

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

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Preface

This issue of *TAD* is the issue immediately following the death of William. T. Scott, a physicist, philosopher, Polanyi scholar and the man, who just after the death of Michael Polanyi, was asked by Magda Polanyi to write a biography. That was a project which Bill Scott worked on for many years but did not complete, since his own health declined. Marty Moleski, the scholar now completing the project Bill began, and I have put together an obituary for Bill; we discuss not only his Polanyi biography but the many other worthy endeavors Bill undertook. Following this obituary, you will find "At the Wheel of the World: The Life and Times of Michael Polanyi," one of Scott's finest essays on Polanyi, which originally was the address he delivered at the 1991 Kent State Polanyi Centennial Conference. Also you will find Paul Craig Roberts and Norman Van Cott's essay "Polanyi's Economics." Roberts was invited to the 1998 Polanyi Society meeting in Orlando and gave this paper. Few scholars familiar with Polanyi's philosophical thought also know much about his ideas about economics.

There are two reviews in this issue. John Flett discusses a new book that has information on The Moot, an intellectual discussion group in which Polanyi participated. In an early interview with Richard Gelwick, Polanyi reported that his interactions in The Moot were very influential in shaping his ideas. Also you will find my review of Richard Allen's 1997 collection of Polanyi essays published under the title *Society, Economics, and Philosophy--Selected Papers*. Allen has put into circulation 25 interesting Polanyi essays which undoubtedly will now get some attention.

Note also, on page 4, that the tentative program for the upcoming 1999 Polanyi Society annual meeting in Boston has been set. By early October, the papers should be available to anyone attending (or anyone interested) on the Polanyi Society WWW site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>).

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*.

NEWS AND NOTES

Mars Hill Audio has just published, in July, 1999, a two and one-half hour program on two audio cassettes titled *Tacit Knowing Truthful Knowing: The Life and Thought of Michael Polanyi*. Included are comments by Marjorie Grene, Richard Gelwick, Thomas Torrance, Ruel Tyson, and Marty Moleski. This program is part of Mars Hill Audio *Reports*, a series of audio documentaries on significant figures and ideas. For information immediately, contact Mars Hill Audio, P. O. Box 118, Quinque, Virginia 22965 or e-mail: tapes@MarsHillAudio.org. A future issue of *TAD* will provide more details.

Struan Jacobs (swjacobs@deakin.edu.au) recently published a paper, "Michael Polanyi's Theory of Spontaneous Orders", in *The Review of Austrian Economics*, Vol. 11, No. 1/2, 1999: 111-27.

Carlo Vinti has recently published a book, *Michael Polanyi—Conoscenza scientifica e immaginazione creativa*. Roma: Edizioni Studium, 1999. ISBN 88-382-3817-0.

Three issues of *Appraisal* (Vol. 2, No. 1 [March 1998], No. 2 [October 1998] and No. 3 [March 1999]) have come out since the last *TAD* listing of articles. About half of Vol. 2, No. 1 introduces the thought of another Hungarian born philosopher, Aurel Kolnai, who is in the same generation as Polanyi. Editor Richard Allen provides biographical data on Kolnai as well as the following short papers by Kolnai; "Three Riders of Apocalypse," "Elements of a personalist Conception of State and Society," "Jottings on Personalism" and "Advising." Francis Dunlop's essay, "Aurel Kolnai's 'Inchoate Sketch of A Theory of Morality'" and John Pollard Hittinger's "Aurel Kolnai and the Metaphysics of Political Conservatism" round out the Kolnai material. The following two additional articles are included: Georg H. Neuweg, "Self-Reference and the Loss of Meaning,"

Paul Dean, "F. R. Leavis and Michael Polanyi on Meaning." Vol. 2, No. 2 [October 1998] contains material from the April, 1998 *Appraisal*-sponsored Polanyi Conference as well as other material. Revised conference papers include the following: Norman Wetherick, "Polanyi and Psychology," Robin Hodgkin, "The Genesis of Technology," Percy Hammond, "Technical Knowledge," James Lund, "Philosophy and Paideia; Their History in Relation to Pragmatism," Martin X. Moleski, SJ, "Fuzzy Logic: The Beauty of Unclear and Indistinct Ideas." The issue also includes Angela Botez' essay "Michael Polanyi and Lucian Blaga As Philosophers of Knowledge" and Joseph Labia's working paper "Subject and Object." The most recent issue of *Appraisal* (Vol. 2, No. 3 [March 1999]) contains additional material for the April, 1998 *Appraisal* Conference: Norman Sheppard, "Michael Polanyi and the Philosophy of Science: The View of a Practising Scientist," Julian W. Ward, "Idealism or Realism? Polanyi's Epistemology Compared with that of Kant," Paul Dean, "Polanyi and the Teaching of Literature" Additionally, there is Chris Goodman's essay, "Beyond Nihilism" presented at the April, 1999 *Appraisal* Conference as well as a provocative short piece by Harold Turner titled "Oldham, Temple and Polanyi: Some Contrasts for Discussion."

Upcoming 1999 Polanyi Society Meeting in Boston

The tentative program for the Polanyi Society annual meeting to be held in Boston on November 19 and 20, 1999, is printed below. Paper titles are not yet available but session topics have been formulated. More complete information will follow in the next issue of *TAD*. As in past years, papers will be available before the session; they will probably be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>) by early October if not before.

The location for the meetings is listed below. As in past years, Polanyi Society sessions are held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society for Biblical Literature. The Polanyi Society meetings have in recent years occurred just prior to the official opening of the AAR/SBL meetings. Because of the pressure for space, these large umbrella professional organizations are now carefully monitoring hotel reservations. It is necessary to register for the AAR/SBL annual meeting to be eligible for hotel accommodations in one of the primary hotels near where meetings are held. However, anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the Polanyi Society meetings, whether or not they are attending the AAR/SBL meetings. The Hynes Convention Center where the Polanyi Society meetings will occur is a stop on the subway. If you want information about registration for the AAR/SBL meetings (and information about hotels), please phone AAR/SBL Joint Ventures at 404-727-2343.

The papers in both sessions this year are concerned with questions about Polanyi's realism. Since papers will be posted for downloading, they will not be read in the sessions. The format for each session will open with a panel discussion that is focused on particular papers.

Friday, November 19, 1999—Hynes Convention Center, Room 312—9:00-11:00 p.m.

“Science, Meaning and Reality”

Chair: Andy Sanders

Panelists: Walter Gulick, Dale Cannon, and Phil Mullins

Saturday, November 20, 1999—Hynes Convention Center, Room 312—9:00-11:30 a.m.

“Realism, Ethics and Religion”

Chair: Walter Gulick

Panelists: Stefania Jha, Andy Sanders

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