

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

This is an issue of *TAD* which can be thought of as having somewhat of a practical bent. Aaron Milavec's essay, "Religious Pedagogy From Tender to Twilight Years" was a 1996 paper which provoked a lively discussion at the Polanyi Society meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Milavec contends that Polanyi's writing reflects that he did not very adequately understand how religion, and particularly Christianity, functioned in a social and cultural context. In Milavec's view, however, the seeds of a much richer account of the religious enterprise are available if one takes seriously Polanyi's discussion of the transmission and transformation of scientific traditions and applies these to religious communities. Milavec offers seven theses which he regards as a Polyanian re-visioning of religious pedagogy.

Paul Lewis takes a look at the Human Genome Initiative and some of the discussion about the ambiguous potential of the project in his article "Polyanian Reflections on Embodiment, the Human Genome Initiative and Theological Anthropology." He suggests that richer philosophical and theological notions of the body could provide a new kind of depth to Genome discussions. Lewis tries to open a cross-disciplinary dialog showing both how the Initiative raises questions for theologians, but also how philosophical and theological discussions provide good questions for the project. He draws into his reflections on embodiment some ideas from Polanyi and feminist thought, but also introduces discussions of theological anthropology and the body put forward by several theologians.

You will find in this issue notes about several new Polanyi-related publications as well as brief comments on some Polanyi Society members. On page four, there is the call for paper proposals for the November 1997 Polanyi Society meeting which will occur this year in San Francisco; there will be more about this meeting in future issues.

There are five reviews this time around. Two reviewed books focus on art and religion and are written by a scholar who makes much use of Polanyi, Doug Adams. Drusilla Scott's out of print primer on Polanyi's thought, *Everyman Revived*, has recently been reissued by Eerdman and is reviewed here. There is a review also of the late Ted Moss' final book which attempts to expand Polanyi's ideas about tacit knowing to provide a fuller understanding of consciousness. Finally, Walter Gulick provides a review of Lee Congdon's *Exile and Social Thought: Hungarian Intellectuals in Germany and Austria, 1919-1933* which sheds light on the social milieu out of which Michael Polanyi's thought grew.

Phil Mullins

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

The October 1996, second issue of the new journal *Appraisal* (ISSN 1358-3336), edited by **R. T. Allen**, has now been published. This issue is focused upon a reappraisal of the thought of John Macmurray. Included, however, is **Julian Ward's** review of **R. T. Allen's** *Transcendence and Immanence in the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi and Christian Theism* as well as **R. T. Allen's** own working paper "Some Notes on Polanyi's Economics." *Appraisal* is available at an annual individual subscription rate of £9 per year. Checks should be sent to R. T. Allen, 20 Ulverscroft Road, Loughborough, LE11 3PU, England. Allen can also be reached by fax (01509 215438) and e-mail (101625.3010@compuserve.com).

A new English issue (Vol. 5, No. 1/1996) of *Polanyiana: The Periodical of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association* has recently been published in Budapest. It includes the following: **R. T. Allen**, "Beyond Liberalism"; **Márta Fehér**, "Science and Liberalism"; **Richard Gelwick**, "The Calling of Being Human"; **Endre J. Nagy**, "After Brotherhood's Golden Age: Karl and Michael Polanyi"; Paul Nagy, "Philosophy in a Different Voice: Michael Polanyi on Liberty and Liberalism"; **Éva Gábor**, "A Középeurópai Liberális Filozófia Tradíciója (with Summary in English)". For information on subscription, fax **Éva Gábor**, President of MPLPA, at (36-1) 463-1042.

A conference on "Fundamental Beliefs and Presuppositions" will be held March 15, 1997 at Regents Park Theological College. Included are the following four papers on Polanyi's thought: **R. J. Brownhill**, "Polanyi and Interpretative Frameworks"; **Martin Moleski**, "Polanyi's Vision of the Moral Foundations of Scientific Revolutions"; **John Preston**, "Polanyi and Feyerabend" and **Julian Ward**, "Polanyi's Ontological Hierarchy Interested parties should write to **R. T. Allen** (see above) for additional information.

James Stodder organized a panel discussion on Karl

Polanyi at the American Economic Association convention in New Orleans on January 4, 1997; it was co-sponsored by the Association for Comparative Economic Studies and the Association for Social Economics. Although the topic was not on the formal agenda, panelists included some scholars interested in the relationship between Michael and Karl Polanyi.

Edward (Ted) Moss, who was affiliated with the former UK Polanyi group Convivium died April 1, 1995. Moss was a third generation diplomat and civil servant who ended his career as Under-Secretary to the University Grants Committee. After he retired, he took a Ph. D. in psychology at the University of Surrey and founded, with his wife, the Emmaus Counseling Service. Moss wrote or edited several volumes late in his life: **Fire from a Flint** (a 1986 anthology of the work of William Law, jointly edited), **Seeing Man Whole** (1989--reviewed in *TAD* 17:1 & 2: 51-54), **Growing into Freedom** (1993), and **The Grammar of Consciousness** (1995), his final work (which makes the most extensive use of Polanyi), reviewed in this issue.

The 20th World Congress of Philosophy will be held August 10-16, 1998, Boston, Massachusetts; the theme is: *Paideia: Philosophy Educating Humanity*. There is an opportunity for the Polanyi Society to hold a meeting in conjunction with the other meetings. Further, there is a call for papers in all of the general philosophical categories. If you are interested in this meeting, please contact: Richard Gelwick (e-mail: RGelwick@MAILBOX.UNE.EDU or Medical College, University of New England, Biddeford, ME 04005). The Society reservation must be in by August, 1997, and contributed papers by September, 1997.

Thanks to **David Rutledge** who ends his term as Convener of the annual Polanyi Society meeting at the American Academy of Religion; thanks to **Marty Moleski, S.J.** who begins his term as the new organizer of this gathering.

Polanyi Society Meeting Call for Papers

The Polanyi Society will host two sessions in its annual gathering prior to the November, 1997 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco.

On Friday, November 21, we will meet to honor Charles S. McCoy, Professor Emeritus at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. For thirty years, McCoy introduced generations of seminary and graduate students to the ideas of Michael Polanyi. A panel is being assembled to discuss both McCoy's interpretation of Polanyi and McCoy's contributions to theology, ethics and other areas. To accommodate those with late flights, this session will likely be held from 9 to 11 p.m. at the AAR/SBL host hotel. An earlier evening informal dinner gathering will be arranged for those interested and available. Additional information on Friday evening sessions will be in a future *TAD*.

We have not narrowed the focus for the session on Saturday, November 22. In New Orleans, people expressed an interest in discussing how to teach Polanyi and how to teach in a Polanyian style; this topic could be addressed, in part, by papers in a session in the AAR Academic Study and Teaching of Religion meeting section (see the AAR Call for Papers). Ron Hall's 1996 presentation on the "Primacy of the Explicit" led to questions about other contradictions, inconsistencies, lacunae or incongruities in Polanyi's texts. Others suggested that it would be of interest to look at practical applications of Polanyi in business and society. Lastly, there is the perennial topic of "Polanyi and...": Habermas, Whitehead, etc. We're open to proposals with further suggestions or refinements in these topics.

Many thanks to David Rutledge for his years of service as our coordinator. The welfare of the Polanyi Society depends upon your tacit awareness of what matters most and your personal commitment to write something excellent for us to consider in San Francisco. Please send comments and proposals to the address below; see you in San Francisco!

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