

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

This issue of *TAD* includes the call for papers (pp. 8-11) for both the June 13-15, 2008 Chicago, Loyola conference celebrating the fiftieth year of publication of *Personal Knowledge* and the June 26-28, 2008 Budapest Polanyi conference. Note (p. 9) that the Polanyi Society is kicking off its 2008-2009 membership drive now because we need to raise some funds for the June 2008 Loyola conference. Our membership cycle normally runs on the academic year beginning in Sept. Some may have received a recent reminder letter asking you to pay 2006-2007 dues. Let me press the flesh right now to encourage you to make a generous tax deductible (for US citizens) contribution along with your 2008-2009 membership dues. The Polanyi Society is an incredibly efficient low-budget scholarly society and we must make a special appeal if we are to remain solvent when sponsoring a major conference like that upcoming in June 2008. Also you will find in this issue the program for the Polanyi Society annual meeting to be held in San Diego on November 16 and 17, 2007.

Zhenhua YU originally put together the essays in this *TAD* as part of a special issue of the Chinese journal *New Philosophy* that focused on Polanyi's thought and its links with other Western thinkers. He did the translations himself and this second volume for 2006 should be out any day. He also made arrangements with *New Philosophy* to publish his own, Gulick's and my essays in English in *TAD*. Thanks go to Professor Wang Zhongjiang for granting permission to include these essays. Zhenhua YU's essay comments on the ways Scandinavian philosophers interested in Wittgenstein and Polanyi have discussed tacit knowledge. My essay discusses Polanyi's account of the "comprehensive entity," reviewing Marjorie Grene's efforts to link Polanyi and Continental thinkers and suggesting Polanyi's realism may be akin to medieval realism. Gulick's essay examines tacit knowing and seeks to clarify and elaborate upon Polanyi's claims. He distinguishes unconscious, inarticulate and conscious processes and explores schematization as the process whereby inarticulate learning (skills, memories, habits) is internalized.

Phil Mullins

Tradition and Discovery is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and is included in the EBSCO online database of academic and research journals.

NEWS AND NOTES

Andrew Grosso's *Personal Being: Polanyi, Ontology and Christian Theology* has recently been published by Peter Lang. It will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of *TAD*.

Craig E. Mattson's review essay, "Thinking Aloud in Public: Michael Polanyi as Public Intellectual" appeared in *Christian Scholar's Review* (Vol. XXXVI, No. 1: 77-86). He comments on five recent books in the Polanyi literature: Scott and Moleski, *Michael Polanyi Scientist and Philosopher* (2005); Moleski, *Personal Catholicism: The Theological Epistemologies of John Henry Newman and Michael Polanyi* (2000); Gill, *The Tacit Mode: Michael Polanyi's Postmodern Philosophy* (2000); Jha, *Reconsidering Michael Polanyi's Philosophy* (2002); and Jacobs and Allen (eds.), *Emotions, Reason and Tradition: Essays on the Social, Political and Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi* (2005).

Walter Mead's essay "The Insights of Michael Polanyi" is forthcoming in *Modern Age*. Mead is also negotiating with *The Political Science Reviewer* to do a special Polanyi symposium issue. *The Political Science Reviewer* is an annual that regularly devotes issues to consideration of a major thinker's contributions. The 2005 issue was a fiftieth anniversary issue on Voegelin's *New Science of Politics*; hopefully, a future issue will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of *Personal Knowledge*.

Richard Allen, editor of *TAD*'s sister journal *Appraisal*, and SPCPS, is seeking assistance with the editing of *Appraisal* and running the web site. If you are interested, contact Allen at rt.allen@ntlworld.com.

McEnerney Lectures Available on Polanyi Society Web Site

Michael Polanyi's McEnerney Lectures were delivered in February of 1962 on the campus of the

University of California, Berkeley. This series of four lectures was originally recorded by KPFA, a Berkeley radio station, and was broadcast in the summer of 1964. The audio files became part of Pacifica Radio Archives. After about a year's work with Pacifica Film Archives, the Polanyi Society now has been granted the right to put, for research purposes, the downloadable audio files for each of the four lectures on the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>) You will find the McEnerney Lectures (as well as the audio file posted in 2006 with the 1966 conversation between Polanyi and Carl Rogers) under the link on the main menu titled "Essays and Lectures (audio files) by Michael Polanyi." Use your mouse to click on the lecture title links to play these MP3 files; you must have one of appropriate standard audio player software packages (such as RealPlayer[free]) on your machine in order to play MP3 files. If you right click, you can save the audio file to your local computer and play the file later. There is an introduction to the context of the McEnerney lectures written by Phil Mullins (with the help of several others). Also there is information in the introduction about how to purchase disk copies of the lectures from Pacifica Film Archives.

Polanyi Society Travel Funds Available

For students and others requiring assistance for attending the Society's annual meeting scheduled for San Diego in November 2007, limited funding is available. Society members are urged to call the availability of this assistance to the attention of those whom they consider worthy candidates. Those interested in applying for this funding, as well as those able to assist in making this funding available, should contact Walter Mead (wbmead@insightbb.com) and see the information on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>).

2007 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting Program

This year's annual meeting will be in San Diego, CA on November 16 and 17, 2007. The preliminary version of the program printed below will be finalized (adding hotel meeting rooms) in the October 2007 *TAD*. As soon as complete information is available, it will be posted on the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). Papers will be available for downloading by late October. The Polanyi Society annual meeting will again this year will be an "Additional Meeting" held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the AAR and SBL. For information, go to the AAR/SBL web site: <http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/default.asp>. It is not necessary to register for the AAR/SBL meetings in order to attend the Polanyi Society annual meeting.

Friday, November 16, 2007--4:00 pm - 6:30 pm (hours requested)

Jere Moorman, Presiding

4:00 William Coulson, Center for Studies of the Person, San Diego
"On Having Misread Polanyi's Theory of Personal Knowledge"

Respondents:

Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University

Philip Rolnick, St Thomas University

5:15 William Kelleher, La Canada, CA
"Personal Knowledge as Pure Self-Reflection"

Respondents:

Phil Mullins, Western Missouri State University

Diane Yeager, Georgetown University

Saturday, November 17, 2007 9:00 am – 11:30 am (hours requested)

Joint Session with North American Paul Tillich Society

9:00 Walter Gulick, MSU-Billings, Presiding

Theme: *How Tillich's Recently Retrieved Paper, "Participation and Knowledge: Problems of an Ontology of Cognition," Engages Polanyi's Thought*

Co-Presenters:

Durwood Foster, Pacific School of Religion

Richard Gelwick, Bangor Theological Seminary

Respondents:

Donald Musser, Stetson University

Robert Russell, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, GTU, Berkeley

11:15 Business Meeting:

Walter Mead, Illinois State University, Presiding

“Personal Knowledge at Fifty”

Call for Papers

June 13-15, 2008 the Polanyi Society is sponsoring a conference at Loyola University, Chicago on the theme “Personal Knowledge At Fifty.” *Personal Knowledge* was published in May, 1958 and this conference will celebrate this event as well as provide an opportunity to reappraise Michael Polanyi’s *magnum opus* and its philosophical agenda in terms of developments in philosophy, science and the globalization of culture.

The conference will be organized like the 1991 and 2001 Polanyi Society conferences at Kent State University and Loyola University, Chicago. There will be several plenary speakers as well as parallel sessions in which conference participants present and discuss papers with others interested in the session’s particular topic. Invitations for plenary speaker are presently pending. This will be a conference that builds in many opportunities for discussion as well as a trip for those interested to the archival Polanyi Papers at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago.

Proposals are invited for papers that discuss the themes or impact of *Personal Knowledge* and the importance of Polanyi’s philosophical ideas in the contemporary world. Below are a few suggested general categories within which papers might be grouped; these are intended merely to stimulate reflection. The final program will organize sessions in terms of rubrics fashioned in light of proposals submitted.

Personal Knowledge, Postcritical Philosophy and Postmodernism

Personal Knowledge As Fiduciary Philosophy and the the History of Philosophy

Personal Knowledge And William Poteat, Marjorie Grene, Wittgenstein, Phenomenology, etc.

Personal Knowledge and Contemporary Discussions of Emergence

Personal Knowledge On Religion

Personal Knowledge And Contemporary Philosophy of Science

Personal Knowledge And Political Philosophy

Personal Knowledge, Moral Inversion and Polanyi’s Criticism of Culture

Personal Knowledge and Polanyi’s Reformulations in Later Writing

Personal Knowledge: Shortcomings

Proposals for panel presentation on topics are invited.

Proposals will be blindly reviewed by a panel of jurors and should be no longer than 250 words. On the first page of the proposal, give your proposed paper title (or panel title), your name and your e-mail address. On the second page, repeat the title and provide an abstract. Mail proposals as e-mail attachments to Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu). Proposals will be reviewed in two or three batches. The initial deadline is Oct. 15, 2007 with projected response by December 1, 2007. Please forward proposals early in order to facilitate conference planning.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/FUND DRIVE

In this issue, there is a call for papers for the international Polanyi conference, set for June 10-13, 2008 at Loyola University, Chicago, which celebrates the publication of *Personal Knowledge*. Like the 2001 conference also at Loyola, this event is sponsored exclusively by the Polanyi Society. That is, the 2008 conference is not like the annual meeting held in conjunction with a larger professional society that considers the Society an affiliate and gives us space at a preferred rate. Nor is the upcoming Loyola conference like the 1991 conference at Kent State University that was generously subsidized by that university. Unfortunately, it is necessary for the Polanyi Society to cover all of the expenses of organizing the 2008 Loyola conference; we must also remain solvent enough to cover other annual operating expenses associated with the annual meeting and the publication of *TAD*. The Organizing Committee for the 2008 Loyola conference is investigating strategies modestly to improve the finances of the Society. We welcome any suggestions about possible funding sources for the Loyola conference. One necessary funding option--getting Society members to reach into their pockets to pay annual dues and make contributions--is outlined below.

Membership dues for the Polanyi Society are still only an unbelievable \$25/academic year. The first issue of a new *TAD* volume normally includes a flyer asking for dues payment. In the 2007-2008 academic year the Society will be more diligent about dues collection and we will remind you about the opportunity to support the Loyola conference. You may get a first and second payment notice reminding you that it is time to renew your membership. You are invited **now** to combine your dues payment with a contribution. If you have not paid your 2006-2007 dues, you may combine that with your 2007-2008 dues and contribution. In order to encourage you to "think generously," please review the chart below that sets forth some "rungs" on the contribution ladder. We hope you will reach as high as it is possible for you conveniently to stretch. Unlike the Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio drives in the US, we do not have Polanyi Society coffee mugs, book bags and other memorabilia to distribute to those who are generous. But for those who do stretch (at least \$50), we can provide a copy of any of the following if you identify your preferences: (1) a remaindered copy of Andy Sanders' 1988 book, *Michael Polanyi's Post-Critical Epistemology: A Reconstruction of Some Aspects of "Tacit Knowing"*; (offered in 2001 but there are about 20 copies left); (2) paper copies of any available old issues of *TAD* that you want (all those since 1991 are on the web site but the paper copies have not yet been discarded); (3) an audio CD of Polanyi's 1962 McEnerney Lectures (now also available for downloading from the web site).

Donation Range

\$20-50

\$51-\$100

\$101-\$500

\$500

Designation

Associate

Friend

Benefactor

Patron

Acknowledgment

1 year membership

1 year membership

1 year membership

3 year membership

All donors will be acknowledged in the program of the 2008 Loyola Conference. The Polanyi Society is a 501C3 tax deductible non profit organization; the Society sends (to those who pay US income tax) charitable donation letters for donations above \$25. Dues and donations can be sent by post, fax or e-mail to Phil Mullins. Credit cards donations are welcome. See the flyer insert to go to the Loyola Conference web page on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>).

Call for Papers

Reconsidering Polanyi - 2008, June 26-28, Budapest

“In such men the traditional forms for holding moral ideals had been shattered and their moral passions diverted into the only channels which a strictly mechanistic conception of man and society left open to them. We may describe this as a process of *moral inversion*. The morally inverted person has not merely performed a philosophic substitution of material purposes for moral aims; he is acting with the whole force of his homeless moral passions within a purely materialistic framework of purposes.”

“... a free society is one accepting the service of truth and justice, and ... totalitarianism is the outcome (by inversion) of a skepticism denying intrinsic force to the ideas of truth and justice...”

Michael Polanyi

Polanyi, the philosopher, is mostly known as a theorist of knowledge. His philosophy proceeds from the analysis of knowing to address many important topics including ontology, social theory, theory of the person and the practical dimensions of science. His theory of knowledge rests on ethical, social and existential pillars beside his Gestalt-based theory of cognition.

On the 50th anniversary of the publication of his masterpiece, *Personal Knowledge*, the aim of the conference is the reappraisal of this perplexingly rich, highly original and refreshingly unconventional philosophy in the light of the current intellectual milieu as well as from historical perspectives.

The conference is open to contextual, historical, and analytical approaches including – but not limited to – the following list of topics:

- Personal knowledge in light of social and historical epistemology
- Tacit knowledge and the new results of cognitive psychology
- Reappraising Polanyi's *The Logic of Liberty*
- The cognitive functions of emotions
- Polanyi on the production and management of knowledge
- The postcritical and postmodern perspectives
- Embodiment and tacit knowing
- Polanyi and the concept of emergence
- Polanyi and understanding technology

Confirmed Speakers:

Richard Allen, Chairman and Editor of *Appraisal*, Nottingham

Bob Brownhill, (formerly:) University of Surrey, UK

Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University, Monmouth

Márta Fehér, University of Technology and Economics, Budapest

Walter Gulick, Montana State University, Billings

Chris Goodman, President of *Appraisal*

Karl Hall, Central European University, Budapest

Stefania Jha, Boston University, Boston

Tihamér Margitay, University of Technology and Economics, Budapest

Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, General Editor of *Tradition & Discovery*

Hans-Joerg Rheinberger, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Otto Sibum, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Yu Zhenhua, East China Normal University, Shanghai

Conference committee:

Tihamér Margitay (BUTE), chair, Department of Philosophy and History of Science

Márta Fehér, (BUTE) vice-president of the MPLPA, Editor of *Polanyiana*

Richard Allen, Chairman and Editor of *Appraisal*

Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, General Editor of *Tradition & Discovery*

Éva Gábor, (BUTE) President of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association

Benedek Láng, (BUTE), Department of Philosophy and History of Science

Practical details:

- **Conference language:** English

- **Registration fee:** 30 EUR

- **Deadline for abstract submission:** Sept 15, 2007 via the following link: <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu>

The number of the participants is limited. Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their applications no later than the 30th October, 2007.

- **Accommodations** for conference participants will be available both on campus at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and in nearby hotels

1) - on campus accommodation is available in the guesthouse of the University for approximately 55-65 EUR /night including breakfast

2) - Rooms in four-star hotels in 5-15 minutes walking distance from the conference venue:

(a) Danubius Hotel Gellért 80-120 EUR/night including breakfast, use of sauna, pool and historic steam bath: <http://www.danubiushotels.com/en/budapest-hotels/danubius-hotel-gellert-budapest/hotelrooms>

(b) Park Hotel Flamenco 90-110 EUR/night including breakfast, use of sauna, pool and fitness room: <http://www.danubiushotels.com/en/budapest-hotels/danubius-hotel-flamenco-budapest>

For more information visit <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu> or write to Benedek Láng: <http://www.conference@filozofia.bme.hu>