



Walter P.  
**Reuther**  
L i b r a r y

Archives of Labor and  
Urban Affairs



University Archives

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**T**he Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs is the largest labor archives in North America. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the documentary and visual heritage of the American labor movement, related reform movements, and individual participants. The collection also includes records related to urban affairs, with emphasis on the history of metropolitan Detroit. The Reuther Library is committed to increasing access to archival collections by continuously developing and maintaining digital systems and programs.

The Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs holds over 2,000 collections related to such topics as union history and working class organizations, African Americans and women in the labor movement, as well as dissident, social, and political reform movements. Collections also focus on the histo-



ry of Detroit from the late 19th century to the present, including such topics as urban development, social welfare, health care, education, politics, civil rights, women's rights, and metropolitan Detroit communities.

The Reuther also collects the history of Wayne State University. The University Archives traces Wayne State's growth from the Detroit Medical College in 1868 to its emergence as a world-class research university.

## HOLDINGS

The Reuther Library's collections include over:

- ◆ 75,000 linear feet of historical records
- ◆ 2 million negatives and photographic prints
- ◆ 7,500 moving images
- ◆ 12,000 sound recordings
- ◆ 750 oral histories
- ◆ 12,000 books and periodicals
- ◆ Subject files, convention proceedings, and published union contracts



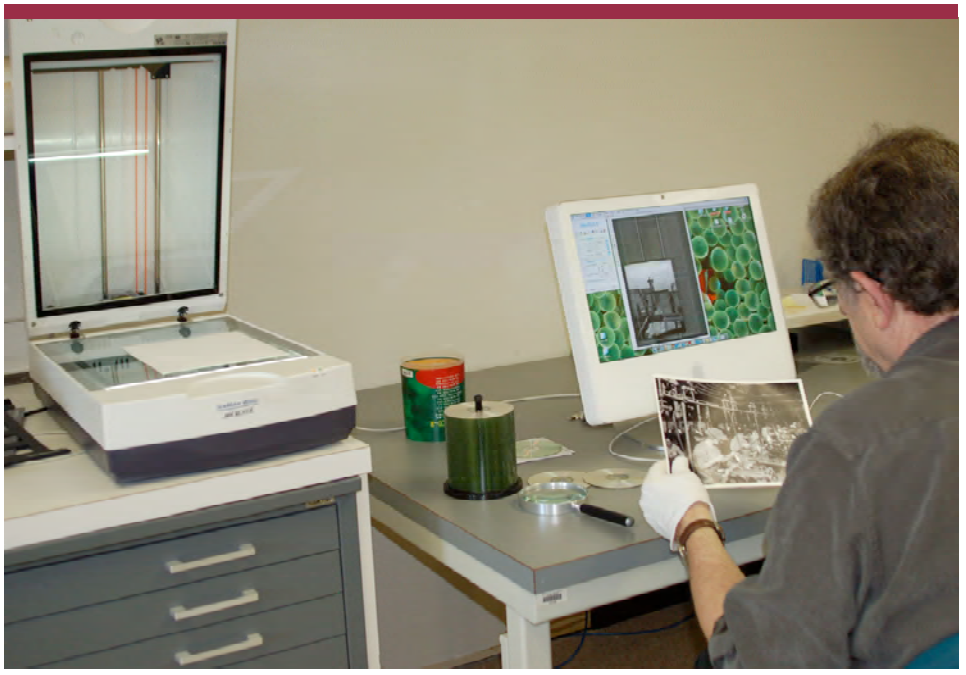
Mary Jane Murawka

### EXHIBITS

Each year the Reuther Library creates exhibits highlighting its collections. Past exhibits include *La Causa: A History of the United Farm Workers*; *HEAR ME ROAR: Women and Social Justice*; and *No Greater Calling: The Life of Walter P. Reuther, 1907-1970*. Additionally, the Reuther has traveling exhibits available for loan including *I AM A MAN: An Exhibit Honoring the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike* and *Petticoats and Slide Rules: SWE, A History of Women Engineers*.

### DIGITAL INITIATIVES

The Reuther Library is committed to enhancing access to its collections through the use of current and future digital technologies. Past projects include the award-winning website *No Greater Calling: The Life of Walter P. Reuther* and *Virtual Motor City*, which makes available over 36,000 *Detroit News* images that span most of the 20th century. Links to both may be accessed from the Reuther's website at [www.reuther.wayne.edu](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu).





## LABOR

The Reuther Library is the largest labor archives in North America and is home to the collections of numerous unions and labor-related organizations. These groups represent varying viewpoints on workplace issues and cover industries from automotive to agriculture to service. The Reuther is the official repository for 12 major unions:

- ◆ Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA)
- ◆ American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- ◆ American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- ◆ Association of Flight Attendants (AFA)
- ◆ Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED/IBT)
- ◆ Graphic Communication Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (GCC/IBT)
- ◆ Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
- ◆ National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
- ◆ Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- ◆ The Newspaper Guild (TNG)
- ◆ United Automobile Workers (UAW)
- ◆ United Farm Workers (UFW)



### METROPOLITAN DETROIT URBAN AFFAIRS

The Reuther Library records the political and community life of urban Detroit and also houses the records of many important figures in the politics and judiciary of Detroit and Michigan. Holdings cover a wide range of topics including ethnic and religious groups, race relations, civil rights, labor organizations, and urban development. Prominent organizational collections include those of the Jewish Community Archives, Focus: HOPE, New Detroit, and the Detroit Commission on Community Relations. Personal collections represent significant figures such as former U.S. Representative David Bonior, Hon. Damon Keith, and former Detroit mayors Jerome Cavanagh and Coleman A. Young.



Tony Spina Collection



### CIVIL RIGHTS

The Reuther Library documents the civil rights movement, both nationally and in Michigan. Nationally, its collections follow race relations in politics, the workplace, religion, and society generally. Locally, the Reuther documents people and groups who were prominent during the post-WWII civil rights movement in Detroit. Among the important collections are those of Rosa Parks, the Civil Rights Congress of Michigan, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the All People's Congress.



## WOMEN

The Reuther Library captures people and groups' involvement in women's movements in the 20th century. The collections follow women's struggles in the workplace and their participation in the labor movement and social and political issues including education, the Equal Rights Act, and women's health. Prominent collections include those from Millie Jeffrey, Mary Heaton Vorse, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and the UAW Women's Department. In addition to organizational and personal collections, the Reuther also holds over 100 oral histories related to women's issues, including projects like *20th Century Trade Union Woman: Vehicle for Social Change* and *Profiles of SWE Pioneers*.

## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORM

Collections at the Reuther Library record the political and social unrest of Metropolitan Detroit and the nation in the 20th century. The collections feature personalities and organizations within the Democratic, Progressive, Socialist, and Communist parties, as well as groups and individuals

related to the civil rights, women's liberation, and anti-war movements. Highlights include the Detroit Revolutionary Movements Collection and the personal papers of Raya Dunayevskya, James and Grace Lee Boggs, and Martin and Jessie Glaberman.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Reuther Library's collections follow communities' and individuals' efforts locally and nationally to improve the lives and living conditions of everyday Americans. The collections document individuals and organizations engaging in community development, working to eliminate poverty, and improving public health, housing, education, child development, and race relations. The United Community Services, Citizens Crusade Against Poverty, and Detroit's Harper Hospital and Children's Hospital collections are just a few of those that focus on social development.



## WSU COLLECTION

The Wayne State University Archives documents the evolution of the institution from its origins as the Detroit Medical College in 1868 to its merging with the Detroit school system to the world-class research institution it is today. This history is recorded in the Detroit Public Schools Collection, the Central High School Collection, and the collections of early Wayne Presidents Frank Cody, Warren Bow, and David D. Henry.

Programs of study are a vital part of the archive. Departmental collections such as those created by the Deans



of the Colleges of Medicine, Liberal Arts, and Pharmacy trace the academic heritage of Wayne State. Special educational initiatives include the papers of the Merrill-Palmer Institute and Monteith College.

Master plans for campus development chronicle the physical growth of Wayne State. The Provost Arthur Neef Collection and the Campus Beautification Committee Collection, as well as those of individual university presidents, trace this expansion.

Wayne State's progress can be attributed to many individuals: administrators, alumni, faculty, and students. They are well represented in the repository by numerous personal and administrative collections, and by biographical files.

The WSU archives chronicles the growth and history of the university through programs of study, physical expansion, and the many individuals involved with its development.





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