representation on the board.
5. The group discussed how to encourage younger scholars to become interested in Polanyi. We would like to identify the new people in the field, especially those with dissertations in progress, and encourage them to join us at our annual meetings. It might be wise to continue to have an invited paper from a prominent scholar (e.g., Parker Palmer, Mark Johnson, Nancy Murphey) and to find new methods of advertising the talks. We might also consider having the invited paper on Saturday morning instead of Friday night so as to accommodate those who travel long distances to the conference. The disadvantage of such a schedule would be the loss or dislocation of our tradition of a group discussion led by members of the Society. Charles McCoy agreed to contact Parker Palmer to find out whether he would be interested in doing a presentation for us.
6. We considered the possibility of setting up a schedule of topics several years in advance. We might consider a broad cycle for topics related to Polanyi's work: Philosophy and Religion, Psychology, Philosophy of Science Social and Economic Issues, Aesthetics and Ethics. Possible topics suggested for next and/or future meetings: "The Revolution that Never Happened"; "Problems with Polanyi"; "A [Post-?] Critical Assessment of Polanyi's Realism"; "Moral Inversion: Polanyi's Greatest Contribution to Social Analysis"; "Polanyi's View of Language"; "Polanyi's Fuzzy Logic."

Secretary *Pro Tem*

Martin X. Moleski, SJ