

Tradition & Discovery

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The Polanyi Society

Preface

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This issue of *TAD* includes two major articles as well as several short articles and a review. Some of the material generated by the centennial conferences appears this time; expect other things from the conferences to appear in future issues. Not everything of interest, unfortunately, can be squeezed in. If you have not acknowledged your recently received subscription renewal notice, please do so. Annual renewals are due in September; membership information is at the end of this issue. It is regrettably necessary to harp upon the pedestrian matter of dollars and cents because the continued existence of *TAD* in this format depends upon it. Please also pay particular attention to the announcement on page 43 of three upcoming Polanyi Society meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Kansas City. Normally, there is but one meeting of The Polanyi Society at the AAR but in this centennial year three have been put together. The first (the afternoon of November 22) is a joint effort with The North American Tillich Society; it is a symposium focusing on the Polanyi-Tillich dialogue in 1962. Following in the evening is The Polanyi Society Centennial Banquet; the program will feature a three person panel discussing the "tacit victory and the unfinished agenda." This was the same topic treated by a panel (of different Society members) at the Kent State Conference in April 1991. It was that Kent State session which was the germ of the article beginning on page 5. The banquet fee should be 20 to 25 dollars. The Polanyi Society had to guarantee a minimum of 20 participants so hopefully folk will register for this event. Finally, on Saturday morning, November 23, 1990, there is the regular meeting of The Polanyi Society which has for several years been a part of the preliminary meetings of affiliated societies at the AAR. As the notice indicates, the two papers for this session can be ordered anytime before November 15, 1991.

Phil Mullins

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NEWS AND NOTES

JAMES HALL, M.D. of Dallas, Texas, a long time member of The Polanyi Society and active in the Polanyi meetings of the American Academy of Religion suffered a severe stroke on his way to the Polanyi centennial meeting at Kent State University. Due to his condition, we were unable to visit him at that time. For awhile, he was paralyzed and unable to communicate. Raymond Wilken, director of the Kent meeting arranged for Hall's paper to be read at the meeting. James Hall has requested tapes of the meeting for listening. Presently, he is still unable to talk, but he can listen and communicate by motion of his head. Send notes and letters to: James Hall, M.D., P.O. Box 7894, Inwood Station, Dallas, Texas 75209.

Raymond Wilken is working with The Polanyi Society to arrange for publishing the major addresses at the Kent State Centennial meeting. Plans are also being made for publishing of other papers as proceedings of the meeting. Some papers are still missing and needed. In the meantime, the waves of connections and of learning stimulated by the conference continue.

The Convivium Group in Great Britain and Europe are having a select centennial conference this November at Windsor Castle. William T. Scott has been invited to address the group. Because of the site, this conference had to limit its participants. There are three invited lectures, and we will be looking forward to reading them in future *Tradition and Discovery* editions.

The Convivium Group is also organizing an open and residential conference on 'A FRESH LOOK AT THE FREE SOCIETY: THE NEW EUROPE AND POST-CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY' to be held at Florence Boot Hall, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England, September 4-6, 1992. Fee inclusive of accommodation and all meals is 85 pounds.

Please send a non-returnable deposit of 15 pounds before February 28th, 1992, and the balance of 70 pounds by July 31st, 1992. Places may be available after February 28th, but they cannot be guaranteed. Checks in pounds sterling payable to

Convivium Conference Account should be sent to: Dr. R. T. Allen, 20 Ulverscroft Rd., Loughborough, Leics. LE11 3PU, England. The topic of this conference is not only timely but also central to Polanyi's philosophy. We hope there will be wide participation.

Allen Dyer and **Richard Gelwick** have been trying to arrange a Polanyi commemorative event in their region this Fall. They are now postponing this event until the last weekend in February or the first weekend in March depending upon available sites and participant schedules. If you have any interest, contact Richard Gelwick at his University of New England address.

The Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association Centennial Commemorative Conference, Budapest, Hungary

This meeting August 24-26, 1991 was a stellar event. After the richness of the Kent State Conference with so many major figures who had known Polanyi for many years and the variety of Polanyi interest displayed, it was hard to imagine that there could be another experience of similar intellectual and emotional quality. THE MICHAEL POLANYI LIBERAL PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION headquartered in Budapest (address: 1111 Muegyetemi rkp.3.) did an outstanding job of hosting and of organizing this conference, and the conference showed another major achievement in the growth of appreciation and application of Polanyi's ideas.

About eighty persons participated. The MPLPA has about 50 members, and there were participants from England, Poland, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the United States as well. The zeal of the MPLPA is impressive. Within less than two years, they have managed to obtain copies of the Chicago Polanyi archives. They had a large exhibit at the center of the library of The Technical University of Budapest which showed pictures of Polanyi and his family, a chronology of his life and works, samples of his diverse papers, and copies of articles, books, and journals about

Polanyi. The conference opened with this exhibit which was covered by television.

The conference also had a tour of the Budapest of Polanyi. We visited the Polanyi home on a busy but major corner of the business district of Budapest, just a few blocks from the Opera House and within a stone's throw of St. Stephen's Cathedral. At this site, the MPLPA has placed a large marble plaque commemorating Michael Polanyi and his family. We also met with the head of the gymnasium, the "minta" or model school, that Polanyi attended and has had 5 Nobel Laureates among its graduates. We also saw nearly next door the medical school and its laboratories where Polanyi studied.

Repeatedly throughout this conference, the awareness of the fecundity of Polanyi's thought became more real. His thought has been brought out into the main stream of Hungarian society as the new state arises from its over forty years of communist domination. Polanyi's words are eagerly being translated into his native language. Speakers around the table plumbed Polanyi's relevance to philosophy of law, to science, to the sociology of knowledge, to ethics, to pragmatism, to psychology, to medicine and to many other significant areas of contemporary thought.

The MPLPA has quickly established itself as a major leader in the exploration and development of Polanyi's post-critical thought. We anticipate their future with great admiration for the quality of what they have already done. Budapest is truly a magnificent city, and it is a place I hope many of us can go to for study.

Richard Gelwick

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *Below are selections from the program for the August 24-26, 1991 Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association Centennial Conference in Budapest; the official language for the conference was English.*]

Objectives: The Conference highlights the role of the Central European liberal tradition in the thought of Michael Polanyi and his relationship with other Central European thinkers.

Friday, August 23, 1991: Exhibition of works of Michael Polanyi in the hall of the Central Library of the Technical University of

Budapest. The exhibition was inaugurated by Erzsebet Vezer, historian of literature.

Saturday, August 24, 1991:

Opening Session Welcome from Dr. Imre Hronszky, President of the Conference and Dr. Eva Gabor, President of MPLPA.

Evening Session: Morality and Theology in Michael Polanyi's Thought

Richard Gelwick, USA: "Michael Polanyi and the Philosophy of Medicine"

Terence Kennedy, Italy/USA: "The Impact of Post Critical Philosophy on Science and Theology"

Ahmet Inam, Turkey: "Some Ethical Implications of M. Polanyi's Conception of Science"

Sunday, August 25, 1991

Morning Session Epistemology and Language in Michael Polanyi's Thought

Klaus Allerbeck, Germany: "On the Logic of Personal Knowledge"

Marcel Niquet, Germany: "Wittgensteinian Language Games and Michael Polanyi's Conception of Linguistic Knowledge"

Endre Kiss, Hungary: "Sociology of Knowledge in Michael Polanyi's Thought"

Afternoon Session: History and Law in Polanyi's Thought

Richard Allen, England: "The Limits of Contract"

Lee Congdon, USA: "The Origins of Polanyi's Neo Liberalism"

Endre Nagy, Hungary: "Polanyi and the Law"

Monday August 26, 1991:

Morning Session: History and Law in Polanyi's Thought

Alexander Barzel, Israel: "Neo Liberalism and Socialism"

G. M. Tamas, Hungary: "Austrian Conservatives and Hungarian Liberals"

Eva Gabor, Hungary: "Polanyi in The Moot"

Afternoon Session: Epistemology and Philosophy of Science in Polanyi's Thought

Josef Misiek, Poland: "Polanyi and Kuhn"

Gabriella Ujlaki, Hungary: "The Tacit and the Personal"

Marek Suwara, Poland: "A Polanyian Approach to the Problem of Discovery"

Imre Orthmayr, Hungary: "In Defence of Rationalism"

Closing Session: Meeting of representatives of the British, American and Hungarian Polanyi societies.