



## NEWS AND NOTES

### **Matthew B. Crawford to Speak at June Conference**

Matthew B. Crawford, author of *Shop Class as Soulcraft* and *The World Beyond Your Head*, will speak at one of the plenary sessions for our upcoming conference that celebrates 50 years of *The Tacit Dimension*, “Polanyi Studies: Past, Present, and Future.” Crawford makes frequent mention of Polanyi in these books and credits *TD* as one of the works that has most influenced him.

Crawford holds the Ph.D. in Political Philosophy from the University of Chicago and is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He also runs the Advanced Vehicle Fabrication Laboratory in Richmond, VA, which grew out of Shockoe Moto, his motorcycle repair shop.

Learn more about him and his work at <http://www.mathewbcrawford.com> and <http://www.reclaimed-fabrication.com/products/>

### **Norman Sheppard (1921-2015)**

Professor Norman Sheppard (1921-2015) was a benefactor of the Polanyi Society and a dedicated participant in the English Polanyiian discussion groups. He was a physical chemist who trained in spectroscopy at Cambridge in the 1940s.

After working at Trinity, he was appointed Chair of Chemical Physics at the new University of East Anglia in 1963. Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1966, he used spectroscopy to study the nature of adsorption and the associated catalytic processes made possible by adsorption.

Besides being heavily involved in research that reflected Michael Polanyi’s own work in physical chemistry, Sheppard also shared Polanyi’s concern to provide a more accurate account of how science actually works. Sheppard, a committed Christian, believed—like Polanyi—that a sound philosophy of science made room for faith.

I am personally indebted to Professor Sheppard for the four single-spaced pages of detailed corrections and suggestions that he made about the scientific content of the Polanyi biography. His generous attention to detail gave me blessed assurance that there would be no major embarrassments in the text. In personal correspondence of 24 May 1999, he provided an authoritative assessment of Polanyi’s scientific excellence: “It is true that he did not dominate one particular field in physical chemistry but, as listed in the citation to the Royal Society, he made seminal contributions to a wide number of different ones and left it to others to develop them. I know of no other physical

chemist, except Michael Faraday, who has made such wide contributions.”

— Martin X. Moleski, S.J.

### **Travel Fund Donations Still Needed**

The Travel Fund is actively soliciting donations in anticipation that there will be a significant number of requests for travel and registration support for the upcoming 8-11 June 2016 Polanyi Society-sponsored conference at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, WI. There will be a one-day workshop on Wednesday 8 June at the beginning of the conference for younger scholars and anyone interested in learning more about Polanyi’s philosophical work. Society members generously supported the program for travel and scholarships at the previous Loyola conferences in 2001, 2008, and 2012.

Those planning the Nashotah House conference hope to again promote the active involvement in the conference of graduate students and others with very limited professional travel funding. The Society has recently received pledges to match the first \$1500 of donations to the Travel Fund.

Inquiries about donations as well as questions about travel or registration support should be directed to Phil Mullins ([mullins@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mullins@missouriwestern.edu)).

Donations to the Travel Fund can be made with PayPal (<http://polanyisociety.org/paypal/donate.html>) on the Polanyi Society web site or by check made to the Polanyi Society. Please include an e-mail address on checks and PayPal

donations. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to The Polanyi Society c/o Paul Lewis, Roberts Department of Christianity, Mercer University, 1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, GA 31204. Checks should be made out to the Polanyi Society and earmarked for the Travel Fund.

### **Keep Current with Dues in Order to Keep *TAD* Coming to Your Mailbox**

With the new arrangements for *TAD*, we must be good stewards of our resources and so we will mail print copies only to those whose dues are current.

Rates remain the same as always: \$35 regular, \$25 library, and \$15 student.

A payment form and return envelope are contained in this issue. Payments received between now and Sept. 1, 2016 will, unless noted otherwise, count toward the 2016-2017 year.

Residents of the United States can also use a credit card using PayPal (<http://polanyisociety.org/register/join-renew.php>). Those living outside the U.S. must use PayPal.

### ***TAD* in the Electronic Age**

*TAD* now comes with access to e-reader versions for iPad, Kindle, and Nook. In order to download your e-reader version see the instructions on p. 74 of this issue (they can also be found on [www.polanyisociety.org](http://www.polanyisociety.org))

*TAD* is also now on Facebook. If you are Facebook user, search for *Tradition & Discovery*, like us, and invite your friends to join. If you are not a Facebook user, become one!

### Recent Work of Interest

*Walter Gulick's* article, "Relating Polanyi's Tacit Dimension to Social Epistemology: Three Recent Interpretations," has been published on Taylor and Francis's Social Epistemology web site ([tandfonline.com](http://tandfonline.com)) with the print version forthcoming. Gulick engages the work of Harry Collins, Tacit and Explicit Knowledge, Neil Gascoigne and Tim Thornton, Tacit Knowledge, and Stephen Turner, Understanding the Tacit.

*Peter M. Hopsicker's* essay, "The Importance of Imagination in Aesthetic Experience: Polanyian Thoughts on Elcombe," has been published in the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 42, No. 2 (2015):209-218. According to the abstract, Hopsicker make use of "Polanyi's distinctions among technical, scientific, and artistic problems" to argue that "sport is not art," but "contributes in its own way to human flourishing."

*Phil Mullins* taught two short-term graduate classes in the month September, 2015 in the Department of Philosophy and History of Science at Budapest University of Technology and Economics. One class was an introduction to the thought of Charles Taylor and the other was on Michael Polanyi and the Philosophy of Biology.

The Department of Philosophy and History of Science of Budapest University of Technology and Economics and the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association co-sponsored a workshop on September 4, 2015. The event focused on "Michael Polanyi's 'Unemployment

and Money' at 75" and included a partial showing of Polanyi's 1940 film. Eduardo Beira presented, "Polanyi's Film and the Program of Enlightenment." Other comments on the film, Beira's presentation, and Polanyi's work in economics were given by the art/film historian Márton Orosz, Gábor István Bíró (a graduate student working on Polanyi's economics writing), and Phil Mullins.

Now on You Tube: a lecture by *Philip Kitcher*, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, titled "Dissent: The Role of Scientists and Dissenters in Public Debates," presented at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill on February 28, 2012. His talk was part of the Michael Polanyi Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Natural Science series, a lecture series endowed in 1981. The lecture can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/PhilipKitcherLecture>.