

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

Volume XXVI

Number 3 (completes Volume XXVI)

1999--2000

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Preface

Congratulations are due to Andy Sanders, who as Guest Editor of this issue, has pulled together a very interesting set of papers on Polanyi's realism. Start with Andy's excellent introduction to get the flavor of this ongoing discussion that was the topic of two sessions at the 1999 annual meeting of the Polanyi Society.

Many will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Bill Poteat. David Rutledge kindly provided the brief notice about Poteat's death which is included in "News and Notes." In an upcoming issue, there will be more material about Poteat's life and work.

The program for the November 2000 Polanyi Society is set; information about the meeting appears on page 5. Please remember that you will be able, before the meeting, to download the papers to be discussed from the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mWSC.edu/~polanyi>).

Note that on page 4 there is information about a major conference sponsored by the Polanyi Society at Loyola University, Chicago, scheduled for June 8-10, 2001. This conference is a decade after the Kent State Centennial Conference and is modeled after that outstanding event. There will be plenary speakers as well as concurrent sessions with papers on many topics. Trips to the Regenstein Library to review the Polanyi Papers will be possible. Mark your calendars now and send in paper proposals. Further information about the conference will be in future issues of TAD and on the Polanyi Society web site as soon as the Organizing Committee works on details.

For many years, the Polanyi Society has steadfastly resisted following the financial path of many academic societies: we have not regularly boosted our membership rate. Annual dues have been a very modest \$20 for almost a decade, and the decade before that they were only \$10. One consequence of our approach has been that we take in, each year, about what we spend for TAD and our annual meeting. This is quite a sensible way to operate but it means that the Society has no surplus resources to put into major events such as the upcoming Loyola conference. To be frank, we must raise a few dollars in order to fund this event. Please carefully consider the program described on page 71 that encourages folks to combine a gift with the payment of 2000-2001 membership dues.

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

William Hardman Poteat, Emeritus Professor of Religion and Comparative Studies at Duke University, died on May 17, 2000 at the age of 81. Bill Poteat is familiar to students of Michael Polanyi as one of the primary agents for exposing Polanyi's thought to a wider American audience, through hosting Polanyi as a visiting professor at Duke University in 1964, through the book *Intellect and Hope: Essays in the Thought of Michael Polanyi* (1968), edited with Thomas Langford (who died just three months before Poteat), through mentoring numerous doctoral students who have carried on Poteat's reflections on Polanyi, and through several books published late in his career which extended these reflections in new directions. A future issue of *TAD* will say more about Poteat's life and thought; a memorial service was held in the Duke Chapel on May 24th. At that service Elon G. Eidenier read an "Elegy for Bill Poteat" beginning with these lines:

It is not possible
to impersonally think
for thinking blooms
within the incantations
of another's voice.

Eva Gábor, President of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association has just reported the sad news that the memorial tablet placed on the Polanyi family home in Budapest has recently been destroyed for the third time. The plaque was first put up in connection with the centennial celebration in 1991 but was defaced in 1993, 1994 and again this Spring by antisemitic vandals. A new memorial tablet is soon to be put up.

The last issue of *TAD* (26::2) carried information on the electronic addresses for *Appraisal: Journal of Constructive and Post-Critical Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies*. The web site has changed to: <http://website.lineone.net/~philosophers/appindex.htm>. You will find on the site complete

information about subscription, *Appraisal*-sponsored conferences, back issues as well as the table of contents for the current (3:1, March 2000) issue which reappraises Irving Babbitt.

There is a new link on the Polanyi Society web page: Short Essays by Michael Polanyi. So far only one essay, "The Republic of Science: Its Political and Economic Theory" (1962), is available under the link but others will be added in the fall. Putting some representative texts on the web should help solve the problem that people in some areas of the world have in locating copies of any of the shorter writings of Polanyi. Hopefully, teachers looking for brief and easily available texts will also find this selection useful. Take a look at <http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>. If you are interested in this text project, send suggestions to Phil Mullins (mullins@mwsc.edu).

Although we are a little late in acknowledging it, Lee Congdon was awarded the Order of Merit--Small (Knight) Cross by the Republic of Hungary in 1999. Professor Congdon has done extensive research on Hungarian intellectuals in the 20th century (see Walter Gulick's review of Congdon's *Exile and Social Thought: Hungarian Intellectuals in Germany and Austria, 1919-1933* in *TAD* 23:2 [1996-97]: 44-46) and earlier wrote a *TAD* article on Michael and Karl Polanyi ("Between Brothers: Karl and Michael Polanyi on Fascism and Communism," 24:2 [1997-98]: 7-13).

Polanyi's Post-Critical Thought and the Rebirth of Meaning

Call for Papers

The Polanyi Society will sponsor a conference on the theme "Polanyi's Post-Critical Thought and the Rebirth of Meaning" on June 8, 9, and 10, 2001 at Loyola University, Chicago. This conference is an occasion to reflect on themes and possibilities found in Polanyi's thought twenty-five years after Polanyi's death in 1976. Chicago is an apt site for the conference, since interested participants will be able to access the archival Polanyi papers during weekdays at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago.

Proposals are invited for papers that examine connections between Polanyian perspectives and those of other thinkers, schools of thought or domains of inquiry. Papers can explore prospects for post-critical thought. The following are some suggested general categories within which specific papers might be grouped. [Please do not think of them as a limit for submissions but as a springboard for your own reflections. The final program will reflect groupings adjusted in light of proposals submitted.]

Postmodernism and Post-Critical Thought
Polanyi and the Analytic Tradition
Polanyi and American Thought
Polanyi and Continental Thinkers

Polanyian Approaches to Conceiving God
Polanyian Links Between Religion and Science
Polanyi and World Religions

Polanyi in the Light of Developments in Psychological Theory
The Tacit Dimension: Skills, Practice and the Subliminal
Personal Knowledge As True, Public, and Reasonable

Post-Critical Ethics
Polanyi's Axiology
Post-Critical Aesthetics

Polanyi's Antireductionism and the Logic of Emergence
Metaphysical Issues in Polanyi's Philosophy
Developing Polanyi's Notion of Meaning

Polanyian Responses to Pluralism
Polanyi's Social/Political Thought

Community and Conviviality in Post-Critical Perspective

Polanyi and Education

Proposals for papers should be no more than 250 words. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of jurors. The initial deadline for receipt of proposals is November 1, 2000. Those who do not meet the November 1 initial deadline can submit proposals before the final deadline of March 30, but priority consideration will be given to proposals meeting the November 1 deadline. Mail an electronic copy to Phil Mullins at mullins@mwsc.edu. Those unable to provide electronic copy may send paper copies to Phil Mullins, MWSC, St. Joseph, MO 64507. Proposals should include e-mail address (or fax number) as well as preferred mailing address and phone number of the author.

Additional information about this conference will follow in future TAD issues and will also, along with the call for papers, be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>).

Upcoming November 2000 Polanyi Society Meeting in Nashville

The tentative program for the Polanyi Society annual meeting to be held in Nashville on November 17 and 18, 2000, is printed below. As in past years, papers will be posted for downloading (in October) on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>). The sessions will focus upon discussion and papers will only be summarized..

The location for the meetings will be the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. Rooms for the meeting have not yet been assigned; that information will be included in the next issue of TAD and on the Polanyi Society web site when it is available. 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. Because of 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. There are, of course, many other hotels in the Nashville area. If you want information about registration for the AAR/SBL meetings (and information about selected nearby hotels), phone 888-447-2321 (US and Canada) or 972-349-7434 (other areas) or go to <http://www.jv-site.org>.

Friday, November 17, 2000—9:00-11:00 p.m.

Discussion of *Resurrection Knowledge : Recovering the Gospel for a Postmodern Church*
W. Stephen Gunter, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Gunter will review his book's thesis on the assumptions controlling modern scholarship on the resurrection and on his use of Polanyi's epistemology (\$13 Abingdon Press: ISBN: 0687071577).

Respondents: John Apczynski, St. Bonaventure
Robert Martin, Saint Paul School of Theology

Saturday, November 18, 1999—9:00-11:30 a.m.

“Wittgenstein and Polanyi on Concepts of the Person.”
Phil Rolnick, Greensboro College

Respondent: Charles Lowney, Boston University

“The Cardinal and the Chemist: Exploring the Intersection of Newman and Polanyi's Epistemologies”
Marty Moleski, Canisius College

Respondent: Joe Kroger, St. Michael's College

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