

NEWS AND NOTES

Tradition and Discovery 48:3

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The “News and Notes” section of *Tradition and Discovery* includes bibliographic information, calls for papers, meeting programs, and any other items possibly of interest to members of the Polanyi Society and other persons working with the thought of Michael Polanyi.

Several year ago, TAD began to include a separate “News and Notes” section that was put together late in the TAD publication process. An online only section with announcements and other news items produced just prior to the publication of the printed TAD helped avoid some of the problems of meeting print schedules and also could preserve pages for articles in the printed TAD. But TAD has changed in many ways in recent years as has “News and Notes.”

After this issue, “News and Notes” will no longer regularly appear in TAD, although announcements (e.g., upcoming Zoom sessions, calls for papers, etc.) will continue to be advertised on polanysociety.org and the Polanyi Society discussion list.

New TAD Book Review Editor

Martin Turkis II, the new book review editor for *TAD*, is a philosopher and teacher residing in San Francisco. He was awarded his Ph.D. by the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain for his dissertation - [*Post-critical Platonism: An Investigation into and Development of the Metaphysics of Michael Polanyi*](#). His interests include metaphysics, virtue ethics, philosophy of education, and political economy.

Dues, Donations and the Destiny of the Polanyi Society

Phil Mullins

The Polanyi Society is a small professional organization which has an outreach that always has moved beyond the official perimeter of those who pay annual dues. We produce three issues of TAD each year and send out each issue’s table of contents (with links) to several hundred people who have at one time or another indicated they have some interest in Polanyi’s thought.

We have, on the Polanyi Society website, an archive that holds fifty years of old TAD issues and you can do electronic searches in the archive to locate materials of interest in past issues. Slowly but surely, we have also assembled on the website a rather large collection of Polanyi primary materials coming from different periods in Polanyi’s life and these reasonably well represent his diverse interests and ideas. The old TAD issues and the primary Polanyi materials are resources for students and scholars that should not be overlooked by anyone interested in digging into Polanyi.

The Society now has a Facebook page and there are experiments underway to create some new video resources on Polanyi. This summer, after much hard work by several in the Society, a special issue of the journal *Quaestiones Disputatae* on Polanyi was published.

Before the pandemic, the Society had regular annual meetings and occasional conferences. Both were in-person events that welcomed anyone who wanted to participate. In the last couple of years, the Society has attempted to recover the convivial ambience of our earlier gatherings by sponsoring Zoom discussions on topics of interest. So far, we have done about 40 of these and videos of these sessions are online. Particularly noteworthy, was the well-attended four session “Michael Polanyi, the Basics” workshop. No doubt in the future, the Society will discover ways to again have in-person gatherings and will, as well, learn how to create new online opportunities.

One thing, however, that affects small academic professions societies such the Polanyi Society seems decisively to have changed in recent years and particularly since the arrival of the pandemic: we can no longer count on support from colleges and universities. For most of the last 50 years, the Polanyi Society enjoyed substantial indirect and sometimes quite direct support from colleges and universities for the Society’s various programs. I am thankful for such things as indirect support for the TAD editor, professional travel funds (available to many faculty), postage and mailing arrangements and other professional services helpful for producing TAD, website space and assistance negotiating the emerging digital world—these and other unnamed elements allowed the Polanyi Society to flourish over several decades.

But this day is now over. Many colleges and universities in North America at least are presently in a crisis mode and the kind of support that allowed Society programs to develop and thrive is no longer readily available. What this means is that the Polanyi Society in the future must devise better ways internally to support its operation financially. As a Board President entering his final months on the Board, it is clear to me that we have entered a new era of pay-as-you-go.

However, we do not yet generate the annual income that can sustain robust Society programming in the emerging pay-as-you-go world. Please pay your annual dues, make a generous donation to the Society, and encourage others who might support the Polanyi Society financially to do so.

Tentative Date for Next In-Person Conference

The Polanyi Society is making tentative plans for an in-person conference in the spring of 2023; the conference would most likely be held at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, and would most likely convene some time the week of 29 May through 2 June. In order for the Society to plan appropriately, the Board of Directors asks members of the Society and others who may be interested to indicate their interest in attending an in-person conference next spring by sending a message to Andrew Grosso (atgrosso@icloud.com). Further details regarding the possibility of a conference in 2023 and all other Society activities will be posted on the Society’s website (polanyisociety.org) and circulated on the Society’s discussion list.

Academic Papers, Blogs, Dissertations, and Publications

Walt Gulick gave the annual intellectual autobiography at the first post-pandemic in-person meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought in Salt Lake City in June. He called his talk “Walt’s Mutt Philosophy.” He spent a chunk of his presentation describing the virtues of Polanyi’s thought to that crowd of pragmatists and process thinkers.

Turner, Stephen. 2022, “Science without the Romance.” *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 52: 299-305.

Stephen Turner’s memoirs were recently published as Volume 38 of *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*: Turner, Stephen. 2022. *Mad Hazard: A Life in Social Theory*. *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Group, 2022.

Turner, Stephen. 2022. “The Two Parts of Sociological Objectivity.” In. *The Future of Sociology: Ideology or Objective Social Science?* Robert Leroux, Thierry Martin, and Stephen Turner (eds.). London: Routledge. pp. 195-214.

Turner, Stephen. 2022, “NSF’s Unhappy Legacy in American Social Science.” Review of *Social Science for What? Battles over Public Funding for the “Other Sciences” at the National Science Foundation* by Mark Solovey. *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* 94: 208-209.

The British Personalist Forum is sponsoring a Zoom Conference on November 19, 2022. For more information, contact Richard Allen (rt.allen@ntlworld.com) and see the notice posted here: <https://www.britishpersonalistforum.org.uk/> . Papers for presentation are solicited and need to be submitted by October 15 to secretary.britishpersonlist@gmail.com.

Since the last issue of TAD was posted, the latest issue (Spring and Autumn, 2021) of *Appraisal*, Vol. 12 (3 & 4), has been put online here: <https://www.britishpersonalistforum.org.uk/123--4-contents.html>. Below is the précis of articles in this issue provided by The British Personalist Forum:

There are two full papers from our Zoom conference in June 2021, by Giorgio Baruchello and Ársæll Már Arnarsson on humour, with two responses to it, and Henrieta Serban’s article on Emile Cioran, who cheerfully wrote books, first in Romanian and then in award-winning French, on despair. Then comes Richard Allen’s Discussion item on the idea that the ‘problem’ of modern philosophy is that philosophers think that philosophy has ‘problems’ . . .

Also included is Richard Allen’s review of David Walsh’s book, *The Priority of the Person: Political, Philosophical, and Historical Discoveries*.

Giorgio Baruchello and Ársæll Már Arnarsson have a book titled *Humour and Cruelty* forthcoming in November 2022 with [De Gruyter](#) . This book which draws from Michael Polanyi’s philosophy is part of a series on the philosophy of humor.