

# Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

Incorporating

## Convivium

*The United Kingdom Review of Post-critical Thought*

Volume XIX

Number 2

1993

---

### In This Issue

Preface .....	2
News & Notes .....	3
Indeterminacy and the Construction of Personal Knowledge .....	5
Spenser A. McWilliams	
Submissions for Publication .....	12
Polanyi's Progress: Transcendence, Universality and Teleology .....	13
Phil Rolnick	
Contributors .....	32
Membership Information .....	33

# The Polanyi Society

# Preface

## General Coordinator

Richard Gelwick  
University of New England  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
(207)283-0171

## General Editor-Tradition & Discovery

Phil Mullins  
Missouri Western State College  
St. Joseph, MO 64507

## Book Review Editor

Walter Gulick  
Eastern Montana College  
Billings, MT

## Art Studies

Doug Adams  
PSR/Grad. Theol. Union  
Berkeley, CA

## Communication/Rhetorical Studies

Sam Watson  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

## Education Studies

Raymond Wilken  
Kent State University

## Medical and Psychiatric Studies

Allen R. Dyer  
Quillen College of Medicine  
East Tennessee State University

## Philosophical Studies

Martha Crunkelton  
Bates College

## Religious Studies

David Rutledge  
Furman University

## Member At Large

Harry Prosch  
Skidmore College

## UK Editorial Committee

Joan Crewdson  
12 Cunliffe Close  
Oxford, OX2 7BL

Robin Hodgkin  
39 Holyoake Road  
Oxford, OX3 8AF

Drusilla Scott  
Ashe House, Aide Lane  
Aldeburgh, Suffolk

## UK Coordinator

John Puddefoot  
Benson House, Willowbrook  
Eton  
Windsor, Berks SL4 6HL

© 1993 by the Polanyi Society  
ISSN 1057-1027

This issue includes an interesting article by Spencer McWilliams, a psychologist, who draws out parallels between Polanyi and George Kelly's Personal Construct Psychology. It also has an article by Phil Rolnick which explores Polanyi's assumptions about progress. The essay is an extensively revised and expanded version of a paper given in 1991 at the American Academy of Religion Polanyi Society meeting; it was an effort that produced an animated discussion. At the end of Gelwick's "News and Notes," he mentions that William Poteat will be the special guest at the upcoming Polanyi Society meeting in Washington in November. In the next issue of *TAD*, there will be more about this, including an article on Poteat and his use of Polanyi's thought. Poteat's new book, *A Philosophical Daybook* (and his old book, *Polyanian Meditations*), is good preparatory reading for the Washington meeting.

## Electronic Polanyi: INTERNET List Access

Through the good work of Polanyi Society member John Apczynski and the folks at Saint Bonaventure University, The Polanyi Society now has an electronic "discussion list." In my "Preface" to *TAD* 18:3 and *TAD* 19:1, there were a few comments about John's efforts and the eventual uses of an electronic address which interested persons across the world can tap into. A "discussion list" is obviously a place where people can exchange ideas; hopefully, it will serve both those in The Polanyi Society as well as persons who are not yet thoroughly familiar with Polanyi's writing. Materials, such as the papers which are written each year for Polanyi Society meetings, can be made available electronically. This will save meager Society funds. Eventually, perhaps some *TAD* materials can be electronically archived. Andy Sanders in Holland will be using the "discussion list" to manage a bibliography project on Polanyi; the next issue of *TAD* should provide some details about this immediately forthcoming electronic endeavor.

continued on page 32

*Tradition and Discovery* is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religion One: Periodicals*. Book reviews are indexed in *Index to Book Reviews in Religion*.

---

---

## NEWS AND NOTES

---

---

JOHN PUDDEFOOT, Head of the Mathematics Department at Eton and Coordinator of the CONVIVIUM Group in the United Kingdom and on the Continent is one of the featured leaders of a conference on “Science and Theology: Questions at the Interface” to be held at Dunedin, New Zealand, August 15-21, 1993. Other speakers are Norma Emerton, DANIEL HARDY (Director of the Center for Theological Inquiry at Princeton and speaker at several Polanyi centennial meetings), John Polkingorne, and Carver T. Yu.

POLANYI AND EDUCATION. Last year The Nation asked educators, public school activists, scholars and writers to tell them about a book on education, written in the twentieth century, that they would propose as a tool in the struggle to uphold the idea of democratic schooling today. The editors of The Nation are concerned about the political right’s attack on the U.S. public school as a history of “failed experiments.” One of the persons asked was Howard Earl Gardner, a psychologist, professor in the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Gardener is the author of six very interesting books: The Shattered Mind (1975), Art, Mind, Brain (1982), Frames of Mind (1983), The Mind’s New Science (1985), To Open Minds (1989), and The Unschooled Mind (1991). He has also been the director of a major educational research program known as “Project Zero.” Gardner’s choice of one book written in this century that would serve to aid the preservation and development of free public education was Personal Knowledge. In the brief space that he was allowed, Gardner wrote for the September 21, 1992 issue:

I’d like to use this opportunity to call attention to a deep meditation on the nature of teaching and learning - Michael

Polanyi’s Personal Knowledge (University of Chicago). A scientist by training, Polanyi contends that the most crucial forms of understanding can never be achieved simply by reading or listening to lectures in a schoolroom. It is crucial that learners, of whatever age and persuasion, participate in a community in which experts use their knowledge in meaningful ways.

Much, perhaps most, of what a scholar or scientist or sculptor or surgeon knows or does can never be captured in words; it must be absorbed by an extended apprenticeship in the presence of that expert. Moreover, learners can only become part of such a community if they themselves come to have a personal stake in that knowledge, a passion for it, a sensitivity to its uses and its abuses.

Reading Polanyi will not tell you how to prepare a lesson for Monday morning or how to lead a protest against an action of your school board. But Personal Knowledge will remind you of what education can be like and how we must radically reconfigure our institutions if we are to have a citizenry that wishes to understand, that can create a new knowledge and that cares about community.

Howard Gardner’s article led me to search the computer online files of ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) for Polanyi which turned up the following list that includes some members (NAMES IN CAPITALS) of our Society. The list for 1982-93, reported the following:

ROBERT P. INKSTER, "Should We Outgrow Personal Writing? Polanyi and Perry on Reality, Truth, and Intellectual Development." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 19-21, 1992. Available from Eric Document Reproduction Service, #ED345247.

DENNIS CATO, et al, "Harvey Siegel's Transcendental Rationality: A Polanyian Perspective." Educational Theory, 38, no. 2, Spring 1988, pp. 255-74.

Mary Jo Sibbald, "Enriching the Tacit Structure: Art and Subsidiary Awareness." Design for Arts in Education, 89, no. 5, pp. 28-32, May-June, 1988.

Deborah J. Trumbull, "Practitioner Knowledge: An Examination of the Artistry in Teaching," Journal of Educational Thought, 20, no. 3, December, 1986, pp. 113-124.

Charles Bruckerhoff, "Teaching and Intentionality: How Models of Teaching May Be Informed By Purpose." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, D.C., April 20-24, 1987. Eric Document Reproduction Services, #ED280811.

Wayne D. Bowman, "Polanyi and Instructional Methods in Music." Journal of Aesthetic Education, 16, no. 2, Summer, 1982, pp. 75-86.

Nancy Ainsworth, "Oral Narratives of Bilingual Mexican-American Adults Enrolled in Adult Basic Education. Final Report." 1981. Eric Document Reproduction Services, #ED228852.

Aviva Freedman (ed.), "Reinventing the Rhetorical Tradition." 1980. National Council of Teachers of English, 1111 Kenyon Rd., Urbana, Illinois 6180, Stock #39876.

Finally, a note and journal copy from WALTER THORSON lets us know that our distinguished member, THOMAS F. TORRANCE, published in the 1992, Fall issue of Touchstone: A Journal of Ecumenical Orthodoxy an article supporting the ordination of women. The article has stimulated a strong response in the Winter issue.

Remember to include William Poteat's works in your summer reading. We will have a special opportunity to discuss with him at the November meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Washington, D.C.

Richard Gelwick, General Coordinator