



PREFACE

This issue of *TAD* embodies the ambiguity of Polanyi's own religious convictions and the fertile ground that such ambiguity provides, as it features essays about authors who appropriate Polanyi's work to develop quite different theologies. On one end of the theological spectrum is the work of Donald Crosby, a former Presbyterian minister, who makes use of Polanyi's ideas to argue that nature is an appropriate object for religious devotion. This is hardly an orthodox (or Reformed) view, notwithstanding Calvin's statement, "...it can be said reverently, provided that it proceeds from a reverent mind, that nature is God" (*Institutes* I. V. 5.). Walter Gulick introduces readers to Crosby's work by reviewing six of Crosby's books and suggesting some ways that a religion of nature could gain more widespread traction. Crosby responds to Gulick's review essay by clarifying some points and taking issue with others. Finally, Andrew Grosso responds to Gulick by raising questions about the adequacy of both a religion of nature and Gulick's modifications to Crosby's project.

The next set of essays moves to the other end of the theological spectrum as they discuss the work of the late James Loder, who appropriated Polanyi's thought to develop a theology that is much more orthodox than Crosby's. Dana Wright, a church educator and former student of Loder's, focuses on how Loder appropriates Polanyi in ways that contribute to the dialog between theology and science. He also supplies an annotated bibliography of relevant works by Loder. David Rutledge adds to the discussion with a review of an edited collection of Loder's essays. Esther Meek then reviews a collection of essays that shows how Loder's work is being appropriated and extended by a new generation of theologians.

This issue also contains the usual complement of book reviews and news. Here I want to highlight the June conference at Nashotah House. In particular, note that author Matt Crawford will be a plenary speaker and that there is an early-bird registration that closes on 15 March. See News and Notes and the full-page notice for more information on the conference and various needs associated with it.

Finally, I appreciate the kind words I have received about the new look *TAD*. All credit should go, however, to the people at Faithlab. Feel free to send notes to David Cassidy (david@thefaithlab.com) and/or Jean Trotter (jean@thefaithlab.com) to let them know how much you like the new format. I trust that folks have been able to access the e-reader versions easily and find them useful even though they do not preserve the formatting and pagination of the print copy.

Paul Lewis

P.S. Although this issue of *TAD* usually contains reports from the Society's annual meeting, the new production deadlines mean that we cannot do that this issue. The reports are available at www.polanyisociety.org and will be included in the July issue of *TAD*.