

9 Owarua Street
Wellington
New Zealand
22-3-72

Dear Professor,

Mrs. Tolanyi told me that you would be kind enough to edit an article which I intend to write on the connection of Karl Tolanyi's earlier work with his later writings. In it I should try to show that he was far more than just a social historian. I should be very grateful for criticism, suggestions etc. and hope to send you such an article in the not too far future.

Yours sincerely
F. Schafer

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1922 Sheridan

Prof. George Dalton
NORTH WESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON
ILLINOIS 6020
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SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS

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9 Awarua Street
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New Zealand
27 - 12 - 72

Professor George Dalton
Northwestern University
Evanston
Ill. U.S.A.

Dear Professor,

This is after all the article on Karl. The heading is "Some Links between the Early and the Later Work of Karl Polanyi". In spite of my endeavours to keep it short, it has become fairly long (35 pages). I leave it to you to change it and to cut ad libitum. I am grateful for any suggestions and criticism and thank you very much for the trouble you are taking.

With best wishes for Christmas and for a New Year of peace
Yours sincerely

F. Schafer

(Felix Schafer)

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Jan. 29, 1973

Dear Mr. Schafer:

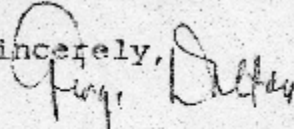
I apologize for my boorish silence. Partly it was the pressure of work; but also, my disinclination to hurt your feelings.

Your manuscript is very difficult and deals with very esoteric matters. The socialist accountancy literature is of historical importance, but Karl's articles of 1922 and 1924 have not yet appeared in English. F.A. Hayek's COLLECTIVIST ECONOMIC PLANNING (Routledge, 1935) did not translate them, although they are listed in his bibliography. So Karl's work on socialist accountancy is unknown to those who don't read German. Your comments on Karl's views really assume the reader knows the articles.

A second difficulty is that the themes you discuss--^ttransparency of human relations, Marx, the Essence of Fascism, The Great Transformation, anthropological writings, and others--are discussed so briefly, that I don't think they can be understood by anyone who has not already studied Karl's writings deeply.

Your manuscript sparkles beautifully towards the end, when you lovingly describe the human atmosphere in the Polanyi household. I implore you to write about such matters at ~~xxxx~~ greater length. You are in a very special position to do so. And these are much more important matters, really, than further exegesis on what Polanyi really meant, and how his later writings ~~xxx~~ reflect ideas he had very early. There is already a great deal of exegesis and interpretation of Karl's writings: Sievers, HAS MARKET CAPITALISM COLLAPSE? Several of my writings; S.C. Humphreys article in History and Theory, and much else. What does not exist abundantly is precisely what you (and Ilona) are capable of providing: detailed information on Karl's early life and thoughts, and how he influenced those around him. Please do consider writing a memoir about Polanyi the man and the teacher whom you knew as a young man in Vienna; a personal memoir rather than an analysis of his writings: who Karl's other students were; the excitement of intellectual exchange; the ferment of the 1920s in socialist circles when the Russian Revolution was so new.

I am deeply sorry that I cannot be more helpful. But I honestly don't think that your brief treatment of very difficult and very esoteric themes can be made into a coherent journal article.

Sincerely,

George Dalton

9 Awarua Street
Wellington
New Zealand
24/4/73

Dear Professor,

Many thanks for your letter of January 29 and for the two essays of Karl which I read with great interest. In publishing Karl's post-humous writings you do work which is highly appreciated. I have to apologize for not having answered your letter sooner. The reason is that I am working on a memoir of the kind you suggested and that I wanted to send you a sample. But as I have not yet finished it I do not want to delay my answer any longer.

Do not think that your letter has hurt me. I am grateful for criticism. One core of it seems to be that I discussed a variety of subjects too briefly to "be understood by anybody who has not already studied Karl's writings deeply." - to use your own words. I will have to try and remedy this, but then the article becomes longer.

I am pleased that you seem to like my manuscript, as far as it describes "the human atmosphere in the Polanyi household" as you say. But I do not think that "these (things) are more important than further exegesis on what Polanyi really meant and how his later writings reflect ideas he had very early." The literature on the "exegesis" you mention I know. But it still stands as Ilona wrote in June last year to me in German: "The bridge from the early Karl in Vienna to the later Karl is entirely unknown and nobody but you is able and called to show it. I know and appreciate Hugh's work but - as you rightly point out - the gap is there."

Indeed e.g. Sievers when he talks about token money in Polanyi's writings does not mention that the roots of Karl's ideas on this subject lie in his socialist model of price formation. Nor does he tell us how he has built the token money into economic analysis. Mrs. Humphreys deals largely with Karl as an economic historian. Her remarks about his Vienna time do not refer to the thoughts he worked out in my presence. Not to record them would mean to ignore part of Karl's edifice of thought and to treat him like the second edition of Menger's "Grundsätze". Thus I will ~~XXXXXX~~ attempt to include these thoughts unobtrusively and in easy ~~XXXXXX~~ presentation into the memoir.

By the way I have written some memories in German about Karl. (20,000 to 25,000 words) They are neither suitable nor intended for publication. But they might help.

Thanking you once more for the trouble you have taken

Yours sincerely

Felix Schafer

Felix Schafer



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Dear Professor,

This is the sample of a memoir on Karl I mentioned in my letter of April and of which I send copies to Ilona and Kari. I wonder what you think of it and I should be grateful for any comment you care to make. The manuscript concerns broadly spoken the middle of the intended memoir. I did this part first, because it seemed to me the hardest. It attempts to reproduce, as you wrote, "some of the human atmosphere in the Polanyi household and of the people around him" The things I mention, as far as I can remember them, are facts. The words attributed to Karl are of course given in English, but the original German words are shown in brackets. I intend now to start the memoir from the beginning of 1924, when I met the Polanyis first. While in the manuscript enclosed the "Socialist Accountancy" is not mentioned, this essay will be discussed more fully in the part I am trying to write, because the "Socialist Accountancy" was the matter on which the seminary of Karl started.

Thanking you once more I am
Yours sincerely

F. Schafer
(Felix Schafer)

Joy Polanyi
17/12/73
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