Dyer Lum

Anarchist Writer for the Black International

(1839 - 1893)

**Description**: His career as a participant in the labor movement grew out of his reflections on the Pittsburgh riots during the 1877 railroad strike, but before Haymarket had swung over to the extreme left position of the anarchists and mutualists, impressed with the possibilities of cooperation in economics. (From : James Martin Bio)

**Tags**: labor unionist, activist, poet, american, anarchist, anarcho-syndicalist, writer, intellectual, editor.

**Quotes**:

"Let us beware the militant assumption that man exists for the State, and trust to theoretical brakes to check the momentum of a body moving with increasing velocity. The social aggregate is not something over and above the units which constitute it." (From : "The Economics of Anarchy: A Study Of The Industrial Type," by Dyer D. Lum.)

"The renaissance of mind from scholastic tyranny; the revolt of Luther and his followers against mental dictation; the temporary compromise in religious toleration; the insurrection against kingcraft leading in its triumph to the toleration of political opinions; -- have now logically led to an insurrection against economic subjection to the privileges usurped and hotly defended by capital in its alliance with labor..." (From : "The Economics of Anarchy: A Study Of The Industrial Type," by Dyer D. Lum.)

"Force, however used, can teach no economic truth, yet events flowing from it often awaken consciousness of what equity demands." (From : "The Economics of Anarchy: A Study Of The
Biography:
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Dyer Daniel Lum (1839 – April 6, 1893) was a 19th-century American anarchist, labor activist and poet. A leading anarcho-syndicalist and a prominent left-wing intellectual of the 1880s, Lum is best remembered as the lover and mentor of early anarcha-feminist Voltairine de Cleyre.

Lum was a prolific writer who wrote a number of key anarchist texts, and contributed to publications including *Mother Earth, Twentieth Century, Liberty* (Benjamin Tucker's individualist anarchist journal), *The Alarm* (the journal of the International Working People's Association) and *The Open Court* among others. Following the arrest of Albert Parsons, Lum edited The Alarm from 1892–1893.

Traditionally portrayed as a "genteel, theoretical anarchist", Lum has recently been recast by the scholarship of Paul Avrich as an "uncompromising rebel thirsty for violence and martyrdom" in the light of his involvement in the Haymarket affair in 1886.

From: Wikipedia.

Works:
Author of Communal Anarchy (November 30, 1885)
Author of On Anarchy (December 31, 1969)
Author of The Economics of Anarchy (November 30, 1889)
Author of The Fiction of Natural Rights (December 31, 1969)

Chronology:

**November 30, 1838**: Dyer Lum's Birth Day.

**April 06, 1893**: Dyer Lum's Death Day.


Links:

- Anarchy Archives: Dyer Lum Archive
  http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/lum/index.html
- Anarchist Library: Dyer D. Lum