

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

Some issues of *TAD* include primarily articles with theological interests while others include more philosophically oriented essays; some issues are neither predominantly theological nor philosophical, but are much more eclectic, with articles touching on subjects such as literary and political theory. The rich pluralism of contemporary scholarship supported by Polanyi's thought is certainly a reflection of the diversity of Polanyi's own interests. Although it sometimes causes problems in proudly disciplinary enclaves, I believe it is important to continue to represent in *TAD* the range of scholarly interests inspired by Polanyi.

This issue includes material that is primarily theological in orientation. It has a double focus. First, there are three pieces which treat the Christian theologian and moral philosopher H. Richard Niebuhr, a figure, in North American Polanyi circles, frequently linked to Polanyi. Polanyi Society member R. Melvin Keiser has written an interesting second book on Niebuhr which led me to solicit a review essay from Charles S. McCoy, also a Niebuhr student and scholar, a Polyanian, and a figure perhaps more than any other who has brought together Niebuhrian and Polyanian themes. Keiser kindly agreed to respond ("McCoy on Keiser's Niebuhr" to McCoy's review essay ("Keiser's Post-Critical Niebuhr"). My own essay ("Historical and Textual Notes on H. Richard Niebuhr and Michael Polanyi") really is just a tuned up version of a set of notes I began gathering five years ago as I tried to determine the historical connection between Polanyi and Niebuhr and to trace the references to Polanyi made in Niebuhr's writing.

The second focus is not a new topic but it has been newly discussed in Colin Weightman's recent book, *Theology in a Polyanian Universe: The Theology of Thomas Torrance*. What Weightman does is analyze both Polanyi's and Torrance's writing about religion. Since John Apczynski was one of the original essayists in the 1982 special *Zygon* issue on Polanyi and religion and has, as well, written about Harry Prosch's interpretation of Polanyi on religion, I asked John to do a review essay on Weightman's book ("Torrance on Polanyi and Polanyi on God: Comments on Weightman's Criticisms"). Weightman kindly agreed to respond ("Polanyi and Mathematics, Torrance and Philosophy of Science") to John's incisive and insightful essay. What we have in these

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*.

companion pieces is another stimulating round of the discussion going on for the past fifteen or so years about how to read Polanyi's understanding of religion and religious knowledge.

Please note that you have a subscription renewal notice inserted as a flyer in this issue. The Polanyi Society does have a few expenses and remains solvent only if members pay our modest dues. The subscription cycle always commences in the Fall. Any questions about dues should be directed to me rather than Richard Gelwick since I now have the records.

The Polanyi Society now has a World Wide Web page described below with much useful information. I hope that many people take a look at this fledgling WWW effort and provide feedback to me (mullins@griffon.mwsc.edu) about how to expand and improve the site. Clearly, it is increasingly important to provide electronic resources on Polanyi and Polyanian scholarship.

The annual Polanyi Society Fall meetings are coming up November 21 and 22, 1997, in San Francisco. For those who can get to San Francisco early, there will be a 7:00 p.m. dinner on November 21 honoring Charles S. McCoy, a figure who, like William Poteat (honored by the Polanyi Society in its 1993 meeting) has introduced generations of students to Polanyi's writings. Following the banquet, there will be a late Friday night (9 p.m.-11 p.m.) session on the thought of McCoy. The panel will include four former McCoy students. Marty Moleski has also put together a good Saturday morning session with two additional papers. See the program description (p. 4), *News and Notes* (p. 5) and the enclosed flyer for details about these meetings. Please pay careful attention to the details about banquet reservations and how to acquire pre-circulated papers (there are some changes this year).

Phil Mullins

Polanyi Society WWW Materials

The Polanyi Society now has a home page on the World Wide Web located at the following URL: <http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi/>. Like everything else on WWW, this site is "under construction." Parts of the existing structure will be expanded and reorganized in the future. Bibliographic resources will, for example, eventually be included here. Suggestions and criticisms are invited and should be sent to Phil Mullins at the e-mail address listed at the site. The following topics are the basic framework for the home page:

- ◆◆ Polanyi Society Membership, Meetings, and Electronic Discussion List
- ◆◆ *Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical*
 - Publication Information
 - History of Polanyi Society Publications. This includes a listing of issues by date and volume. For recent issues, tables of contents are included.
 - Author Index for 1990-1997
 - Locating Early Publications
- ◆◆ Other Journals with Special Interest in the Thought of Michael Polanyi
- ◆◆ Guide To The Papers Of Michael Polanyi
- ◆◆ Photographs of Michael Polanyi

Upcoming Polanyi Society Meeting

The Polanyi Society will have three sessions on November 21 and 22, 1997 at its meeting held in conjunction with this year's American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature annual meeting. The two regular sessions will be in the San Francisco Hilton (333 O'Farrell St.). A special banquet honoring Charles S. McCoy will precede the first regular session and will be held in the Edward Hopper Room of the nearby Maxwell Hotel (386 Geary St.).

As in past years, papers in regular sessions will not be read; presentations will be limited, with the focus on discussion. Papers for Sessions II and III will be available for review no later than early November. You may have papers mailed to you for a nominal charge (\$7). Several of those who regularly attend Polanyi Society meetings rely upon the coordinator to mail papers without a request; this practice has, however, become a messy one and will be discontinued. Contact Marty Moleski for copies of papers: moleski@canisisu.edu, fax 716-886-6506, telephone: (716) 888-2383, U.S. Mail: 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14208. **Papers will be posted on the Polanyi Society WWW site (<http://www.mwsc.edu/~polanyi>); they can be printed directly from the site at no cost.** They should be available there by early November, if not before.

Session I--Friday, November 21, 1997 7:00-8:15 p.m. Edward Hopper Room, Maxwell Hotel (386 Geary St.)

Banquet Honoring Charles S. McCoy

Richard Gelwick: Master of Ceremonies

(See further information on page 5 and inserted reservation flyer)

Session II--Friday, November 21, 1997, 9:00-11:00 p.m. in Continental 1, SF Hilton (333 O'Farrell St)

Special Topic: Charles S. McCoy's Post Critical Theology

Panelists: **Phil Mullins, Richard Gelwick, Phil Rolnick, Doug Adams**

Respondent: **Charles S. McCoy**

Session III--Saturday, November 22, 1997, 9:00-11:30 a.m. in Union Square 11, SF Hilton

Lous H. Swartz, "Implicit Knowledge (Tacit Knowing), Connoisseurship, and the Common Law Tradition"

Respondent: **Ira Peak**

Andy F. Sanders, "Dogmatism, Fallibilism and Truth"

Respondent: **Dale Cannon**

NEWS AND NOTES

Banquet Honoring Charles S. McCoy

For over thirty years, Charles S. McCoy introduced generations of students to the thought of Michael Polanyi at Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. McCoy's own writing in Christian theology and ethics incorporates and develops some major Polanyian themes. The 1997 Polanyi Society meeting honors McCoy with both a banquet and a session featuring a panel of former students discussing his work (see the description of Session II on page 4). Members of the Polanyi Society, their guests and others who know McCoy are invited to attend the banquet at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 21, 1997 in the Edward Hopper Room of the Maxwell Hotel (386 Geary St.) which is about a block from the AAR/SBL host hotel, the San Francisco Hilton. If you can come, bring a story about Charles McCoy.

Reservations with accompanying payment must be sent to Phil Mullins by November 5, 1997. Dinners, inclusive of tax and gratuity are \$30. Beverages will be available at the bar. **Menu choices and instructions for check or credit payment are enclosed on a flyer.**

Hotel reservations for anyone attending the Polanyi Society banquet honoring Charles S. McCoy (and other AAR/SBL meetings) are available at the Maxwell Hotel (386 Geary). The Maxwell is a recently renovated, smaller hotel near other AAR/SBL hotels in the Union Square area. The rate for a room with two beds is \$99.00/night (an additional roll-a-way is \$10.00/night). This is the special AAR/SBL rate. If you want to stay at the Maxwell, reserve directly with them (rather than through the AAR housing procedure); advise the hotel that your stay is in conjunction with the Polanyi Society banquet. For reservations, call toll free 888-734-6299.

There will be a weekend conference, sponsored by *Appraisal*, titled "Michael Polanyi Today" on April 17th and 18th of 1998 at Hallam Hall, University of Sheffield, UK. Bed and breakfast accommodations are available. *Pro rata* terms are available for those who cannot attend every session and for non-residents. Papers, which do not have to be narrowly focused on Polanyi, are invited. Forward proposals and inquiries to Richard Allen, Editor, *Appraisal*, 20 Ulverscroft Rd., Loughborough, Leich. LE11 3PU, England or write Allen at his e-mail address (Richard_Allen_21@compuserve.com).

Elizabeth Newman recently published "Theology and Science Without Dualism" in the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences *Bulletin* (17:1 (Winter 1997): 15-23); her essay makes use of Polanyi and Poteat and grew out of a paper presented to the "Theology and Science Group" at the 1996 Annual Meeting of the AAR/SBL.

David Rutledge received an award for a course titled "Nature in Scientific and Religious Perspective" that he developed for Furman and submitted to the Templeton Foundation annual competition. David has participated in some recent workshops on teaching science and religion issues sponsored by the Templeton Foundation; he reports that these have been very insightful. If you would like additional information about the Templeton Foundation program, contact Rutledge at Department of Religion, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613-1474 (fax: 803-294-3001, e-mail: rutledge_david@furman.edu).