

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

Please note the 2004 Annual Meeting call for papers (p. 4) as well as the minutes of the Society's business meeting at the 2003 Annual Meeting (p.3). Some changes in the Society's Board as well as other matters are identified here. The Society is much larger than the group that normally attends the business meeting. The notices in TAD are thus the only way of communicating with most of the membership. Members are invited to e-mail the TAD editors or any member of the Board with suggestions or proposals.

Walter Gulick has provided two interesting letters of response (pp. 6-10) to his review of David Cesarani's *Arthur Koestler: The Homeless Mind*. This review which discussed links between the Polanyi family and Koestler was published in *TAD* 29:2 (2002-2003), pp. 50-55. These letters nicely supplement the historical discussion Gulick earlier provided.

"Tacit Knowledge/Knowing and the Problem of Articulation" is the second *TAD* article by YU Zhenhua (his earlier essay was in 28:3 [2001-2002]: 6-19), a scholar who teaches philosophy at East China Normal University, Shanghai, China. This essay explores some connections between accounts of tacit knowledge in the Wittgensteinian and Polanyian traditions.

Percy Hammond is a retired professor of engineering who has long been interested in Polanyi's ideas. His essay "Personal Knowledge and Human Creativity" is the culmination of a long struggle to articulate his criticisms of Polanyi's account of human creativity, an account which Hammond believes reflects Polanyi's preoccupation with scientific discovery.

The review article by Richard Gelwick treats a fascinating book by Patton Howell and James Hall, a Jungian psychiatrist and Polanyi Society member whose interest in Polanyi dates back to the sixties. The book describes Hall's survival of a pontine stroke which occurred in 1991 as he traveled to the Kent State Polanyi Conference. Also note the reviews of Engle's *Truth* and Jha's 2002 book *Reconsidering Michael Polanyi's Philosophy*.

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

The world wide web is an ever- changing and often strange labyrinth. It does appear that there are more things on the web about Polanyi these days. For example, take a look at the following:

Recently, a short essay on Michael Polanyi has been posted on the web site of The *Encyclopedia of Informal Education*: Smith, M. K. (2003) "Michael Polanyi and Tacit knowledge," *The Encyclopedia of Informal Education*, www.infed.org/thinkers/polanyi.htm.

Several web-posted articles, including the two following, treat Polanyi; these are part of the Paideia Project On-Line which is 903 papers from the 20th World Congress of Philosophy in 1998:

Angela Botez, "Michael Polanyi and Lucian Blaga as Philosophers of Knowledge," <http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Comp/CompBote.htm>

Sheldon Richmond "The Two Cultures Problem," <http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Scie/ScieRich.htm>

The Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/polanyi/essays.htm>) has for several years included the following 5 Polanyi essays:

- (1) "The Stability of Beliefs" *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Volume 3, Issue 11 Nov. 1952, 217-232.
- (2) "The Republic of Science: Its Political and Economic Theory," *Minerva* Volume 1: 1962 54-74.
- (3) "The Structure of Consciousness," *Brain* Vol. LXXXVIII, 1965, pp. 799-810.
- (4) "On Body and Mind," *The New Scholasticism* 43:2 Spring 1969, 195-204.
- (5) "Transcendence And Self-Transcendence," *Soundings* 53: 1, Spring 1970 88-94.

All five of these essays now have been re-posted on the web at the following address: <http://members.shaw.ca/>

www.mwsc.edu/orgs/polanyi/essays.htm . Scroll down to the "knowledge and methodology" section and look for "Polanyi, M" in this extensive bibliography and you will find the link. Except for the first of these essays, all have been adapted from the Polanyi Society web site. "The Stability of Beliefs" is, however, a posting that preserves the original pagination in *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. In addition to the above five essays, the following Polanyi texts are also posted on this site:

- (1) "Science: Academic and Industrial," *Journal of the Institute of Metals* Vol. 89, 1960-61, pp.401-406.
- (2) "Science and Technology" which is a section of *Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy* Harper Torchbooks, NYC 1962, 174-184

Betsy Sargent has long been interested in the influence of Polanyi on writing theorist Peter Elbow. In 1987, she organized a session on Polanyi at the Modern Language Association that included Elbow. Recently, she has published the following essay:

Sargent, M. Elizabeth. "Believing is Not a Game: Peter Elbow's Uneasy Debt to Michael Polanyi." *Writing With Elbow*. Ed. Pat Belanoff, Marcia Dickson, Sheryl I. Fontaine, Charles Moran. Logan, Utah: University of Utah Press, 2002. 95-113.

Appraisal will sponsor an April 2nd and 3rd, 2004, conference. As with past Appraisal conferences, papers related to Polanyi are welcomed but other topics may also be treated. For more information, contact Richard Allen (rt.allen@ntlworld.com)

Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group exploring implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can send e-mail to Struan Jacobs (swjacobs@deakin.edu.au) who is the moderator. The address for the list is polanyi-list@deakin.edu.au

Annual Meeting of the Polanyi Society

November 22, 2003

The meeting took place in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia. Walt Gulick called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

1. The members unanimously approved the election of Phil Mullins and Paul Lewis to the Board of Directors..
2. The members gave Richard Gelwick a warm round of applause in recognition of all he has done on behalf of the Polanyi Society and wishing him all happiness as he retires as Treasurer.
3. The members unanimously approved the election of Esther Meek and Jere Moorman to the Board of Directors.
4. Mullins reported the Board has approved a plan for 2004-2005 to experiment with a web-based publication of *Tradition and Discovery*. Paper publication will continue and paper issues will be available to anyone anywhere in the world who wants one. However, a reduced subscription rate will be offered to any members outside North American who are willing to print off a web issue of TAD. Access to web issues will be through a password protected section of the Polanyi Society web site. Moleski suggested that a trust fund of \$20,000 would be required to fund \$1000 per year toward the cost of postage outside North America. There was no consensus about whether such a collection would be feasible or desirable at this time.. The overall budget for the journal is about \$3000 per year (including about \$1000 non domestic postage). Some ideas were suggested about increasing circulation, but no consensus was reached.
5. Gulick reported the election of Paul Lewis as Vice-President and John Apczynski as Treasurer.
6. The group discussed possible topics and format for next year's Annual Meeting. See the "Call for Papers" for details.
7. Moleski suggested that we might organize a conference in 2008 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Personal Knowledge*. We might try Loyola, Chicago or a University of Chicago seminary. Dale Cannon discussed the possibility of obtaining funding from NEH or the Templeton Foundation for special seminars on pedagogy.
8. Moleski reported that Oxford University Press has agreed to publish the biography of Michael Polanyi. The book should appear in 2005 with Scott and Moleski as co-authors.
9. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Martin X. Moleski, SJ, Secretary

2004 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting—Call for Papers

This year's annual meeting of the Polanyi Society will be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 19 and 20, 2004. Our meeting will be held as an "Additional Meeting" in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. The request to the AAR/SBL for space is pending but again this year we anticipate having both a Friday night session from 9:00-11:00 p.m. and a Saturday morning session from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

There was considerable discussion at the 2003 annual meeting about possible topics for the 2004 meeting. For instance, Richard Gelwick raised the question of how Polanyi would apply his understanding of freedom to the current world situation. "Polanyi's belief in the process of free inquiry and the search for truth seems to be in jeopardy in American democracy. The rule of propaganda and of political power seems stronger, and the exercise of free inquiry and search for truthful positions seems less effective in our new economy. If this trend persists does it question the relevance of Polanyi's philosophy to practical affairs?" In the end, however, two basic topics were agreed upon as having priority, although this does not preclude persons from submitting other proposals should they feel so inclined.

The Friday evening session will be devoted to a discussion of Esther Meek's book, *Longing to Know* (Brazos, 2003). Meek uses Polanyian thought as a vehicle for explaining to "ordinary people" how we come to believe and to know. Paper proposals are invited to respond to some aspect of Meek's book or perhaps to compare the approach of Meek with that of Stefania Jha in her book *Reconsidering Michael Polanyi's Philosophy* (U Pittsburgh Press, 2002). We anticipate Esther Meek would be available to reply.

The Saturday morning session will be devoted to a comparison of Polanyi's and Whitehead's thought. The neo-Whiteheadian theologian Joseph Bracken has agreed to be our featured speaker, focusing on the resources Whitehead and Polanyi provide for a consideration of a doctrine of the Trinity. In Bracken's book, *The One in the Many* (as in his recent *Zygon* articles), he speaks of the internal relationships within God on the model of intersubjectivity. An additional paper proposal is sought for this session to either respond to Bracken's work or offer another account of the relationship between Polanyi's and Whitehead's thought.

Proposals of up to 500 words in length or inquiries should be sent (e-mailed preferred) to the address below.

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