

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

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Preface

The November 2004 annual Polanyi Society meeting was a memorable one. The last issue of *TAD* featured papers from one of this meeting's sessions. This issue features the papers from the other session. The essays here by Dale Cannon, David Rutledge and Esther Meek are about Meek's 2003 book, *Longing to Know: The Philosophy of Knowledge for Ordinary People*. Some twenty years before the publication of this book, Esther Meek wrote a dissertation, *Contact With Reality: An Examination of Realism in the Work of Michael Polanyi*. Marjorie Grene was her mentor. This dissertation slowly but surely stirred up great interest among Polanyi scholars. There was an annual meeting session in November 1999 on "Polanyi's realism." Andy Sanders served as guest editor for an issue of *TAD* (26:3 [1999-200]) that published the revised versions of papers in this discussion. The issues, however, have not been settled and they come up in sharper form in questions about knowing God in Meek's *Longing to Know*. Both Cannon and Rutledge acknowledge what a careful Polanyi reader Esther Meek is, but they go on to raise questions about Meek's Polanyi and the problems of pluralism and the nature of post-critical thought. Meek's response to Cannon and Rutledge is certainly one that rises to the challenges put forth. In sum, these essays carefully parse important issues of Polanyi interpretation and application.

The November 2005 annual meeting (p. 5) celebrates the publication of the new Polanyi biography (*Michael Polanyi--Scientist and Philosopher*) by Moleski and Scott and also explores the Hungarian roots of Polanyi's philosophy of religion. News and Notes provides details on the biography as well as other information on deaths, publications and the digital archives.

Be sure and note--see the inserted sheet--that the Polanyi Society web page address is changing as well as my e-mail to which dues will be sent.

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 long-awaited Polanyi biography, *Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher* by William Tausig Scott and Martin X. Moleski is now available from Oxford University Press at <http://www.us.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/ReligionTheology/PhilosophyofReligion/?view=usa&ci=019517433X>.

Joan Crewdson died in late May at the nursing home in Oxford where she had been living for the last 2 years. Joan, along with Drusilla Scott and Robin Hodgkin, both of whom died 2 years ago, was one of the pioneers of interest in Polanyi in Britain. All three knew him well, and helped to form the Convivium Society in 1974. When the original committee broke up in 1979, Joan carried on, mostly by herself, editing and publishing *Convivium* until 1989, and then hosted, at her home in Oxford, the meetings of the new publications committee until that was dissolved in 1994. The October issue of *Appraisal* will include appreciations of Joan Crewdson. If you knew Joan and wish to provide a comment, send it to Richard Allen (rt.allen@ntlworld.com).

Three papers, originally written for the 2003 Polanyi Society annual meeting in Atlanta, recently appeared in an issue of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* celebrating this journal's fortieth year. Bibliographic data and the abstracts of the essays appear below:

Richard Gelwick, "Michael Polanyi's Search for Truth: Michael Polanyi's Daring Epistemology and the Hunger for Teleology," *Zygon* (Vol. 40, No. 1 (March 2005): 63-76.

Abstract: The linking of Michael Polanyi's name with a center (now changed to another name) at Baylor University that espoused intelligent-design theory calls for examination of Polanyi's teleology. This examination attempts to put Polanyi's epistemology in the perspective of his total philosophical work by looking at

the clarification of teleology in philosophy of biology and in the framework of three major features of Polanyi's thought: open and truth-oriented, purposive but open to truth, and transcendent yet intelligible. The conclusion is that Polanyi would not support intelligent-design according to the nature of his theory.

John Apczynski, "The Discovery of Meaning Through Scientific and Religious Forms of Indwelling," *Zygon* (Vol. 40, No. 1 (March 2005): 77-88.

Abstract: Because of similarities between some implications of Michael Polanyi's theory of personal knowledge and intelligent design, claims have been made that his theory provides support to the project of intelligent design. This essay contends that, when Polanyi's reflections on a teleological framework for contextualizing evolutionary biology are properly understood as a heuristic vision, his position contrasts sharply with the empirical claims made on behalf of intelligent design.

Walter B. Gulick, "Polanyi on Teleology: A Response to John Apczynski and Richard Gelwick," *Zygon* (Vol. No. 1 (March 2005): 89-96.

Abstract: Michael Polanyi criticized the neo-Darwinian synthesis on two grounds: that accidental hereditary changes bringing adaptive advantages cannot account for the rise of discontinuous new species, and that a teleological ordering principle is needed to explain evolutionary advance. I commend the previous articles by John Apczynski and Richard Gelwick and also argue, more strongly than they, that Polanyi's critique of evolutionary theory is flawed. It relies on an inappropriate notion of progress and untenable analogies from the human process of scientific discovery and the fact that in physical systems minimal potential energy is most stable. Yet within a life of commitment to transcendent values humans can directly experience purpose and meaning, and in developing this notion Polanyi makes his greatest contribu-

***Tradition and Discovery* Digital Archives**

The collection of back issues of *Tradition and Discovery* that is available electronically is growing. You can access the current and many old issues of *TAD* on-line from the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). If you go to the home page, you will find a link to the digital archives that now includes pdf versions of *TAD* issues from the present back through Volume 18, Number 1 (Fall or 1991). You can download a full issue or a particular article from the table of contents. Presently, the digital archives is password protected but eventually the Society should open access to the archives. Members who wish to use the archives can get the password by e-mailing Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu).

Submissions for Publication

Articles, meeting notices and notes likely to be of interest to persons interested in the thought of Michael Polanyi are welcomed. Review suggestions and book reviews should be sent to Walter Gulick (see addresses listed below). Manuscripts, notices and notes should be sent to Phil Mullins. Manuscripts should be double-spaced type with notes at the end; writers are encouraged to employ simple citations within the text when possible. MLA or APA style are preferred. Because the journal serves English writers across the world, we do not require anybody's "standard English." Abbreviate frequently cited book titles, particularly books by Polanyi (e.g., *Personal Knowledge* becomes *PK*). Shorter articles (10-15 pages) are preferred, although longer manuscripts (20-24 pages) will be considered. Consistency and clear writing are expected.

Manuscripts normally will be sent out for blind review. Authors are expected to provide an electronic copy as an e-mail attachment.

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Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group that explores implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can join. To join yourself, go to the following address: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi_list/join. If you have difficulty, send an e-mail to Doug Masini (masini@etsu.edu) and someone will see that you are added to the list.

2005 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting of the Polanyi Society will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 18 and 19, 2005. As in past years, our meeting technically will be an "Additional Meeting" held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature. For additional information on the AAR/SBL, go to <http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/default.asp>. The request to the AAR/SBL for space is pending, but we anticipate again this year being granted both a Friday night session running from 9:00-11:00 p.m. and a Saturday morning session running from 9:00-11:30 a.m. As soon as it is available, the location of the meeting will appear in the next TAD and will be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>).

Friday, November 18, 2005

9:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Theme: Discussion of *Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher* by William T. Scott and Martin X. Moleski

9:00 Reflections on the complex process of the book's creation with Martin Moleski, Canisius College, and others

9:45 Group discussion: What about the book most stimulated your thought or produced new insights into Polanyi's life and thought?

Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, opening commentary and moderator

Saturday, November 19, 2005

9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

9:00 Theme: The Hungarian Roots of Michael Polanyi's Heuristic Philosophy of Religion

Moderator: Paul Lewis, Mercer University

Panelists:

Richard Gelwick, Bangor Theological Seminary

Les Muray, Curry College

Andy Sanders, University of Groningen

11:00 Business Meeting

Walter Gulick, Montana State University-Billings, presiding