

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

Volume XXVI

Number 2

1999--2000

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The Polanyi Society

Preface

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This issue has a report on the November 1999 Boston meeting of the Polanyi Society (p. 4) as well as a call for papers for the meeting upcoming in the Fall of 2000 (p. 5). Please submit paper proposals by the April 15, 2000 deadline listed in the notice. Papers will be put on the Polanyi Society web site late next fall for anyone interested to download. The upcoming meeting will be in Nashville, Tennessee. As has been the case for many years, the Polanyi Society gathering is classified as an "additional meeting" of a "cooperating society" that is granted meeting space in conjunction with the large annual meeting (approximately 7000 people) of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. Polanyi Society sessions will likely be late in the evening of Friday, November 17, 2000, and on the morning of Saturday, November 18, 2000. To participate in the Polanyi Society annual meeting does not require that you register for or attend the AAR/SBL meetings. However, these days the AAR/SBL contracts with convention bureaus for housing; often it is difficult to secure a hotel reservation near the Polanyi Society meetings without preregistering for the AAR/SBL meetings. If you wait until late in the cycle to secure housing, you may find that the AAR/SBL has consumed all that is available. Some folk who wished to attend recent Polanyi Society meetings have run into problems so please make your plans early.

The major articles in this issue feature two newcomers to *TAD*, John Flett from New Zealand, and Walter Van Herck from Holland. Flett's essay offers some interesting comparisons between the ideas of Alasdair MacIntyre and Polanyi. Some material in the Polanyi archival material at the University of Chicago indicates that MacIntyre was acquainted with some of Polanyi's ideas in the sixties. Walter Van Herck's essay was originally a paper delivered at the World Congress of Philosophy in Boston in 1998. He explores the nature of practical religious knowledge linking Kant, Polanyi and Eckhart.

The Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.mWSC.edu/~polanyi/>) has been recently reorganized to make it more readable. Suggestions are invited.

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

Appraisal: A Journal of Constructive and Post-Critical Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies is now available in an electronic version as a pdf file. The electronic *Appraisal* can be sent world-wide as an e-mail attachment for 3 pounds per volume (4 issues, 2 years) or 15 pounds for 5 volumes. There will also be a floppy version (also .pdf) available by post: 5 pounds for UK, 8 pounds for the rest of Europe, or 10 pounds for anywhere else in the world. If you are interested in an electronic or printed version of *Appraisal*, please contact Richard Allen, Editor/*Appraisal*, 20 Ulverscroft Rd, Loughborough/Leics. LE11 3PU, England (e-mail: appraisal@rtallen.clara.co.uk web site: <http://www.rtallen.clara.co.uk/appraisal>). The next issue of *Appraisal* (March, 2000) will feature Irving Babbitt.

The most recent English edition of *Polanyiana* (Volume 8, Number 1–2) has been posted on the *Polanyiana* web site: <http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/> The following address will take you directly to the Table of Contents: <http://www.kfki.hu/chemonet/polanyi/9912/contents.html> The following are major articles included in the issue: Walter B. Gulick, “The Meaningful And The Real In Polanyian Perspective”; Andy F. Sanders, “Dogmatism, Fallibilism And Truth: A

Polanyian Puzzle”; Dale Cannon, “Polanyi’s ‘Invitation To Dogmatism’? A Response To Andy Sanders’ ‘Polanyian Puzzle’” S.R. Jha, “The Tacit-Explicit Connection: Polanyian Integrative Philosophy And A Neo-Polanyian Medical Epistemology”; Norman Sheppard, “Michael Polanyi And The Philosophy Of Science – The Viewpoint Of A Practising Scientist” (earlier in *Appraisal*). In addition to these major articles, there is Eva Gábor’s short memoriam notice for William T. Scott, a note of appreciation from Ann Herbert Scott, and the “Obituary for William T. Scott” written by Phil Mullins and Marty Moleski, SJ that was originally in TAD 25:3. For those interested in the Polanyi biography that Scott worked on for many years (and Moleski is now completing), there is the “Tentative Chapter and Section Readings” outline which Scott put together in January of 1992. This issue of *Polanyiana* also launches a new comment section of the journal. Judit Szapor earlier wrote an interesting *Polanyiana* article (vol. 6. no. 2 [Winter 1997]) focusing on Michael Polanyi’s sister that was titled “Laura Polanyi (1882-1959): Narratives of a Life” (also on the web site). In the current issue of *Polanyiana*, there are letters commenting on Szapor’s historical account from two Polanyi family members, Mrs Barbara Striker and Dr Thomas Polanyi, as well as a response from Szapor.

Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group exploring implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can subscribe; send a query to owner-polanyi@lists.sbu.edu Communications about the electronic discussion group may also be directed to John V. Apczynski, Department of Theology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778-0012 E-MAIL: apczynsk@sbu.edu PHONE: (716) 375-2298 FAX: (716) 375-2389.

Upcoming Conference: “The Nature of Nature: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Role of Naturalism in Science.” April 12 – 15, 2000. Baylor University, Waco, TX. Conference Registration: The Michael Polanyi Center, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97130, Waco, TX 76798-7130; Attn.: Conference Registration. Tel.: 254-710-4175; Email: Bruce_Gordon@baylor.edu Website for conference: <http://www.baylor.edu/~polanyi/natconf.htm>

Annual Business Meeting of the Polanyi Society

November 20, 1999

Boston, Massachusetts

In recognition of Richard Gelwick's many years of generous and distinguished service to the Polanyi Society, Walt Gulick presented him a special plaque expressing the gratitude and affection of the Polanyi Society.

1. Richard Gelwick distributed order forms for the Mars Hill Audio on Michael Polanyi's life and work.
2. We discussed the possibility of coordinating a 2001 Polanyi Conference with the newly established Polanyi Center at Baylor University. No date or topic has been set for the conference. A.J. Conyers noted that Baylor has made a strong commitment to the new Center; the Center has organized some faculty colloquia at Baylor. Marty Moleski suggested that conference organization should remain in the hands of the Polanyi Society, although we might well want to have the conference at Baylor if the available dates and costs are satisfactory.
3. Marty Moleski gave a summary of work to date on Bill Scott's biography of Michael Polanyi. The manuscript has been reduced from 293,000 words to 168,000. The book has been substantially reorganized. When all of the footnotes have been corrected, it will be sent to publishing houses for their consideration.
4. Our discussion for next year's conference seemed to affirm the value of having two sessions (Friday night and Saturday morning). Suggested topics:
 - A. Polanyi's system of values. It might be interesting to compare his axiology with that of McIntyre, Searle, Turner or Wittgenstein.
 - B. Polanyi's political philosophy. Does he provide a rational foundation for values in contrast to Rawls? Did Polanyi integrate the traditions of a free society and provide a comprehensive political theory?
 - C. Investigate the themes that might interest the founders of the Baylor Polanyi Center: design, teleology, complexity, logic of achievement and emergence, etc.

Call for Papers: Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in Fall of 2000

The Polanyi Society will host two sessions prior to the Nov. 18-21, 2000 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in Nashville, Tennessee. It is likely that the first session will be from 9 to 11 p.m. on Nov. 17, 2000 and the second session will be 9-11:30 a.m. on Nov. 18, 2000. Meeting times are assigned rather than chosen by cooperating groups such as the Polanyi Society.

We are interested in nominations for a presentation by an invited speaker for either the Friday night or Saturday morning session.

Topics suggested at our 1999 meeting in Boston included the following:

- A. Polanyi's system of values. It might be interesting to compare Polanyi's axiology with that of McIntyre, Searle, Turner or Wittgenstein
- B. Polanyi's political philosophy. Does he provide a rational foundation for values in contrast to Rawls? Does Polanyi successfully integrate the traditions of a free society and provide a comprehensive political theory?
- C. Polanyi's understanding of evolution: design, teleology, complexity, the logic of achievement and emergence.

These topics are just springboards for further reflection; we would be happy to consider other topics as well. The final decision about how to organize our next meeting depends very much on your interests. Please send comments and proposals to:

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Deadline for proposals: April 15, 2000