

## INTRODUCTION

The present double issue of POLANYIANA contains of articles by researchers who make use of Michael Polanyi's thought. There are among the authors philosophers, theologians and psychologists. Our aim in presenting this collection of essays is twofold. First, our intention is to make available to a broader audience some of the articles which were presented on different occasions (conferences, seminars) when Michael Polanyi's work was discussed. We feel it is our task to select and publish the best of them. And our second purpose in this double issue is to give an opportunity to the interested reader to grasp the richness of the way of developing Polanyi's ideas as a basis for further thought.

Among the contributions, there are papers by philosophers of different branches of the discipline.

Walter Gulick's paper, "Polanyi's Theory of Meaning: Exposition, Elaboration, and Reconstruction," is a very detailed and scholarly reconsideration of Polanyi's thoughts on linguistic, artistic and religious meaning. It is based on his original insights concerning how to improve Polanyi's ideas in psychology, philosophy and aesthetics. Polanyi's last work, *Meaning*, written together with Harry Prosch, is taken as the major point of departure. Gulick's article offers a new approach to the topic and challenges the reader to think further about the nature of meaning and how it is constructed.

Marjorie Grene's article, "The Subjective and the Personal," is a detailed analysis of two key concepts, indicated in her title, of Polanyi's philosophy in *Personal Knowledge*. The article was one of the main presentations at the centennial conference on Michael Polanyi at Kent State University in 1991. The author, an eminent philosopher who was assistant to Michael Polanyi and his closest friend and colleague at the time of writing *Personal Knowledge*, offered the manuscript to our Association to be published in POLANYIANA. We appreciate her kindness very much, and we are honored by being able to publish it first.

Aaron Milavec's article, "If I Join Forces with Mr. Kuhn," represents another main branch of philosophy which is very much impacted by Polanyi's thought, namely philosophy of science. The article was also presented at Kent State and it helps the reader to understand how great Polanyi's role was in formulating Kuhn's seminar book on scientific revolutions.

Phil Mullins's article, "Religious Meaning in Polanyi's *Personal Knowledge*," provides a step toward clarifying the extent to which Polanyi's views about religion changed by the time of *Meaning*, the subject of much debate. Mullins, General Editor of *Tradition and Discovery*, writes down Polanyi's ideas about religion as presented in *Personal Knowledge*. Its approach is that of the philosopher of religion rather than of the theologian, so it helps the reader to get a clearer impression about this discipline, unfortunately almost neglected in Hungary.

Joan Crewdson's contribution to our double issue is a chapter of her still unpublished book on Polanyi's relevance to theology. We have chosen a chapter which might have relevance both for philosophers and theologians. This article represents the theological reception of Polanyi's work in our issue. The author shows how Polanyi's triadic structure of meaning can be interpreted as illuminating the theological doctrines of the Trinity in general and the Holy Spirit in particular. This article demonstrates one direction that a theology inspired by Polanyi's thought might take.

Arthur S. Reber's presentation was among the major addresses given at Kent State. Reber gives us evidence about the relevance of Polanyi's views on tacit knowledge to current psychological research. He indicates that Polanyi was able to anticipate much that is now supported by empirical evidence.

Csaba Pléh is one of Hungary's leading psychologists. His article provides a comprehensive survey of psychological thought during the last thirty years. His emphasis is on how the computer has provided an inspiration for studies of cognition, but how it has also created problems to which Polanyi was sensitive.

An earlier version of Endre J. Nagy's paper was given also at Kent State and it represents an approach of a sociologist and lawyer to Polanyi's ideas. Polanyi's liberal conservatism is almost unknown in Hungary, but it provides very much needed support for the creation of a new social system here. The importance of this aspect of Polanyi's thought inspired the Association to call itself the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association. Endre J. Nagy, an organizing member of the Association, addresses in his article the present Hungarian situation and explains how Polanyi's thought about civil society can be of assistance now.

The present double issue of POLANYIANA could not have been published without the much appreciated work of Walter Gulick who has been a Fulbright visiting professor in the Philosophy Department of Budapest Technical University this spring, who is also a representative of the North American Polanyi Society. We are very grateful for his help in editing and for his paper written for this issue of POLANYIANA.

Gabriella Ujlaki