

Tradition & Discovery

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Preface

This issue begins with a very thoughtful memorial note on Edward Shils, a figure who was both Michael Polanyi's friend and colleague. Stephen Turner does a nice job of showing how Polanyi influenced Shils' social theory as well as how Shils influenced Polanyi's ideas. Following is one of Edward Shils' final essays which was substantially completed at the time of his death in January 1995. "On the Tradition of the Intellectuals: Authority and Antinomianism According to Michael Polanyi" grew out of the wonderfully witty and illuminating material Shils prepared for his address at the Polanyi centennial at Kent State in April 1991. It is only through the efforts of Richard H. Schmitt and Christine C. Schnusenberg, two longtime Shils associates, that *TAD* has been able to see to conclusion Professor Shils' desire to publish his reflections. The care and commitment shown in preparing the final essay by these two reflects not only their own integrity but that of Edward Shils.

There is also in this issue both a short review as well as a longer review essay on Sheldon Richmond's recent book *Aesthetic Criteria: Gombrich and Philosophies of Science of Popper and Polanyi*. Barbara Baumgarten's brief reflections are complemented by Andy Sanders' point by point examination to which Richmond kindly agreed briefly to respond. Additionally, there are reviews of a 1993 collection of essays by William Poteat and Joan Crewdson's new book on Polanyi and Christian doctrine.

You will find on page 4, the annual call for papers for the Polanyi Society meeting to be held next Fall. Proposals need to be received by David Rutledge by the middle of March.

Please be aware that this issue is the second in the current subscription cycle. Dues are collected each Fall at the beginning of the academic year. If you have neglected to pay your dues, please do so immediately. Remember that several business procedures are new this subscription cycle: We are diligently attempting to shift all subscriptions, including those outside the United States, to the cycle identified above. All dues are now mailed to me (Phil Mullins) rather than Richard Gelwick, as they have been in the past. Also you now may charge membership dues with a credit card if you provide the card number, expiration date and name.

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

We are working on publishing, in a form as inexpensive as possible, the proceeding of the Kent State Centennial Conference. A January deadline has been set for submitting copies of presented papers, and we have attempted to contact all persons who did presentations. We will not have all of the papers for several reasons. Some persons, such as John Polanyi, wanted presentations to remain informal and unpublished. Others did not submit copies of their papers. Some we were never able to reach to solicit papers. Nevertheless, we do have most of the major addresses and papers. Presently, it looks like it may take two or three volumes to hold them. These materials look as if they will be useful for future scholarship on Polanyi. When these proceedings are available, Polanyi Society members will be notified.

If you have not already, you are invited to join the electronic discussion list on Polanyi which John Apczynski moderates. As a recent convert to e-mail communication, I want to add my encouragement to earlier invitations from Apczynski and Phil Mullins. It is invigorating and stimulating to be able to sit down on any day and have conversations about Polanyian matters with scholars across the world. In the past month, I noticed correspondence from scholars in Austria, New Zealand and Australia as well as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States. See the section of this issue titled "Information on Electronic Discussion Group") for directions on how to subscribe.

From the database Expanded Academic Index (1/16/96), the following article is relevant to Polanyi:

"Postmodern Ethics: Richard Rorty and Michael Polanyi". John Rothfork. *Southern Humanities Review* (Winter 1995), vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 15-34. *Abstract:* The issue with postmodernism is whether postmodernism can maintain a positive ethics with the scathing action of its methods

which destroys epistemological assertions about truth and metaphysical assertions about substantive concepts such as God or Reason. Richard Rorty was always clear about the inevitable outcome of social and moral thought. Michael Polanyi and his Aristotelian orientation have been incorporated to support the moral and political responsibility of Rorty's stand.

R. T. Allen is launching a new journal *Appraisal* early in 1996 and its first issue will include three articles as well as reviews focused on Polanyi and Polanyi influenced scholarship. Although not devoted exclusively to Polanyi, *Appraisal* plans to reprint some material from *TAD* and *Polanyiana*. Allen writes that a new book that he has edited, *Society, Economics, Philosophy: Essays by Michael Polanyi*, is scheduled for publication by Transaction Publishers (Rutgers) in Spring 1996. The volume will include 25 of Polanyi's articles not previously incorporated into his books, including two articles that are English translations by Endre Nagy of essays originally published in Hungarian. Allen has recently written a short entry on Polanyi for the new Routledge *Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* and reports that **Norman Wetherick** has written a similar entry for Routledge's *Biographical Dictionary of Psychology*.

Richard Gelwick

The Polanyi Society Call for Papers

The Polanyi Society will convene again during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in New Orleans, LA, November 23-26, 1996. Scholars interested in Michael Polanyi's work and its implications are encouraged to submit one-page paper proposals for the meeting to David Rutledge by March 15, 1996. Though all submissions are welcome, we are particularly interested in receiving proposals on the following topics: "Teaching Polanyi and Polanyian Teaching," and "Tacit Knowing and Psychology." As in past sessions, we anticipate the AAR/SBL will allow the Polanyi Society one program session on Saturday, November 23, in which two papers will be discussed. Proposals for shorter papers and/or an additional program session will, however, be considered.

Proposals should be sent to: David W. Rutledge
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We have enjoyed excellent sessions in recent years, and want to thank Polanyi Society members for their participation. We look forward to receiving your proposals for New Orleans!