

International Publishers Associates

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HOWARD SELSAM PRISONERS BOOK FUND



September 1972

Dear Reader:

A few years ago, the late philosopher and International Publishers' distinguished author, Howard Selsam, came to me with a gift of \$20. for books for prisoners. This concerned gesture was repeated many times. Today there are almost 1500 letters from prisoners in our files from some 130 prisons, requesting Marxist books. In many prisons, Marxist education is well organized in regular study classes where theoretical questions are pursued in hot and heavy discussions.

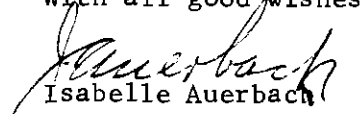
How was it possible for International Publishers to provide so much to so many? Since we cannot afford to send new books, we have been sending the prisoners books returned from bookstores which are slightly damaged or "hurt" on the surface. Because of the overwhelming demand, we have had to limit the prisoners to books available, not necessarily the ones they ask to read or study. To fill this gap, and in honor of our devoted first donor, International Publishers has established the HOWARD SELSAM PRISONERS BOOK FUND and all monies donated to this fund are used to send books in new condition, which are not available as "hurt". The books are sent at a 25% discount from the fund.

The wave of requests (see excerpts on other side) wipes out every donation almost as it comes in. The need of the prisoners is not being satisfied because we just can't do it -- unless you, dear reader, reach in your pocket as far as you can.

Please respond immediately to this appeal from prisoners in Attica, Dannemore, San Quentin, Leavenworth, the Tombs in New York, and over a hundred more. If you delay, it means that someone who could have been absorbed in Marxist study, continues to face the numbing defeat of the four walls of his cell.

Please make checks payable to HOWARD SELSAM PRISONERS BOOK FUND.

With all good wishes,


Isabelle Auerbach
Education Department

Dear International Publishers:

Enclosed is check / M.O. for _____ my donation to the HOWARD SELSAM PRISONERS BOOK FUND. Send receipt to:

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

P.S. I pledge to send every Month Week the sum of \$ _____ to sustain the sending of books to prisoners.

Excerpts From Prisoners' Letters

Attica, New York

"I am writing you in an effort to obtain 3 books (DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM by Cornforth, 3 Vols.) As you may know, in Attica (after the massacre 9/13/71) the administration destroyed and confiscated all progressive and political literature. I had access to your books and pamphlets that were sent to me prior to 9/13/71."

State Prison, Raleigh, N.C.

"The literature was just what we needed. We relate to these books as social property. We would like to establish a study program wherein we would hopefully receive two or three hurt books every month or so. Your practice clarifies the correctness of your ideas."

Clinton Prison, Dannemora, N.Y.

"I have for the last year been suffering the most severe punishment in solitary confinement. I share the Marxist-Leninist view of History, Economics, and Politics. I shall be desperately hoping my request for books which is urgent, is favorable."

State Prison, Chino, Calif.

"I am a political prisoner. I am charged with being the "RINGLEADER" in a struggle for the right of inmates to grow facial hair and for the release of two Black inmates who were falsely imprisoned. I am without funds to obtain books which I deem necessary to help complete my education and to achieve a better understanding of exactly what is happening to and around me."

Tombs, New York City

" -- Marx said "The Philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point whoever is to change it". We have dedicated ourselves here to changing the existing order so that there will be liberty, justice, equality and human dignity for all. The awareness that is transcending here is inspiring. I know your struggle to help us is limitless and tireless. Enclosed you will find a list of books needed."

Chillicothe, Ohio

"All of the books, although they are sent in my name, are passed around to the other inmates in various dorms to read. The books are read by both Black and White inmates, and despite their circulation, are cared for and returned to our own communal library. Also, we have discussion groups, that exchange ideas. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for the books that have been mailed."