

Feb. 23, 1985

Dear Kevin,

The reason I asked that you send me the Bob Cohen letter before you answered it is due to the fact that the comrades ~~who~~ participated in this debate would also be afraid of a supposed falsehood referring to the claim to be the first of discussions on the Notebooks. I would like you to "prove" the claim by dialectical insistence that you were right in something like the following:

Dear Cohen, Thank you for your letter of the 15th, but I would like to ~~xxx~~ tell you how we came to that conclusion. I am not only acquainted with the other discussions, but the truth is they never published Marx's Mathematical Notebooks and therefore, whether they refer to the Moscow stupidities, or to Amsterdam manuscripts, no reader could possibly have a way of concluding what these were. I for example was shocked to find out that the U.S. publishing has never referred to these Mathematical Notebooks just because they are a small British publisher. Doesn't Marx deserve having his views known to the American and British public. Leon Smolinski, for example in the Journal of Political Economy (Vol 81 No. 5 Sept/Oct. 1973) may have thought that referring to Marx's manuscripts themselves not only shows his eridition, but having an especially good way of reading Marx's handwriting; it took Laurence Krader a whole decade to decipher the Ethnological Notebooks. And of course to ~~Smolinski~~ the key to all horrors of the mid 1930s actually began in 1930 itself when the Social Democrats were called traitors. ~~xxx~~ As for Stiuk and other so-called Marxists ~~who~~ they all followed ~~the~~ the Stalinist revisions whatever the period. Finally to this day they are so scared of the "negation of the negation" that no where is it mentioned that Marx considered that to be the key to understanding differential calculus.

~~xxxxxx~~  
I think the most important reason for acknowledging Cohen's letter is the excuse it will give you to say, Raya returns not only your warm remark, but has asked me to asky you whether you will happen to be in Detroit March 21, ~~xxxx~~ It is then she will be giving a lecture on Dialectics of Revolution: American Roots and World Humanist Concepts sponsored by Wayne State Universitijs Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, 7-9 PM at McGregory hall. This will be followed by the opening of amonth long exhibit of a selection from her Archives: Marxist-Humanism, from 1941 until today, including a number of quite unusual photographs.

Finally I want to assure you that I still have the intention of commenting on the manuscript of the Hegelian philosopher.

Yours,

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