

**From:** Cole, Peter p-cole@wiu.edu    
**Subject:** Re: honoring Howard  
**Date:** November 16, 2018 at 9:18 AM  
**To:** Jack Heyman jackheyman@comcast.net



Hello Jack.

I hope you and your family and Howard and everyone in the greater Bay Area is doing alright given the ongoing fires...

Attached is my letter of appreciation for Howard. I hope it "works." If not, I'm happy to change it. I'll also send it to Howard's daughter at the email you shared with me.

Not much new to report on organizing a book talk at Local 10 in mid March. Melvin was super enthusiastic when we spoke on the phone. Since then...crickets. I'm sure he's busy and know that this event is months away (plus, the fires). I'll defer to Melvin about best day/time though I hear you on folks wanting to earn OT wages on nights and weekends.

How is Howard doing?

all best,

Peter

On Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 11:33 AM Jack Heyman <[jackheyman@comcast.net](mailto:jackheyman@comcast.net)> wrote:  
Peter,

After you write something about Howard please send it to his daughter Ashirda Oakes <[ashirda@comcast.net](mailto:ashirda@comcast.net)> and also a copy to me. Howard no longer uses his computer. As far as a book event at Local 10, I'd say that many longshoremen like to work weekends, if possible, because they earn overtime. Then again they earn higher wages at night too. A weekend event would draw other people from the labor movement, especially if the SF Labor Council puts out a fax blast to announce your talk. Keep in mind also that the membership has become less engaged in job actions and international issues.

Jack

On Oct 29, 2018, at 9:45 AM, Cole, Peter <[p-cole@wiu.edu](mailto:p-cole@wiu.edu)> wrote:

Hellooooo Jack!

My apologies for my typo. I can't even use the common explanation, these days, as I was on my laptop when I made my mistake. So it goes...

I'm sorry to learn that Howard's health remains poor. Recovering from a stroke is hard, from the sounds of it, regardless of age but--no doubt--that much harder when one's in his 90s! He's a fighter and for that we're all thankful. It will be my honor to write up something about Howard's commitment to his union and working class struggles! Based upon the emails going around, there might be an event in December but possibly later. I'll email you something in the first half of November.

Thanks for your many great ideas about how to promote my book! I'll email Suzi Weissman this week; in fact, I have another great connection there and had intended to work on that after I lined up something w/ Melvin Mackay. I've already got a number of events lined up for that week and wanted to make sure that I didn't over-plan and thereby miss the chance to speak at L10. I wonder if you might have an idea about that: do you think an event one evening during the week would be more attractive to members OR on a weekend?

I haven't reached out to Steve Z yet but also plan to do so. I'm on the fence on Laborfest. I'd love to present this July but not sure if my life/calendar is available; I'm working on a bit Chicago project that will launch in July and hope to have been in South Africa in late June. I appreciate the encouragement and will try to move sooner than later.

Thanks again, Jack, for all you do. Solidarity!

Peter

On Sun, Oct 28, 2018 at 6:52 PM Jack Heyman <[jackheyman@comcast.net](mailto:jackheyman@comcast.net)> wrote:  
Hi Peter,

Well, this is the first time I've been greeted by email with "Hell Jack"!! Yes, the photo is from Herb's memorial. As you can tell Howard is not looking so well, rather ashen. I included you precisely for the reason you mentioned, write a few words for Howard. A few trade unions from around the world have already sent him messages. See the one from the British UNITE. Congratulations on your book! I'd suggest you email Suzi Weissman who teaches labor history/politics at Saint Mary's College in Orinda (near Oakland). She has a radio program in LA, Beneath the Surface. I'll bet she'd be interested in interviewing you and maybe even talking to her class. You can mention my name. We're good friends. Have you contacted Steve Zeltzer about a radio interview or LaborFest? I'll let you know if Local 10 has an event honoring Howard.

Best of luck,  
Jack

On Oct 28, 2018, at 9:01 AM, Cole, Peter <[p-cole@wiu.edu](mailto:p-cole@wiu.edu)> wrote:

Hell Jack.

Of course, I agree that it's a great idea to honor Howard in this manner! I'm mindful that, yesterday, was Herb's memorial and, today, some folks are scattering his ashes in the Bay. I presume that photo you sent this group are of people who attended Herb's memorial yesterday. If so, I'm glad Howard was feeling well enough to attend!

And thanks for including me in the list of folks to discuss this matter. As I'm not local, I don't know how much I can help in organizing such an event. However, if you wish, I would be happy to write about some thoughts about why Howard is so deserving. If there is some other way I can help, please tell me...

Sorry if I'm repeating myself but I extensively used my interviews with Howard (and you) in my book. Even more so, Herb actually. I'm excited to share that the book comes out in late December. I'm attaching a flyer and including a link to publisher's website. I had a great phone conversation

with Melvin Mackay, maybe ten days ago. He's totally supportive and excited to host a book event at Local 10! Including Local 10, thus far I've arranged five talks for the week of my university's spring break--mid March. However, I'm happy to do even more if you have any suggestions.

<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/48ydk2be9780252042072.html>

love and solidarity,

Peter

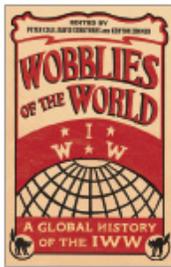
On Sat, Oct 27, 2018 at 11:18 PM Jack Heyman <[jackheyman@comcast.net](mailto:jackheyman@comcast.net)> wrote:

I spoke to the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris (former Local 10 pres.) about the union honoring Howard like they did Herb Mills by presenting him a year before he died with a plaque for his lifetime commitment to the labor movement. He contacted the president of Local 10 Melvin Mackay who, Ed said, agreed and supports the local doing this. It has to be passed by the Exec. Bd. Nov. 13. and the membership Nov. 15. At this point it's just a proposal. I told Ed that Howard's 93rd birthday is in December, so we'll see what happens. I'll keep you posted, but if this is OK'd by the local we will have to organize it whether it's in Dec. or Jan. We should have a meeting of all those interested in such a public recognition for Howard, so please let me know if you're available to help organizing this.  
Jack

Sent from my iPhone

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<http://www.wiu.edu/cas/history/cole.php>

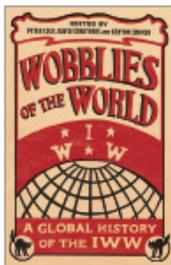


**Wobblies of the World**  
A Global History of the IWW  
Edited by Peter Cole, David  
Struthers and Kenyon Zimmer  
Oct 2017 | £19.99 | \$28

*'A landmark and a sea  
beacon in the history of the  
planetary proletariat'*  
- Marcus Rediker

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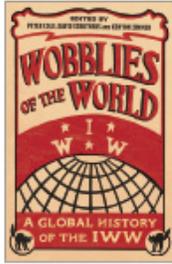
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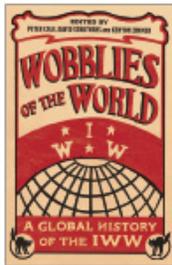
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November 16, 2018

Dear Howard:

I write to thank you for all of your efforts over many decades of activism, both on and off the waterfront. When our mutual friend, Jack Heyman, first introduced us about ten years ago, I had no idea how important you would become to me—as a source of knowledge, an inspiration, and a friend!

When we met, in Berkeley in 2011, I already had started researching the union to which you had dedicated more than half a century of your life, the ILWU! I had written a book on the radical longshoremen of Philadelphia in the World War I era—the Wobblies were so radical they united ranks across craft, ethnic, national, and racial lines to forge a strong union. Of course, employers and the state went after them for those very reasons. Fast forward to my next effort to understand the traditions and histories of dockworkers. What other union but ILWU Local 10 could possibly be of more interest to me, a labor historian who appreciates the potential power of (dock)workers? Over coffee and cigarettes, you schooled me in some of the hidden history of the docks in San Francisco, Oakland, and beyond. Thanks to your trust in me, as well as many others in the ILWU, I've written [\*Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durham and the San Francisco Bay Area\*](#) which will be published next month!

Along the way, your life experience, wide-ranging knowledge, and wisdom all came to shape me and my work. I have no idea how many times you could have made the easier choice and kept your mouth shut or stayed seated. However, rather than keeping quiet and tolerating injustices, great and small, time and again you stood up to call for equality and justice—be it a workplace grievance on a ship you worked or on behalf of people you never even had met. In particular, your involvement in the struggle against apartheid continues to impress. The idea that you—and others—proved willing to put their work on the line to help humans half a world away is the epitome of selflessness. I hope you'll be happy to know that your commitment has not gone unnoticed. You'll see as much in my book.

Along the way, I also came to see you as a trusted friend—much more than just a source for my book. I only hope that you feel the same. I particularly appreciate that you introduced me to your daughter, Isis, in the Bay Area and your wife, Uschi, when I visited Hamburg for the first time. That I knew you had lived in Hamburg was because you had shared some of many your stories with me.

Would you believe that I have been known to “wow!” friends of mine with tales you’ve told me about: growing up in southeast Ohio, being in the Army during the Okinawa campaign in 1945, or your involvement in the long-forgotten ILWU strike of 1948. Obviously, your stories didn’t stop there. I’ve appreciated and benefited from hearing about your time in Local 10 in the 1970s and 1980s.

Howard, I’m deeply sorry that you’ve suffered some health troubles in the aftermath of your stroke. I’m also sorry that I haven’t had the chance to see you, of late, but I don’t get to the Bay Area nearly as often as I’d like. However, I very much look forward to seeing you in March when I next return. On that visit, I’ll have a signed copy of my book to present to you as a very small token of my deep appreciation and respect! Love and solidarity...

Peter Cole  
Professor of History

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