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The Polanyi Society

Preface

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The articles you will find in this issue are an eloquent collection --they need little introduction. Most are the first fruits of the seven conferences held during the centennial year which ended on either March 11 or March 12, 1992. I equivocate about the date because, as Richard Gelwick recently informed me, the twelfth is the registered date of Michael Polanyi's birth but he actually was born on the eleventh. In News and Notes there is a bit more about the seven conferences as well as a notice about an upcoming conference in Nottingham, England in September of 1992. Elsewhere you will find also the Call for Papers for the November 1992 meeting of the Polanyi Society to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco. Since this issue is a little behind schedule, I advise anyone interested in submitting a paper proposal to phone David Rutledge.

The essays in this issue admirably represent the wide range of interests both of Polanyi and of those who have studied Polanyi's writings. Topics treated range across the spectrum of academic endeavor: Ira Peak examines how Polanyian ideas mediate between giants in legal theory; Charles McCoy discusses the "Polanyian revolution" and its implications for ethics. James Hall suggests some ways in which Polanyi's ideas fruitfully complement Jungian concepts; Joe Kroger reflects upon Polanyi and contemporary Roman Catholic thought. I am particularly pleased to include (with the help of Charles McCoy) the remarks delivered by Professor Melvin Calvin at the Berkeley centennial conference in March 1991; Professor Calvin, a Nobel Laureate, did two years of post-doctoral study with Polanyi in the mid thirties.

Phil Mullins

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NEWS AND NOTES

HARRY PROSCH suffered a stroke in Summer 91 and lost some physical mobility. Fortunately, he is still able to talk and to write while he is in the process of rehabilitation. Presently, his exercises and the effort of walking take a lot of his energy. He would enjoy hearing from all Polanyi Society members. His home address is: 9 Loughberry Rd., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, and his telephone is 518-584-1832.

The Convivium Group (United Kingdom and Europe) held a very successful centennial conference at Windsor, England in November, 1991. Speakers were Prof. Stephen Prickett of Glasgow, Prof. Brian Goodwin of the Open University, and Dr. Daniel Hardy of the Center of Theological Inquiry at Princeton.

The American Academy of Religion meetings at Kansas City, Missouri, November 22-26, 1991 had a vigorous celebration of Polanyi's centennial. On Friday afternoon, Richard Gelwick, Charles McCoy, and A. Durwood Foster presented papers on the Polanyi-Tillich dialogue of 1963. Friday evening, the Polanyi Society held a banquet and Daniel Hardy, Martha Crunkleton, and Joseph Kroger spoke of their views of "The Tacit Victory and the Unfinished Agenda." Saturday morning, Ron Hall presented "Critical and Post-Critical Objectivity" and Martin Moleski gave the invited response. Next Philip Rolnick presented "Polanyi's Progress: Transcendence, Universality, and Teleology" with a response by Diane Yeager. On Monday, Phil Mullins presented a paper "Polanyi's Participative Realism" in an AAR Roundtable.

The Polanyi Society joined with the Faith and Science Exchange of The Boston Theological Institute and held on February 28-29 at Harvard Divinity School a centennial celebration of the work of Michael Polanyi. The theme was "Science, Faith and Society." Gerald Holton, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics and Professor of the History of Science at Harvard gave the opening address on "Michael

Polanyi and the History of Science." Charles McCoy gave two presentations - "The Meaning of Michael Polanyi: Toward A Post-Critical Perspective" and one on Polanyi's way of relating science and religion through comprehensive levels of integration. Richard Gelwick presented a paper on Polanyi's development of the common ground of science and religion. Allen Dyer presented a paper with visual examples in art and architecture on "Polanyi and Post-Modernism." Joe Kroger brought the celebration a challenge with his paper "Post-Critical Philosophy of Polanyi and Lonergan and Political/Liberation Theology" which included vivid discussion of his work in El Salvador.

The centennial year has had seven celebrations, Kent State University, Budapest, Windsor, Kansas City, Cambridge and two in Berkeley. The remembrance of Polanyi's thought produced over a hundred papers. Focusing on the major collection of papers at the Kent State Conference which had nearly 80 papers, Raymond Wilken is working with Phil Mullins and Richard Gelwick to edit and prepare them for publication. The plan is to begin with the major addresses as a volume and to consider subsequent volumes. In the meantime, selected papers will be published in *TAD*.

SPECIAL NOTICE: As announced earlier this year, The Convivium Group is planning to hold a conference at Nottingham, England, September 4-6, 1992 on "A Fresh Look at the Free Society: Post-critical Philosophy and the New Europe." Two of the main speakers will be: 1) Prof. Gaspar Tamas of Budapest, a recent member of the Hungarian Parliament and head of the national Hungarian Institute of Philosophy, and 2) Dr. David J. Levy, Middlesex Polytechnic. Both will address the theme "Europe and the Truth." To be assured of a place, send a deposit of 15 pounds sterling by an international agency such as American Express. The full amount for the conference is 85

pounds sterling. The address is: Dr. R. T. Allen, 20
Ulverscroft Rd., Leics LE11 3PU, England.

Richard Gelwick,
General Coordinator

Call for Papers

The Polanyi Society is planning to hold a meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting November 21-24, 1992 in San Francisco. As in recent years, the Society has asked to be scheduled early on the opening day of the annual meeting -- Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. This time seems to be agreeable to both members of the Polanyi Society and the AAR/SBL program staff which schedules functions for cooperating groups such as ours.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this session, please submit to me by April 15, 1992, a proposal of approximately 300 words. If there are several proposals forthcoming, I will pull together a group to serve as a jury.

At present, I am planning for an hour and a quarter discussion of each of two papers, which will be distributed before the meeting. Paper titles, authors, and respondents will be listed in the AAR/SBL Program in the Additional Meetings section.

As some of you know, Phil Mullins has assumed responsibility for editing *Tradition and Discovery*, and I have taken over Phil's duties in planning the annual meeting. Let me encourage you to share with me your thoughts on how sessions of the Polanyi Society can best meet the needs of people who are interested in this work. This is not just Southern politeness -- I want to hear from you! I look forward to your paper proposals, and to seeing you in San Francisco.

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