

# Tradition & Discovery

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## *SPECIAL ISSUE*

### CHARLES S. MCCOY:

## POST-CRITICAL CHRISTIAN FEDERALIST

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# The Polanyi Society

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## Preface

A few years ago, about the time that William H. Poteat retired, the Polanyi Society honored him with a special meeting focusing on his thought; this was followed by a *TAD* issue (21:1), guest edited by Jim Stines, in which former students and colleagues wrote essays about Poteat's work. I am particularly pleased to have had the opportunity to put together a similar special meeting and this *TAD* issue honoring Charles S. McCoy, who retired in 1994 after teaching 35 years at Pacific School of Religion/Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. At the Polanyi Society meeting in November of 1997, there was a banquet for McCoy attended by about 30 friends, family and Polanyi Society members. Following the banquet, there was a session with papers analyzing McCoy's creative scholarship; these and McCoy's brief response are the material in this issue.

McCoy has for many years been a leader in the Polanyi Society. He frequently played an active role at Polanyi Society annual meetings, but also worked on some special projects; he gave one of the major addresses at the Kent State Polanyi Centennial conference in 1991 and has written several things for *TAD*. McCoy discovered Polanyi a year or so before the publication of *Personal Knowledge*; he met Polanyi in Berkeley in the early sixties and later visited him twice in Oxford. Since the late fifties, he has innovatively drawn upon Polanyi's thought, blending it carefully with other philosophical and theological resources to produce his own post-critical, Christian federalist perspective.

Like Poteat, McCoy introduced many students to the thought of Polanyi. From the early sixties, he regularly taught a graduate seminar on Polanyi--one which Polanyi himself actually attended at one point when he was in the Bay Area; McCoy also directed or was a reader for many dissertations and theses in which Polanyi's thought was central. Richard Gelwick, Phil Rolnick, and I, authors of three of the essays included here, were students, in different decades, introduced to Polanyi by McCoy. Gelwick arrived in Berkeley in the early sixties; he wrote the first theological dissertation on Polanyi and produced the first bibliography of Polanyi's non scientific writing. I studied with McCoy in the seventies, during the period in which McCoy founded the Center for Ethics and Social Policy. Rolnick worked with McCoy in the eighties but did his doctoral work at Duke with another Polanyi scholar, Thomas Langford.. The introduction to Polanyi of the fourth contributor here, Doug Adams, came as an undergraduate at Duke, although he too later studied with McCoy at PSR/GTU and eventually became a colleague teaching at PSR/GTU with McCoy for almost twenty years.

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*.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

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Argumentum Kiado, a Budapest press, published translations, in 1997, into Hungarian of three key Polanyi texts: Andras Beck translated *Science, Faith and Society* and *The Tacit Dimension*. Dezsö Banki translated *The Study of Man*. The three works are included in one volume under the title *Tudomány És Ember*.

The last several issues of *TAD* have invited proposals for the Polanyi session of the upcoming World Congress of Philosophy in Boston in August. Here is the program for the session, titled "Polanyi's Tacit Knowing," on August 14, 2:00-5:30 p.m.

**Phil Mullins**, Missouri Western State College, "Peirce's Abduction and Polanyi's Integration"

**Walter Gulick**, Montana State University, "Exploring Polanyi's Theory of Emergence: How Does Ontology Relate to Causality, Temporality, Integration and Meaning?"

**Richard Gelwick**, University of New England, "Polanyi's 'Society of Explorers' and Whitehead's 'Aims of Education,' the Quest for Integration"

**Éva Gábor**, Technical University of Budapest, "Polanyi and the Traditions of Liberal Philosophy in Central Europe"

An *Appraisal*-sponsored Polanyi Conference at Sheffield, UK occurred in April of 1998; revised versions of the papers will be published in the next 2 issues of *Appraisal*. The next conference will be on Friday, April 9th and Saturday April 10th, 1999, at the University of Surrey, Guildford. Fee, with room, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, plus papers in advance, will be about L40 Sterling. Papers are invited, especially proposals primarily interested in the further application of Polanyi's ideas. Not all papers need be directly related to Polanyi. Please send

proposals and enquiries to R.T. Allen, 20 Ulverscroft Rd., Loughborough, Leich. LE113PU, England or e-mail (Richard\_Allen\_21@compuserve.com).

**Lee Congdon** published "Possessed: Imre Lakatos' Road to 1956" in *Contemporary European History*, VI, 3 (1997), 279-94.

**Elizabeth Newman's** article "Theology and Science Without Dualism" appeared in *The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 17, 1 (Winter 1997), 15-23.

**Dick Schmitt** posed an interesting query a few months ago for the Polanyi electronic discussion list: Following the title page of *Personal Knowledge*, there is a dedication to Sir Thomas and Lady Taylor. Who were the Taylors and why was *Personal Knowledge* dedicated to them? Since nobody reading the list discussions seemed to know the answer to this question, Schmitt did some library sleuthing and discovered two Taylors who Polanyi might have known. One was Sir Thomas Werton Johns Taylor (1895-1953), a chemist who was knighted in 1952. The other candidate, Sir Thomas Murray Taylor (1897-1962), is, however, almost certainly the Taylor to whom Polanyi's book is dedicated. Thomas Murray Taylor, who was knighted in 1954, was a lawyer, Scottish politician, and, at the time of Polanyi's Gifford Lectures, was the Principal of the University of Aberdeen. Taylor and his wife would thus have been Polanyi's host and hostess. In addition, this Sir Thomas followed Polanyi (*Science, Faith and Society*, 1946) in the Riddell Lectureship at the University of Durham (*The Discipline of Virtue*, 1954).

Although there have been three issues of *TAD* per year for several years, this number is not set by policy. It is conceivable that some years, there might be four issues and there have been years in which there were two. To eliminate confusion--and especially to please serials librarians--*TAD* will now carry a cover notice "completes volume X" in the final issue of a volume.



**Charles S. McCoy**