

SOCIETY OF EXPLORERS

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Vol. I. No. 3

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SPRING - 1973

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This third issue of the Society's Newsbulletin reflects the continuing and spreading interest in the thought of Michael Polanyi. The growing membership list indicates that new people continue to learn about, and show their strong interest in being a part of, this network of research and shared information.

The current issue also indicates the continuing strong interest in bibliographical information concerning Polanyi's thought.

We had fewer people sharing information on current projects since the last issue, although the Atlanta meeting indicates that there is strong interest in writing and sharing abstracts of current projects. So, write up those abstracts and send them in and they will be in the next Bulletin.

Finally, the report on the Atlanta meeting suggests a growing interest in getting together to share and discuss our common work. I would be happy to help coordinate such meetings if there is sufficient interest and some general consensus on the what, where and when of such events. Let us hear from you.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Douglas G. Adams
1634 Oxford, Apt. 302
Berkeley, California 94709

Interested in the ways Polanyi's epistemology aids inquiries into the relation of religion and the arts.

Professor John V. Apczynski
Box 12
St. Bonaventure, N.Y. 14778

Interested in Polanyi's theory of knowing and its implications for religious faith.

Professor Dale W. Cannon
524 Valley Road
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

From the perspective of epistemological and ontological concerns I am interested in Polanyi's contribution toward establishing and consolidating a post-modern intellectual sensibility toward the condition of human existence.

NEW MEMBERS, Continued

Mr. Carl P. (Phil) Mullins
2479 Le Conte #6
Berkeley, California 94709

Interested in (1) using Polanyi's epistemology to develop a post-Kantian, pluralistic theological model, (2) using the epistemology to analyze hermeneutical problems of liturgical criticism.

Professor Geoffrey Payzant
336 Sheldrake Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4P 2R8

Interested in experimental and philosophical studies of our subsidiary awareness of musical phenomenon as prompted and guided by Polanyi's writings on theory of knowledge and aesthetics.

Professor Theodore F. Peters
Department of Religion & Philosophy
Newberry College
Newberry, South Carolina 29108

Interested in the possible relationship of Polanyi to continental studies in Hermeneutics.

Dr. Michael Polanyi
22 Upland Park Road
Oxford, England

Interested in all the things everyone else is doing relative to his work, and interested in knowing what reports or contributions he might make that will be most helpful and useful to the "Society."

I. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

A. Published Works:

Adams, Douglas G., Congregational Dancing in Christian Worship, Vallejo: The Enabling Co., 1971. 126 pp.

(Relies heavily on Polanyi's thought concerning the relation of dance and religion, particularly in terms of the concept of indwelling and the relationship of the individual to works of art.)

Via, Dan Otto, The Parables

(Makes limited use of Polanyi in an attempt to treat the parables as literature. Apparently Mr. Via read only the early Polanyi work. Since this book Via's interests have apparently turned more toward French structuralism.)

Fish, Stanley E., The Self-Consuming Artefact, Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1973.

(Mr. Fish is a literary critic whose work in theory of criticism is very Polanyian in shape and tone. Fish knows of Polanyi but has only recently begun to study his works. Fish's theoretical outlook which he calls "affective stylistics" appears as a chapter in this book and in one of the 1970 volumes of "New Literary History.")

McCoy, Charles, The Responsible Campus (new release)

(Combines a Polanyian and Conventional theological perspective.)

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION - Continued

Bellah, Robert, "Christianity and Symbolic Realism," Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 9 (1970), pp. 89-96.

Gilkey, Langdon, Religion and the Scientific Future, New York: Harper and Row, 1970.

Osborn, Robert T., "Christian Faith as Personal Knowledge," Philosophy of Religion and Theology: 1972, David Griffin, (ed), Chambersburg: American Academy of Religion, 1972. pp. 127-145.

Peacocke, A. R., Science and the Christian Experience, London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Kirschenmann, F., and Legg, J.H., "Some Alternatives to a People Fixing Ministry," Religion in Life, Winter, 1972.

(Makes reference to Polanyi as a way to rethink the foundations of ministry which avoids some of the dehumanizing aspects of traditional Christian ministry.)

Payzant, Geoffrey, "Key Perception in Music," 1969

"Symmetry in Musical Motion," 1972.

(Radio broadcasts on the CBC "Ideas" program. Professor Payzant writes: "My publishing has, for some years, been done in the form of radio broadcasting from audiotape, since the type of subsidiary awareness in which I am interested must be heard and discussed simultaneously. The topic does not lend itself to letterpress treatment. I could make a dub of an abbreviated version of one of my projects and send it to you if it would be of interest. You would need reel-to-reel playback facilities and approximately two hours of spare time.")

Note: If anyone is interested in this material let us know. I could either obtain the tape from Professor Payzant and make it available on a loan basis, or transcribe it on cassette tapes (if Professor Payzant would permit such duplication) and make it available in that form.

Scott, William T., "Une nouvelle affirmation de la rationalite,"

Archives de Philosophie; (published in two parts), I. L'epistemologie de M. Polanyi, 35, 1, 7-31; II. L'ontologie de M. Polanyi, 35, 2, 245-262, 1972.

(These two essays were originally given as lectures in the CHERS workshop on Polanyi, "The Trajectory of Hope," which was held in 1970-71.)

Prosch, Harry, "Polanyi's Tacit Knowing in the 'Classic' Philosophers," accepted for publication in The Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology.

(This essay, as well as Prosch's essay on "Polanyi's Ethics" which was published in Ethics, 82, January, 1972, was also presented as part of CHERS workshop on "The Trajectory of Hope.")

Marjorie Grene, "Aristotle and Modern Biology," The Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. XXXIII #3 (July-September, 1972) pp. 395-424 (Makes extensive use of Polanyi.)

Richard DeCharms, Personal Causation, New York and London: Academic Press, 1968. (Leans rather heavily on Polanyi.)

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION - Continued

B. Unpublished Works:

Gelwick, Richard, "Theology as a Heuristic Enterprise"
"Resurrection and Ecology"
(These two essays were also first presented at the CHERS workshop. The essays deal with an exploration of the implications of Polanyi's epistemological insights for doing theology and for developing a theology of nature.)

Koch, Sigmund, "Science and Value"
"Meaning in the Humanities"
(These two essays were also presented at the CHERS workshop.)

Lochart, Theodore, "Polanyi and Slave Consciousness"
(Also presented at the CHERS workshop, this essay suggests a new way to understand the American racial dilemma from a Polanyian perspective.)

NOTE: We are currently negotiating to have all the above essays, which were presented at our workshop, published in book form. We are presently waiting for a positive response from a state university publisher.

Adams, Douglas G., "Personal Knowledge and Progress: Some Pragmatic Considerations for Students and Their Treatment of Tradition."
(Explores the political dimensions of Polanyi's epistemology, particularly as they bear on legal processes.)

"A Re-examination of Aquinas' Natural Law From the Perspective of Polanyi's Epistemology."
(An inquiry into Aquinas' thought from the poetic Polanyian stance of Elizabeth Sewell.)

Apczayski, John V., Doers of the Word: Toward a Foundational Theology Based on the Thought of Michael Polanyi. (Unpublished Dissertation)

Mullins, Carl P., "The Reader and Literature: An Essay on the Process of Perception."
(A short analysis of perception and the function of ambiguity in verbal art, using Polanyi's theory of tacit knowing.)

Milavec, Don, A Theology of Christian Revelation Based Upon Michael Polanyi's Interpretation of Scientific Discovery. (Unpublished Dissertation.)
(Chapter titles include; "Setting Out Polanyi's Heuristic Framework: A Philosophy for Both Scientific and Christian Knowing," "The Distortion of Scientific Objectivism and Its Remedy," "Revelation as the Process of Discovering God-for-us," and "The Accreditation of Continued Revelation." The final chapter includes a critique of Otto, Tillich and Pannenberg based on Polanyi.

Milczak, Paul, Faith, Motive and Community: An Interpretation of the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi. (Unpublished Dissertation). Professor Milczak is at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana.

II. MEMBER PROJECTS

Douglas Adams

Pursuing a study of irony in painting from Polanyi's perspective -- particularly the irony in Jasper Johns' works. Polanyi's thought undergirds Mr. Adams' teaching techniques, and Polanyi's works guide his own writing in ways that are unspecifiable.

Geoffrey Payzant

Doing experimental research on tonal perception in music using Polanyi's theory of knowledge and aesthetics.

III. SOCIETY MEETINGS

Report on March Atlanta Meeting

Dr. Richard Gelwick, who convened the Atlanta meeting of the Society of Explorers last March, reports that the group had an "excellent" meeting despite some difficulties they had with the Program Committee of the regional AAR. Despite competition (the AAR Presidential address!) and poor communications, twenty Polanyians showed up at the meeting. The major activity centered on a sharing of present research and interests. Geoffrey Payzant's work on music particularly excited the group.

Dick commented that:

There was tremendous enthusiasm in this group. A number of people commented that it was the best meeting of the entire weekend because we had some real exchange and gave help to each other in our own areas of concern. Two other things became apparent in our meeting. First, there is sufficient activity and research going on in Polanyi alone to justify another national conference in the near future where persons could make presentations on their work and also hear more from other persons. Second, there is sufficient work for us to begin sharing brief summaries or abstracts of our projects. We agreed that we did not yet feel that we wanted to move to a slick journal. Instead, we would prefer to keep it more informal and brief, and by doing this encourage the publication of work in the other journals that are already existing. This would also help to infiltrate and spread the work throughout the academic world.

Those seriously interested in another national conference of the type described in Dick's comment should let us know in the next month or so. On the basis of interest we can determine if, when and where such a conference should be held.

Dick also noted that a question concerning "field" or "discipline" concentration in the membership list was raised, indicating that if there was a heavy concentration in one field we might plan a conference in conjunction with a national meeting in that field and encourage members from other fields to join the group for the conference on Polanyi. The heaviest concentration is in the field of philosophy and religion.

Let me know your reactions to these concrete and feasible proposals as soon as possible!

Professor Ray Wilkin at Kent State expressed interest in a meeting in the Ohio region for those persons interested in Polanyi from this immediate area. Those interested in such a meeting should, again, let me know.

Finally, Phil Mullins, GTU, expressed strong interest in a Western region meeting. He indicates it is possible to host such a meeting in the Berkeley area. Dale Hockman (Stockton, Ca.) had expressed interest in such a meeting earlier. Anyone else out there interested? Phil Mullins reports that there is a "small Polanyi study group prospering in the theological community in Berkeley."

IV. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(As of April 30, 1973)

INCOME

Membership Dues \$ 410.61

EXPENSES

Postage, Material & Telephone \$ 54.58

Secretarial Services 73.86

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 128.44

BALANCE \$ 282.17

BE SURE TO SEND ANY QUESTIONS, IDEAS, IMAGININGS CONCERNING YOUR RESEARCH IN POLANYI WHICH YOU WANT TO RAISE OR SHARE WITH OTHERS TO US, AS WELL AS BIBLIOGRAPHICAL OR PROJECT INFORMATION.