

# “*Personal Knowledge* at Fifty”

## Conference Update

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 tentative schedule for the conference, organized like the 1991 and 2001 Polanyi Society conferences at Kent State University and Loyola University, Chicago is on the following pages as is registration information.

Immediately below is an abbreviated form of the Call for Papers that was included in *TAD* 34: 1 and is available on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). Proposals can be accepted until March 31, 2008.

## Call for Papers

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 presentations 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).

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/FUND DRIVE

On the previous page, there is information about the Polanyi conference to be held 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. Elsewhere in this issue there is information about possible Polanyi Society meetings next fall at the American Academy of Religion and, for the first time, at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Unfortunately, it is necessary for the Polanyi Society to cover all of the expenses of organizing these meetings. We must also remain solvent enough to cover other annual operating expenses to publish *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. 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, although they will be increased to \$35 a year for regular members (\$15 for students) in the fall of 2008. In the 2007-2008 academic year, the Society must be more diligent about dues collection and we will remind you about the opportunity to support the Loyola conference and other meetings. You may get a payment notice reminding you that it is time to renew your membership. You are invited **now** to combine your dues payment with a 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).

| <b>Donation Range</b> | <b>Designation</b> | <b>Acknowledgment</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| \$20-50               | Associate          | 1 year membership     |
| \$51-\$100            | Friend             | 1 year membership     |
| \$101-\$500           | Benefactor         | 1 year membership     |
| \$500                 | Patron             | 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 (HPG, MWSU, St. Joseph, MO 64507, mullins@missouriwestern.edu, or fax 816-271-5680). Credit cards donations are welcome. **Please recall that a similar notice was included in the July 2007 and October 2007 issues of *TAD*. If you have already paid 2007-2008 dues, you do not need to do so again.**

**“Polanyi’s Personal Knowledge At Fifty”  
June 13-15 Loyola University, Chicago  
Conference Registration Form\***

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Name:</b>  | <b>Email:</b>  |
| <b>Street Address:</b>  | <b>Phone (day):</b><br><b>Phone(evening):</b>  |
| <b>City, State:</b><br><b>ZIP/Postal Code:</b><br><b>Country:</b> | <b>Date of Arrival:</b><br><b>Date of Departure:</b><br>(Limited accommodations are available before and after the conference at the daily rates listed below) |

|   | <b>Registration<br/>Before April 15</b> |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
|   | <b>Cost per person</b>                  | <b>Total Paid</b> |
| Full registration (incl. banquet & coffee breaks) | \$125                                   |                   |
| Friday only registration                          | \$30                                    |                   |
| Saturday only registration (excluding banquet)    | \$40                                    |                   |
| Saturday only registration (including banquet)    | \$100                                   |                   |
| Sunday only registration                          | \$30                                    |                   |
| <b>Late Registration Fee</b>                      | \$25                                    |                   |
| <b>Total Registration</b>                         |   |                   |

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to apply for a student registration waiver.

| <b>Room</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| Check desired dormitory accommodation:<br>_____ Room (double occupancy): \$60/day<br>_____ Room (single): \$80/day | If you elect for double occupancy, please indicate either the name of your roommate or that you wish to be assigned a roommate.<br>Name of Roommate:<br>_____ Please Assign |
| Total number of nights in residence: _____ x room rate _____   | <b>Subtotal</b> (room) _____  |

|   | <b>Board</b>           |                   |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
|   | <b>Cost per person</b> | <b>Total Paid</b> |
| Meal Card (Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast and lunch, Sun. breakfast and lunch) | \$50                   |                   |
| Individual Meals in lieu of meal card                                       | \$10                   |                   |
| Banquet ONLY (Saturday)   | \$60                   |                   |

Choice for Saturday night banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ beef \_\_\_\_\_ chicken \_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian

Trip to University of Chicago Library for Polanyi Archives on Friday morning \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

\* Please complete this form and return it (1) via US Mail to Phil Mullins, HPG, MWSU, St. Joseph, MO 64507, (2) via fax to (816) 271-5680 or (3) as a scanned e-mail attachment to mullins@missouriwestern.edu . Checks should be made to the Polanyi Society. Credit cards, except American Express, can be used for pre-registration. Supply the following: exact name on the card \_\_\_\_\_; card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_; card number \_\_\_\_\_.

**Donations to defray the cost of this conference are welcome and tax deductible.**

# Tentative Conference Schedule

## Friday June 13

- 8:00 Registration Opens
- 8:30—2:30 Trip to University of Chicago Library for a visit to the Polanyi Archives.
- 3:00—4:30 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 4:45—6:15 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 6:30—7:15 Dinner
- 8:00—9:00 Plenary Address: "The Political Implications of Commitment," **Richard T. Allen**, editor of *Society, Economics and Philosophy: Selected Papers of Michael Polanyi*, co-editor of *Emotion, Reason and Tradition, Essays on the Social, Political and Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi*, and author of *Thinkers of our Time: Polanyi*, is also editor of *Appraisal: A Journal of Constructive and Post-Critical Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies*.
- Post Plenary: Social Time

## Saturday June 14

- 7:00—8:00 Breakfast
- 8:30—10:00 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:30—12:00 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 12:15—1:15 Lunch
- 1:30— 2:30 Plenary Address: "Polanyi's Myopia," **Stanley L. Jaki, O.S.B.**, Distinguished Professor at Seton Hall University, who holds doctorates in theology and physics, is the author of fifty books and four hundred articles on topics in the history and philosophy of science. He is a Hungarian-born scholar who once met Polanyi and was a Gifford Lecturer and the recipient of the Lecomte du Nouy Prize (1970) and the Templeton Prize (1987).
- 2:45 — 3:45 Plenary Address: "Backstage: Magic, Mentorship and Tradition," **David A. Peck**, a philosopher some of whose work treated Polanyi, a public speaker and licensed electrician who has been performing as a sleight of hand magician for over twenty-five years.
- 3:45 — 4:15 Coffee break
- 4:15 — 6:15 Panel on William Poteat and Michael Polanyi
- 6:30 Social Time
- 7 p.m. Banquet
- Plenary Address: "Fifty Years of Discovering Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge and the Polanyi Society*," **Richard Gelwick**, Professor Emeritus, University of New England, author of *The Way of Discovery*, the first introduction to Polanyi's philosophy, compiler of the first bibliography of Polanyi's non- scientific writing, and, former General Coordinator of the Polanyi Society and editor of *Tradition and Discovery*
- Post Plenary: Social Time

## Sunday, June 15

- 7:00—8:00 Breakfast
- 8:30—10:00 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:15—11:45 Concurrent sessions with conference participants' papers
- 12:00 Lunch