

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface.....	2
News and Notes.....	3
2010 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in Atlanta.....	5
Polanyi's Arguments against a Non-Judgmental Political Science.....	6
Jon Fennell	
Submissions for Publication.....	18
From Morality to Spirituality: Society, Religion and Transformation.....	19
Charles Lowney	
A Polanyian Metaphysics?	
Milton Scarborough's Nondualistic Philosophical Vision.....	39
Walter Gulick	
WWW Polanyi Resources.....	46
Dueling about Dualism: A Reply to Walter Gulick.....	47
Milton Scarborough	
Notes on Contributors.....	50
Reviews	51
Matthew B. Crawford, <i>Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work</i>	
Paul Lewis	
Susan S. Phillips, <i>Candlelight: Illuminating the Art of Spiritual Direction</i>	
Barbara J. Gulick	
Tihamér Margitay (ed.), <i>Knowing and Being: Perspectives on the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi</i>	
John Apczynski	

The Polanyi Society

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Preface

Jon Fennell's essay in this issue, "Polanyi's Arguments against a Non-Judgmental Political Science," provides a careful and interesting examination of two arguments Polanyi makes in his 1966 essay "The Message of the Hungarian Revolution." Also included is Charles Lowney's "From Morality to Spirituality: Society, Religion and Transformation," his third essay in a series (other essays appeared in *TAD* 36:1 and 36:3) that grew out of a 2008 Polanyi Society paper given at the American Philosophical Association; Lowney's final essay uses Polanyi's thought to analyze spirituality and religion, building on his earlier explorations of morality. Walter Gulick's review essay appreciatively treats Milton Scarborough's *Comparative Theories of Nonduality: The Search for a Middle Way*. Scarborough's response to Gulick clarifies his book's double purpose, namely, finding both a Western middle way and also a middle way between East and West. There are three interesting reviews: Paul Lewis introduces Matthew Crawford's best selling philosophical biography, *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work*, which likely will appeal to those impressed with Polanyi. Barbara Gulick offers sensitive reflections on Susan S. Phillips, *Candlelight: Illuminating the Art of Spiritual Direction*. Phillips is a spiritual director, sociologist, and Executive Director of New College Berkeley, an affiliate of Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union, and a figure significantly influenced by Polanyi. Finally, John Apczynski gives an overview of the newest collection of essays on Polanyi's philosophy, *Knowing and Being: Perspectives on the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi*. Thanks go to editor and essay contributor Tihamér Margitay for putting together these essays, which grew out of the 2008 "Polanyi Reconsidered" Conference in Budapest.

The 2009 Atlanta annual meeting program featuring six papers by graduate students on October 30 is included (p. 5). There are many things of interest in the News and Notes section (pp. 3-4): an update on *Polanyiana* materials on the web; information about a Polanyi-related class, new publications and papers, and the new Polanyi Society Speakers Bureau; and an update identifying additions to the Polanyi Society web site, including new primary materials as well as all the old but often quite interesting Polanyi Society publications going back to 1972.

Phil Mullins

Tradition & 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

Polanyiana News

A new English issue of *Polanyiana* (2008, No. 1) is available at <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu/periodical/period.php?n=2008-01&d=2008-01&p=39/>. In addition to the new book of essays based on the June 2008 Budapest “Reconsidering Polanyi” conference (*Knowing and Being: Perspectives on the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi*, reviewed in this issue of *TAD*), this issue of *Polanyiana* includes essays based on papers originally given at this conference. The following articles are included: **Daniel Paksi**, “The Concept of Evolution in Michael Polanyi’s Philosophy”; **Charles W. Lowney**, “The Tacit in Frege”; **Zsuzsa N. Tóth**, “The Transparency of Words: The Polanyian Explanation of the Process of Translation”; **Judith Rosenhouse**, “Tacit Knowledge and Language Learning in Children and Adults After *Personal Knowledge* by Michael Polanyi”; **Terence Kennedy**, “Michael Polanyi and ‘Modern Moral Rationalism’”; **C. P. Goodman**, “The Politics of Imperfection”; **R. J. Brownhill**, “Developing a Philosophy of Technology”; **Patrick Rang and Katri Targama**, “Planning and Management: Explicit versus Tacit Knowledge.” Past issues of *Polanyiana* in English and Hungarian going back to 1991 are available in the *Polanyiana* digital archives at the following address: <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu/periodical/period.php?lang=hu>

A Recent Loyola, Maryland Class

Michael Polanyi and Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), a geologist and paleontologist, were both scientists who, as philosophers, focused on human nature. *Michael Polanyi and Teilhard de Chardin* was a course co-sponsored for the spring semester of 2010 by the philosophy and chemistry departments at Loyola University Maryland. Eight students and two auditors (one was the Associate Dean of Science) participated in the course which was listed as upper level in both philosophy and chemistry. Six of the eight students

received credit through the philosophy department and two students received credit through the chemistry department. Classes were led by professors from the two departments and emphasized discussion of views by students. The main agenda for the course was for students to read *The Phenomenon of Man* and significant parts of *Personal Knowledge* in order to find and discuss similarities and disagreements between their respective visions. Teilhard’s concern was primarily with human evolution and its future. It was reported in the newspaper *Washington Times* that Teilhard’s book, *The Phenomenon of Man* (reviewed by Polanyi in the January 30, 1960 issue of *Saturday Review*) was picked by Harper Collins Publishers first among the top 100 spiritual books of the twentieth century. Polanyi’s critique of objectivist science and interpretation of emergence turned out to be compatible with Teilhard’s vision of evolution. Class sessions were lively and evaluations by students were positive.

A Note on Dues Payment

Please notice that this issue of *TAD* issue includes a self-addressed return envelope to be used to pay 2010-2011 academic year membership dues. The Polanyi Society is a registered non-profit organization that operates on a fiscal cycle that roughly coincides with the academic year so dues are collected each fall. The next issue of *TAD* (February 2011) will also include a self-addressed return envelope. US postage regulations, require that EVERY copy of *TAD* mailed in the postage class used must weigh exactly the same. Thus, even if you promptly pay your dues with this issue’s return envelope, your next *TAD* will also include an envelope. If you cannot recall if you have already paid for 2010-2011, e-mail an inquiry to Phil Mullins. Dues remain \$35 (\$25 for libraries and \$15 students), a true bargain in the academic journal world. You can (1) send credit card information and authorization to debit from your account the amount of your dues (mullins@missouriwestern.edu or fax 816-271-5680) or

(2) send a check to Phil Mullins (HPG, MWSU, St. Joseph, MO 64507 USA). Sorry but we cannot handle American Express cards. Creating a dues payment form on the Polanyi Society web site is a project still in the works but one more complicated than initially thought. In past years, many have generously included with dues payment a US tax deductible contribution to the Society; these dollars go to promote things such as the Travel Fund which supported travel of graduate students to the 2010 annual meeting featuring graduate student papers.

Polanyi Society Speakers Bureau

The Polanyi Society's Speakers Bureau is ready for the new academic year. Marty Moleski, S. J. and Richard Gelwick gave talks in this program's first semester of operation last spring at Loyola University of Maryland and Yale University respectively. Some preliminary discussions with a few other universities about future talks have occurred. If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a talk, please send the name and e-mail address to Phil Mullins. There is now a link on the Polanyi Society web page with general information about the Speakers Bureau. You will find there a precis of the talks given last spring by Moleski and Gelwick.

New Additions to the Collection of Polanyi Materials Available

The last issue of *TAD* reported that Michael Polanyi's essay titled "The Body-Mind Relation," published in 1968, has been added to the primary materials available for downloading from the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/essays.htm>). Two additional things written by Polanyi that have been earlier published by *TAD* are now also available in the component of the web site with links to primary materials: Polanyi's 1936 letter to the British journal *Philosophy of Science* known as "The Value of the Inexact," was re-published in *TAD* 18:3; "Persons," the previously unpublished seventh lecture of a 1954 eight-lecture series at the University of Chicago, appeared in *TAD* 36:3. Soon the five-lecture

series "Man in Thought" from 1964, known as the Duke Lectures, will be added to the Polanyi materials available on the Society's web site. Although reading these Polanyi Society site primary materials and the eleven links to Polanyi materials on other sites is not a substitute for reading texts like *Personal Knowledge*, there are enough available Polanyi materials (textual and audio) from different periods of Polanyi's life to put together a reasonably good reading list for students.

Society Publications Now Available Back to 1972

Interested in a review of the special double issue of *Pre-Text: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetoric* (vol. 2, nos. 1-2, edited by Sam Watson) devoted to the bearing of Polanyi's thought on rhetoric? Or perhaps two early reviews of William Poteat's *Polanyian Meditations* by Jim Stines and David Rutledge? These are all now available online. The project of expanding the digital archives on the Polanyi Society web pages is now complete so that you can access Society-published materials that go back to 1972. Check it out by going to the digital archives web page accessible from the Polanyi Society home page.

Polanyi and the International Institute for Field-Being

The vision of the International Institute for Field-Being has much in common with the philosophical perspective Polanyi outlined in Part IV of *Personal Knowledge*. **Walter Gulick** will give a paper, "Polanyi and Field-Being," at the group's meeting held in conjunction with the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Boston on December 30 at 12:15 p.m (see the program for location). He'll explore the possibility of further cooperation between the Polanyi Society and the Field-Being group, which is also affiliated with the AAR.

Paul Richard Blum's article, "Michael Polanyi: The Anthropology of Intellectual History" was published in *Studies in East European Thought* 62 (2010), 197-216.

2010 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

The Polanyi Society will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the meetings of the American Academy of Religion on October 30, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia. To attend the Polanyi Society annual meeting, it is not necessary to register for the AAR meeting. For additional information about the AAR meeting, go to http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/default.asp. The hotel and room (Marriott international 1) and times in which meeting sessions will be held are listed below and will be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>); they will also be available in the Online Program Book for the AAR meeting (listed as session numbers M30-113 and M30-408).

This year's annual meeting program is devoted to six papers by graduate students. Neil Arner and Phil Rolnick have worked diligently to put together this set of papers from students studying at a variety of different institutions. Walter Mead also has and continues to work hard to raise dollars for the Travel Fund which will help support student travel to the annual meeting. Papers for both sessions should be available for downloading from the Polanyi Society web page link for the annual meeting by late October.

Session I: 9 a.m.--11:30 a.m. , October 30, 2010, Marriott International 1

Chair: Neal Arner, Yale University

David Agler, Pennsylvania State University

“Polanyi and Peirce on Doubt”

Aaron Creller, University of Hawaii at Manoa

“The Epistemic Structures of Polanyi and Ryle”

Nancy Hutton, Harvard Divinity School

“Technologies of Intimacy as a Way of Knowing”

Session II: 7 p.m.--9:30 p.m., October 30, 2010 , Marriott International 1

Chair: Phil Rolnick, University of St. Thomas (MN)

Neil Arner, Yale University

“Appraising Newbigin's Appropriation of Polanyi”

Kellen Plaxco, Marquette University

“From Polanyi to Origen and Back Again”

Mary Speckhard, Geneva College

“*Beyond Liberalism and Fundamentalism*, Toward Polanyi.”