



WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY EXHIBIT GALLERY



RAYA DUNAYEVSKAYA

From the Collections of the Archives

This exhibit, created from the Raya Dunayevskaya Collection in the Archives, highlights some of the interesting aspects of her distinguished career as philosopher, writer, lecturer, activist, reformer.

Born in a tiny Russian village on the Rumanian border, her family came to the United States in the 1920s and settled in Chicago. Here, at the age of twelve, she led a strike against anti-Semitism in her public school. She also became active in the Black Freedom Movement in Chicago during her high school days, serving as literary reviewer of the Negro Champion and working closely with the NAACP to combat racial discrimination. She has supported these and other causes since that time.

In 1937 Ms. Dunayevskaya joined Leon Trotsky and became his Russian secretary during his exile in Mexico in 1937-39. Many of the items in the exhibit relate to these days with Trotsky in Mexico when he was under attack by Stalin.

Ms. Dunayevskaya broke politically with Trotsky at the beginning of World War II, and made her original analysis of Russia as a state-capitalist society which gained international attention. She subsequently founded the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism in the United States.

Among her major publications are: Marxism and Freedom--1776 until Today (1957), Philosophy and Revolution, from Hegel to Sartre and from Marx to Mao (1973), and Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution (1982). These major works have been translated into German, French, Italian, Japanese and Spanish and chapters have been circulated through the underground in Chinese, Polish, Russian and Farsi.

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In early spring 1985 her new work: Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching the Future will be published.

Most of the exhibit material is drawn from Ms. Dunayevskaya's collection at the Archives, which numbers over 7,000 pages. On display is correspondence with Leon and Natalia Trotsky, Herbert Marcuse, Erich Fromm and E. H. Carr; and also posters advertising Ms. Dunayevskaya's lectures in the United States and abroad; rare photographs of her and Trotsky and other photographs taken in Europe, Africa and Japan; reviews of her works as well as copies of the foreign translations and other documents reflecting major turning points in her philosophical development. An especially rare document on display is a 1932 Bulletin of the Left Opposition to Stalin, printed in such small type that it can be read only with a magnifying glass, for smuggling into Russia.

The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection is available on microfilm from the Walter P. Reuther Library.

The exhibit gallery is open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located on the Wayne State University campus at Cass and Kirby. There is no charge for admission.



**Don't Miss This
Special Event!**

**RAYA
DUNAYEVSKAYA**

SPEAKS ON

DIALECTICS OF REVOLUTION:

**American Roots and
World Humanist Concepts**

DATE: Thursday, March 21 TIME: 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE: McGregor Memorial Conference Center
Cass and Ferry Mall
Wayne State University**

Following the McGregor Center program, a reception for Ms. Dunayevskaya will be held at the Walter P. Reuther Library, where her archives exhibit is on display in the gallery. At the reception, she will present her latest works to bring her archives up to date. Ms. Dunayevskaya is the first living person honored with a major gallery exhibit by the Library. Her archives, numbering over 7,000 pages, are on deposit in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs under the title, "Marxist-Humanism in the U.S. — 1941 to the Present."

Free Admission*
For more information
call 963-9077

Co-Sponsored by:
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WSU English Department
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ON GUARD FOR 153 YEARS

Thursday, March 21, 1985

profile



File Photo

Raya Dunayevskaya: Her major gallery exhibit is the first time a living person has been so honored at the Reuther Library.

Wayne State welcomes Marxist with exhibit

By HELEN FOGEL
Free Press Labor Writer

When the pioneer Marxist humanist and feminist Raya Dunayevskaya returns to the Wayne State University campus this week, it will be a homecoming of sorts.

From 1953 to 1983, she lived, worked and carried on her battle for human rights in Detroit. She has donated her personal and working papers to Wayne State's Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs.

The 7,000 pages of the collection include her three major publications: "Marxism and Freedom — 1776 Until Today," "Philosophy and Revolution, from Hegel to Sartre and from Marx to Mao" and "Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution." The collection also contains her notes, speeches and letters from socialist colleagues, scholars and friends.

WAYNE STATE will exhibit works from her collection at the Walter Reuther Library beginning today. The major gallery exhibit is the first time a living person has been so honored at the Reuther Library.

Dunayevskaya also will speak at 7 p.m. on "The Dialectics of Revolution: American Roots and World Humanist Concepts." The lecture at the

McGregor Memorial Conference Center will be followed by a reception at the library.

Dunayevskaya was born in Russia to an Orthodox Jewish family, and she says she was already a communist when she came to the United States at age 12. Her family settled in Chicago. It was there that she educated herself in economic and social injustice, she once told a reporter, by traveling by streetcar through Chicago's ghettos.

A communist activist, in 1937-38 she was Russian language secretary to Leon Trotsky, one of the major figures of the Russian revolution in 1917. Trotsky fled Russia for Mexico after a break with Stalin. It was in Mexico that Dunayevskaya worked with him. Because of a political disagreement, she left Trotsky not long before he was murdered.

Last year, Dunayevskaya returned to Chicago, where she completed her fourth major book: "Women's Liberation and Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future," which will be published by Humanist Press this spring.

At the reception, she will formally present the Reuther Library with the latest installment of her papers to bring the archives up-to-date.

THE SOUTH END

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1985

Marxist philosopher to appear here; will add to Reuther collection

By TOM JACHMAN
Staff Writer

Raya Dunayevskaya, a leading political philosopher, will appear at Wayne State on Thursday to add to the collection of her works in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in the Walter P. Reuther Library.

The collection of Dunayevskaya's philosophical works in the Reuther Library was started in 1969.

DUNAYEVSKAYA has been a leader in the development of the theories of state-capitalism, the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism as rooted in the U.S. labor movement and the women's liberation movement. Her theories have been published in three major works: *Philosophy and Revolution*, *Women's Liberation*, and *Marx's Philosophy of Revolution*.

Dr. Philip P. Mason, WSU history professor and director of the library's Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, said that Dunayevskaya's writings "fit in as an important segment" of the archives.

Subtitled "Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.," the collection covers Dunayevskaya's works from 1941 to the present.

In addition to Thursday's presentation, Dunayevskaya is expected to make two more installments of her work — which will cover events previous to 1941 — before the end of the year.

Thursday night, Dunayevskaya will speak on "Dialectics of Revolution: American Roots and World Humanist Concepts" in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. The addition to the archives will consist of papers covering her theories and other works from 1981 to the present.

THE PROGRAM and the exhibition of her works is being sponsored by the history and English departments and the News and Letters Youth Committee.

Mason said that Dunayevskaya spoke at WSU several times recently, and that people are interested in hearing what she has to say.

"She is an excellent speaker and we're all looking forward to having her back," Mason said.

Dunayevskaya works from 1941 to the present include over 7,000 pages of correspondence, articles, clippings and books.

Born in Russia over 70 years ago, Dunayevskaya was brought to the United States as a child. She has spent her lifetime in the Marxist movement and began writing at the age of 12.

DUNAYEVSKAYA was the Russian secretary to Leon Trotsky from 1937-38, while he was in exile in Mexico during the period of the Moscow Trials and the Dewey Commission of Inquiry into the charges made against him.

She has been involved in all aspects of the freedom movements and the women's liberation movement in the United States from its start.

Dunayevskaya has had her writings published in the United States as well as abroad.

She has lectured extensively at universities across the country, as well as schools in Britain, Japan, Europe and Africa.

The Reuther exhibit gallery, located at Cass and Kirby, is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Marxist-Humanist adds to archives, says works are revolutionary basis

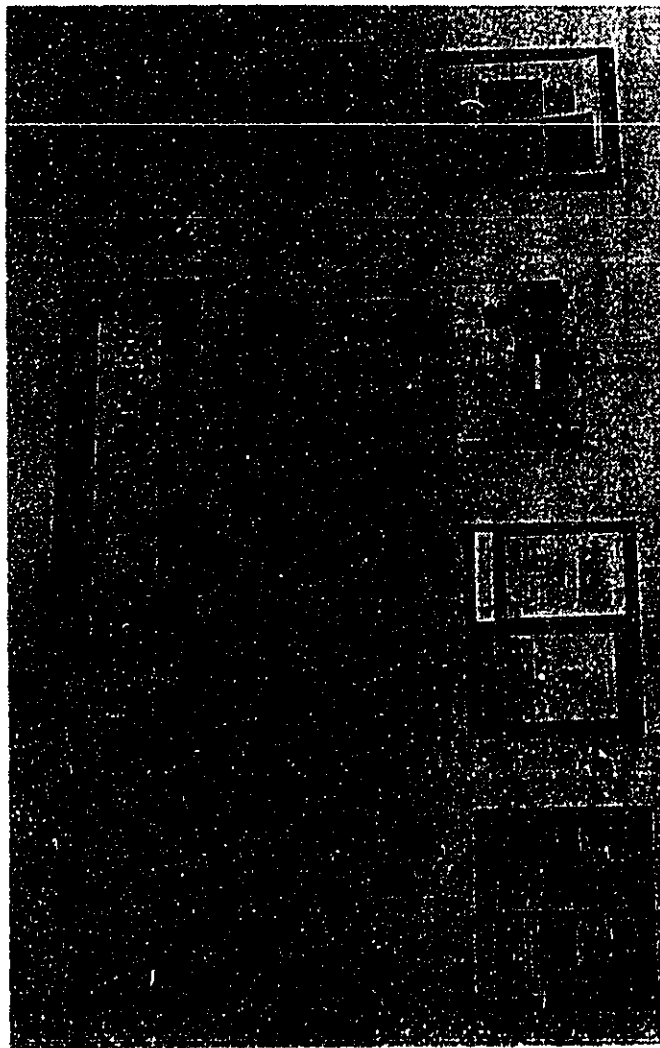
By LINDA WIGGINS
Staff Writer

Marxist philosopher Raya Dunayevskaya opened her new addition to the Walter Reuther Library archives exhibit Thursday night at Wayne State's McGregor Conference Center.

She also spoke on the dialectics of revolution and how it relates to Detroit.

Dunayevskaya chose Wayne State to display her works because WSU leaves its archives open not only to educators but to activists as well.

Part of the exhibit of the works of philosopher Raya Dunayevskaya, on display at the Reuther Library.



the past," Dunayevskaya said. She strongly feels that the exhibit, which has now been increased from 7,000 to 10,000 pages of written and oral works, shouldn't lie dormant as mere history, but should be used as a tool for revolution.

DUNAYEVSKAYA came to Detroit more than 30 years ago, attracted by the huge working class and its large pool of black workers. It was these "oppressed workers" whom she thought would be most responsive to her special

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Dunayevskaya

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form of Marxism.

Known worldwide for her philosophy, Dunayevskaya has a small following in Detroit. Besides publishing News and Letters, she has also written numerous books and papers on Marxist humanism, many of which will be in the Reuther display for the next four months.

A former disciple of Leon Trotsky, a man who she said may have been the most influential in her work, she deserted him after he refused to criticize Stalin's non-aggression pact with Hitler. According to Dunayevskaya, she was so upset with Trotsky she lost her speech for 72 hours. She spent the next two years in hiding, trying to sort out her life and philosophy.

In exile in Mexico, Trotsky was assassinated by a member of the Stalin regime just after Dunayevskaya left. As his language secretary and screener for his visitors, she said she could have prevented his death had she not left his side.

"Trotsky was wrong," Dunayevskaya said. "The incident strengthened my resolve." Afterward, she pursued rights for the world's oppressed workers with a new vengeance and a plan of her own.

THE YEAR 1950 marked a shift in concentration to labor

union disparities since she was heavily involved in coal miner strikes. She said the strikes were over production automation "before the word was even invented."

She urged the workers to fight for better working conditions rather than higher wages. The real issue was what "kind of work a man should do," a question that has been dealt with in Detroit, she said.

Dunayevskaya criticized the apartheid government in South Africa for the current massacres inflicted on members of its black majority. She said it is "high time" for a revolution there.

She extended the invitation of revolution to women as well. Dunayevskaya said she saw women's liberation go from "an idea to a movement" during the 1970s.

She criticized Marxism for not recognizing the suffering of women. Issues like rights for blacks and women pushed her toward forming individual theories of Marxist humanism — theories which have set her apart from mentors such as Trotsky, Marx and Lenin.

AT AGE 71, Dunayevskaya is still going strong in her fight to unchain the oppressed working classes. She lives in a modest two-story house on Detroit's west side. The key word is modest: she has put emphasis on helping those

who are too weak to speak alone rather than seeking fame and fortune for herself.

Dunayevskaya never mentions her husband of 30 years. He is a retired engineer and has nothing to do with her work, although his career may have suffered because of hers. "Somebody had to earn a living so the revolution could be sought after," she said.

According to Dunayevskaya, she has been a communist since age five. She was born to an orthodox Jewish family (her father was a rabbi) at a time of harsh anti-Semitism in a small Russian village on the Romanian border.

Dunayevskaya came to the United States at age 10 and led her first labor strike two years later.

"Dunayevskaya represents an important point of view in our society," said Warner Pflug, assistant director of the Reuther Library. "It's one that researchers and scholars are interested in and it's our job to preserve these documents for that purpose."

Pflug said the turnout for Thursday's speech and reception was much greater than anyone expected, estimating the audience at 170. He added that Dunayevskaya was pleased with the exhibit WSU has now completed at the Reuther Library.



Photo: Kristin Binfield

Raya Dunayevskaya: An important point of view in our society.

LETTERS

March 29, 1985, The South End, Page 3

Marxists

To the Editor:

As one who also heard Marxist-Humanist philosopher Raya Dunayevskaya speak at WSU on March 21, I appreciated Linda Wiggins' article, "Marxist-Humanist Adds to Archives, Says Works Are Revolutionary Basis" (SE, 3-25-85).

I liked her citation of Dunayevskaya's statement that "archives are not limited to the past," because I too feel that Dunayevskaya's writings have profound relevance for us today.

Those of us in the WSU News and Letters Youth Committee, which co-sponsored the lecture, share Warner Pflug's feeling that the program was a great success.

Indeed, you could sense the importance of Dunayevskaya's work from the audience which came to hear her. The room was packed with students and non-students, workers and intellectuals, blacks and whites, men and women, veteran activists and youth. And surely many Detroiters will visit the current exhibit of her work at Reuther Library.

There were a few points in the article which I want to clarify because they were somewhat confusing. First, while Wiggins correctly cites Dunayevskaya's 1939 political break with Leon Trotsky when he refused to criticize Stalin's non-aggression pact with Hitler and continued to defend Russia as a "workers' state though degenerate," it is not true that she then went into hiding for two years.

The fact is that she went to the library — the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. She spent the next two years figuring out what kind of society Russia had become, and in 1941 published her original theory of Russia as having transformed from

workers' state into state-capitalism. A number of original documents from that period are included in the exhibit.

Second, the description of Dunayevskaya's husband, John Dwyer, might also be misleading. Actually, he has been deeply involved in the labor and Marxist movements since 1931. As a matter of fact, the John Dwyer Collection has just been opened for research by the Reuther Library. It contains numerous documents pertaining to state-capitalism as well as original letters from Trotsky, and is open to all for research. Dwyer's activity spans from involvement in the CIO to his independently coming to a state-capitalist position.

What I feel is most important of Dunayevskaya's work, as Wiggins points out, is that she did not stop at the analysis of state-capitalism, but went on to found the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism.

To me, what is most exciting about the exhibit of her work is that it shows one who is both an activist and a scholar. Her work extends from the 1949-50 miners' general strike against automation to the black revolution in the United States, to Africa, Japan and China, to her unique contribution to the Women's Liberation Movement.

I would like to let South End readers know that the exhibit at Reuther Library will continue at least through the month of June.

The News and Letters Youth Committee will sponsor a series of classes on the Raya Dunayevskaya Collection and Marxist-Humanism on April 3, 10 and 17 at noon in the Student Center Building. Those who are interested can call 963-9077 for details.

Laura Cashdan

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