

# THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE RENAISSANCE  
OF ARTHUR SZYK

Vol. 6 No. 1-2

Newsletter

Spring 2005

## Szyk Exhibit Travels to Three Cities in Poland Warsaw, Lodz, and Krakow to host *Justice Illuminated*

BURLINGAME, CA: “Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk” will commence its six month tour of Poland with the official opening on June 30, 2005 at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. The exhibit will then travel on to Lodz, Szyk’s place of birth, where it will be hosted by the Palace Poznanski, and finally, to the city of Krakow and the Center for Jewish Culture. Not since 1932-33 when Szyk personally traveled an exhibition of his original art to 14 Polish cities, has Poland hosted a circulating exhibition of the artist.

“Justice Illuminated” which focuses on the themes of WWII and the Holocaust, America, and Jewish Response, was conceived and developed by The Arthur Szyk Society as a result of grants received from the Helen and Sanford Diller Foundation of the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, San Francisco. The exhibit has previously traveled to the UC Berkeley campus in Northern California and The University of New England Art Gallery in Portland, Maine. Generous support from the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture and the Robbins Family Philanthropic Fund has made it possible to travel the exhibition to Poland this summer. Representatives from the Taube Foundation and the Robbins Family plan to attend the Warsaw opening. Arthur Szyk’s daughter, Alexandra Bracie, will also be in attendance. The United States Embassy in Poland is hosting the opening receptions in both Warsaw and Lodz.

Society curator, Irvin Ungar, has been invited to deliver the opening keynote addresses at both the Warsaw and Krakow venues. Coinciding with the Krakow opening, The Society is planning the Szyk Renaissance Tour (October 21-28, 2005), for which reservations are presently being accepted.



“At the feet of your most gracious Majesty I humbly lay these works of my hands, shewing forth the afflictions of my People Israel. – Arthur Szyk, illuminator of Poland.” **The Haggadah, Lodz, 1936. Dedication page to England’s King George.**

## Join The Arthur Szyk Society in Poland! October 21–28, 2005

For the first time in 70 years, the art of Arthur Szyk is returning to Poland and we invite you to celebrate this special occasion with The Arthur Szyk Society’s “Szyk Renaissance Tour” October 21-28, 2005. Imagine one week in this richly historical country – the epicenter of Jewish life for 900 years – touring the cities that played influential roles in Szyk’s life and artistic development. The tour will travel from Krakow, to Lodz and finally to Warsaw. In each of these cities, you will visit historic sites, take part in cultural activities and meet with key community and religious leaders, Polish government officials and US diplomats, who are helping to build a new, democratic Poland, founded on pluralism, justice and human rights.

One of the tour’s highlights will be the participation in the opening night reception for The Arthur Szyk Society exhibition, “Justice Illuminated” in Krakow.

Guests will stay at luxury accommodations throughout the 8-day tour, and feast at the country’s finest restaurants and cafes.

Visit The Arthur Szyk Society website [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org) for details or phone The Society office, 650-343-9588 for a tour brochure.

### EXHIBIT VENUES:

June 30 – August 12, 2005

Warsaw: Jewish Historical Institute

August 28 – October 3, 2005

Lodz: Palace Poznanski (*The City History Museum of Lodz*)

October 24 – December 31, 2005

Krakow: Center for Jewish Culture

### SZYK RENAISSANCE TOUR

October 21 – 28, 2005



**THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY**  
A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

1200 Edgehill Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tel: 650.343.9588  
Fax: 650.579.6014  
info@szyk.org  
www.szyk.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Charles S. Syers  
*President*

Seymour Fromer  
*Vice-President*

Sander I. Stadler  
*Treasurer*

Pamela H. Stein  
*Secretary*

Irvin D. Ungar  
*Curator*

Wayne Feinstein

Alex Lauterbach

John F. Rothmann

**HONORARY BOARD**

Alexandra Szyk Bracie  
*Daughter of Arthur Szyk*

Honorable Tom Lantos  
*U.S. Congressman (D-CA)*

Jill Indyk

Dr. John T. Pawlikowski

Art Spiegelman

Paul Von Blum

Elie Wiesel

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

Lynka Adams

Stephanie Fullen

Pam Stein

Irvin Ungar

Ken Hickmott Graphics

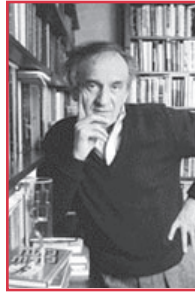
**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Stephanie Fullen

**PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL SPOKESMEN JOIN HONORARY BOARD**

The Arthur Szyk Society is proud to announce that Elie Wiesel, John T. Pawlikowski and Paul Von Blum have agreed to join our Honorary Board.

**Elie Wiesel** is a Holocaust survivor and author of 36 works dealing with Judaism, the Holocaust, and the moral responsibility of all people to fight hatred, racism and genocide. Professor Wiesel has lectured at colleges around the country and has been



Andrew Mellon Professor of Humanities at Boston University since 1976. In 1978 he was appointed Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by President Jimmy Carter, in 1980 he became the Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and in 1985 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement by President Ronald Reagan. In 1986 Elie Wiesel received the Nobel Prize for Peace.

**Dr. John T. Pawlikowski** is an acclaimed theologian at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. He is internationally recognized as one of the leading authorities on Social Ethics and Christian-Jewish relations. Father Pawlikowski is the



leading advocate for Holocaust education in Catholic schools in America and he has published extensively about the Holocaust. He presently serves, by appointment, as the Chair of the CTU Academic Committee and on the Committee on Conscience. He also chairs the Church Relations Committee of CTU.

*We are truly privileged to welcome to The Society's Honorary Board men of such exemplary character and integrity and are cognizant of the meaning and prestige that they bring to The Arthur Szyk Society.*

**Paul Von Blum** is a senior lecturer in African American Studies, Communication Studies, and Art History at UCLA. A long-time activist in the civil rights movement, he was personally involved in several of the historical events that he teaches about in his classes. He has won several University of California Distinguished Teaching Awards and has published numerous books and articles. Von Blum earned his J.D. from University of California, Berkeley, where he also taught for 11 years before joining the UCLA faculty 25 years ago. Von Blum's Visual Communication and Social Advocacy course is only one of several classes into which he has incorporated Szyk's art.



Dr. John T. Pawlikowski is an acclaimed theologian at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. He is internationally recognized as one of the leading authorities on Social Ethics and Christian-Jewish relations. Father Pawlikowski is the leading advocate for Holocaust education in Catholic schools in America and he has published extensively about the Holocaust. He presently serves, by appointment, as the Chair of the CTU Academic Committee and on the Committee on Conscience. He also chairs the Church Relations Committee of CTU.

**OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER**

The Arthur Szyk Society is very pleased to welcome its newest Board Member,



**Wayne Feinstein, Mr. Feinstein** is a Senior Vice President with Capital Guardian Trust Company in the Bay Area and served 18 years as CEO of three of the nation's largest Jewish nonprofit organizations (including the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation).

During these years he was a recognized innovator in community service and programming, and he left a legacy of unprecedented fundraising and grant making achievements. He also created innovative strategies and programs in leadership development and training as well as community development within the US and in countries across the globe. Welcome, Wayne, we are thrilled to have you on board!

## The Very Might Of This Nation

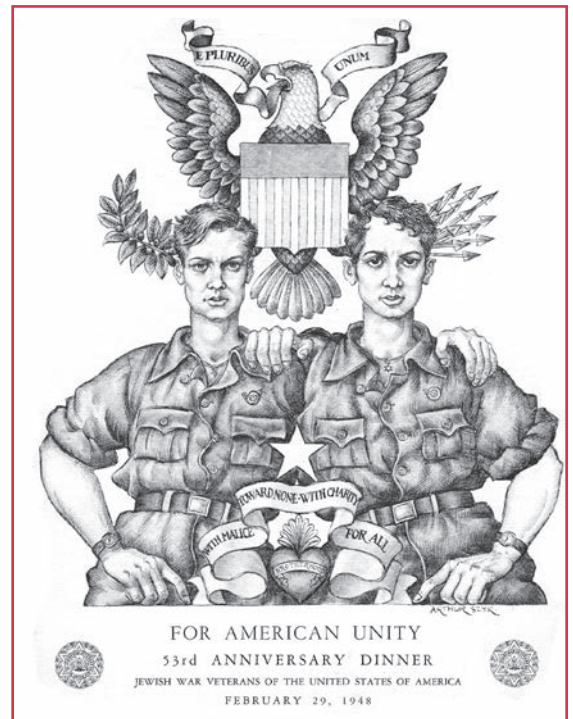


The orthodoxy of Hitler's Third Reich stood firmly behind the belief that racial purity would ultimately create a stronger, more evolved nation; that like unto like was somehow superior to diversity. This existed in direct contradiction to the precepts of democratic America where its Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal." Arthur Szyk, with an immigrant's keen intuition, understood this to mean that the intermingling of all men, of all creeds, had the end result of forging a profound national identity: "*the very might of this nation,*" and that our unity, despite our differences is what creates our strength.

In painting after painting, in posters, miniatures, and political cartoons, Szyk was constantly portraying people of opposing color and cultural ethnicity working together. They were soldiers and carpenters, artists and doctors. He was particularly keen, of course, in showing American Christians and American Jews working with one another in harmonic tandem.

In a drawing from 1943 that appeared in *The New York Post* promoting Brotherhood Week (created for the National Conference of Christians and Jews) Szyk shows a very worried Joseph Goebbels (Hitler's Minister of Propaganda) confessing to Hitler, Hirohito, Mussolini and Goering, that "If we don't destroy that team we are doomed..." The "team" is a Christian pilot named Kelly and his Jewish buddy Levin, to whom Szyk dedicates this drawing "*To the immortal team of Kellys and Levins, the very might of this nation...*"

He carried the theme still further in a superbly detailed pen and pencil drawing for a Jewish War Veterans dinner in 1948. Two young veterans, one wearing a cross about his neck and the other a Star of David, sit with their arms about one another's shoulders. Above them are the American eagle and the Great Seal of the United States "E Pluribus Unum"--- Out of Many---One. At the bottom of the drawing Szyk has placed a glowing heart across which reads "Brotherhood". It in turn is encircled by one of Abraham Lincoln's most enduring phrases "*With malice toward none, with charity for all.*" Presented at the close of his second inaugural address, Szyk reminds us that Lincoln's continued immortality rests not solely upon his insistence of the ending of slavery in our country but, more importantly on his successful efforts in keeping the nation from dissolving through civil war, on keeping the brotherhood of man alive.



## Szyk Serves as Chairman of 50th Anniversary JWV Commemoration at Madison Square Garden

On March 4, 1946, the Jewish War Veterans celebrated its Golden Jubilee with an historical pageant and All-Star show at New York's Madison Square Garden to pay tribute to the more than 600,000 Jewish men and women who proudly wore America's uniform in World War II. Chairing the event was Arthur Szyk, whose art of *The Fighting Jew* appeared on the program's front cover. The JWV, the second oldest veteran organization in the United States, was founded in 1896 by men who had fought during the nation's Civil War, refuting the claim that American Jews had not participated in that conflict. Among those serving on Szyk's committee honoring the WW II vets were the Honorable Robert F. Wagner, Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Rabbi Stephen S.

Wise, General Omar Bradley, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and more than 40 other prominent Americans. Governor Thomas E. Dewey served as Honorary Chairman, and Herman Jaffe (Szyk's printer) served as co-chairman. The date of March 4th was selected to correspond with the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural address (March 4, 1865) where he said: "*With malice towards none: with charity for all: with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan... to do all which may achieve and cherish a Just and Lasting Peace among ourselves, and with all Nations.*"

## Szyk Pays Tribute to the Martyrs and Heroes of His People

“Every Jew now alive is the legatee of those who died to uphold the sanctity of the Name or dignity of his origin. Let us not profane their sacred memory by trying to hide the tragedy of our people.” — Arthur Szyk [The Answer Magazine, New York, April, 1945, p. 65]

Volumes could indeed be written about the deep love that the Polish Jew, Arthur Szyk, felt for his people, and they could have had no greater advocate in the 1930s/40s than this activist artist who had come to America (in late 1940 from England) to fight on their behalf. In newspapers, magazines, journals, art exhibitions, books, pamphlets — in any place, and in all places, Szyk’s illustrations called attention to the plight of his people. Szyk’s own mother had been deported from the Lodz ghetto to the Chelmnno Nazi killing center in September, 1942 and in late March 1943, his brother Bernard was murdered. Szyk’s brothers and sisters, their numbers too numerous to fathom, were in need of rescue, and he enrolled himself as a “soldier in art” on their behalf. The illustrations which follow are but a few examples of his “showing forth the afflictions of his people Israel” and highlighting their struggle for survival with dignity.

At the time of this painting by Szyk, in 1940, the Jews of Czestochowa had experienced “Bloody Monday” (September 3, 1939) and the destruction of its Great Synagogue on December 25 of the same year. Approximately 40,000 Jews were ultimately deported from Czestochowa to Treblinka and executed. This painting later appeared in the Yiskor Book, Czestochover Yidn (Memorial Book of the Jews of Czestochowa).



In 1943, Szyk created this frontispiece image for a memorial book for the Jews of Lodz, remaining hopeful that his mother and brother might somehow still be alive in his hometown in the ghetto. This image was published in the Lodzer Yiskor Book in Paterson, New Jersey by the United Emergency Relief Committee For the City of Lodz, New York –December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1943.



Portrait of Adam Czerniakow, the chairman of the Warsaw Judenrat, who committed suicide (July 1942) rather than do the Nazis’ bidding. Next to the diaries of the Warsaw ghetto historian, Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum, Czerniakow’s diaries are among the most important record of the Jewish suffering in Warsaw. Ringelblum, who was among the severest critics of the Judenrat (Jewish police), apparently was sympathetic toward Czerniakow as “he held in his hands the strings of organized Jewish life.” This contemporary

portrait of Czerkiakow whom Szyk saw as a martyred hero later appeared on the front cover of a work by Marian Fuks, published in Warsaw in 1983. Refusing to sign children’s deportation orders from the Ghetto, Czerkiakow swallowed poison carried in his pocket after having recorded these final words in his diary: “I am powerless, my heart trembles in sorrow and compassion. I can no longer bear all this.” (Ency. Judaica, Vol 5)

*The Repulsed Attack*, illustrated by Szyk in New York in 1943 is one of two Warsaw ghetto uprising images he drew during the War. One could only image the pride and pain that the April 1943 uprising held for Szyk whose tremendous belief in the idea of *fighting back* against injustice was at the core of his being, as he paid tribute and honor to the martyrs and heroes of his people. This very painting, one of Szyk’s most important, was widely circulated during the War and appeared on the covers and within numerous publications, among which were: *HaDoar* (Weekly Newspaper) published by the Hebrew Histadrut in America, NY, April 1944 (28 Nisan); *The Forward*, NY, December 17, 1944; *Der Morgan Zhurnal* (Jewish Journal), NY, April 7, 1944; and *Our Voice* (Organ published by the United Galician Jews of America), Convention Issue, 1944. This also appeared in *Ink & Blood*, NY:Heritage Press, 1946, plate LXII.





## Memories of Arthur Szyk by his cousin

Julian Padowicz, a Society member, recently shared some memories with The Society about his relationship with Arthur Szyk. Julian's grandmother and Szyk's mother were sisters, making his mother and Szyk first cousins. Julian recalls that his mother stayed with the Szyks in Paris in 1931.

In 1941, Julian and his mother immigrated to the US and stayed with the Szyks on West 74<sup>th</sup> Street (Szyk and his wife Julia and daughter Alexandra arrived in the U.S. in late 1940).

Soon thereafter, Julian's mother found an apartment in the adjoining building and Julian remembers receiving a dime from his mother for ice cream and also going over to his "Auntie's house" (Szyk's mother) to collect another dime. After starting boarding school in 1943, Julian began to spend his vacations with the Szyks in Westport and later in New Canaan. Julian's grandmother came to the U.S.

after the war and also stayed with the Szyks in New Canaan until Arthur Szyk's death. Julian recalls that Arthur was his grandmother's favorite nephew because "they each had a tremendous sense of humor and wit, which was their main means of communication. When he died, my grandmother was absolutely heartbroken."

Szyk whistled while he worked: Julian remembers Arthur Szyk whistling regularly "Beautiful Dreamer" while he painted. This was confirmed by Szyk's daughter as well.

Steichen and Szyk roommates: Julian reports and Szyk daughter, Alexandra Bracie, confirms that the photographer, Edward Steichen (photographer, painter, and museum director) and Arthur Szyk were at one time roommates in Paris.

## Bernie Gittelson, Szyk's 1940s Agent Reflects

When Bernie Gittelson, Arthur Szyk's agent in New York in the 1940s was told recently about the Szyk exhibition traveling to Poland this summer, he responded: "That's fantastic, Arthur would have loved it. And Julia would make gefilte fish! I can close my eyes and see Arthur chuckling. He was a genius." Bernie first met Szyk as a 20 year old when working in the advertising and public relations world in New York. He was a regular visitor to the Szyk home both in New York City and in New Canaan where he would be entertained by Szyk and his wife, Julia. The Szyk's attended Bernie's wedding in Brooklyn. Bernie represented Szyk on many of his numerous commissions, including the famed United Nations series.

## Special Visitors to The Society

The Society has had the pleasure of welcoming some special visitors this past year to our office in Burlingame. Among our distinguished guests were: **Feliks Tych** and **Joachim Russek**, directors of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the Center for Jewish Culture in Krakow respectively; **Dr. Lena Bergman**, deputy director of the Jewish Historical Institute; **Kostek Gebert**, Editor of *Mydrasz* in Poland and Associate director of the Jewish Heritage Initiative; **Monika Fabijanska**, deputy director of the Polish Cultural Institute in NY; **Ben Shneiderman**, University of Maryland professor whose father, S.L. Shneiderman was a close friend of Szyk and who wrote a Yiddish biography of Szyk (Tel Aviv, 1980); **Dr. Elena Danielson**, Library and Archives director and curators **Zbigniew Stanczyk** and **Maciej Siekierski** at the Hoover Institution; **Dr. Stephen M. Dobbs**, executive director and **Shana Penn**, Jewish Heritage director of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture; and 2 TV documentary crews.

During World War II, Arthur Szyk received numerous commissions from big business in America: General Motors, U.S. Steel and Philco were among them. Here in Szyk's 1943 drawing for Coca Cola, drinking Coke was equated with forming friendships in Palestine as American GI's are shown conversing with Jewish settlers. This ad appeared in the United States in both English and Polish newspapers.

Have a Coca-Cola = Shalom Alaychem  
(PEACE BE UNTO YOU)

... or forming friendships in Palestine

Palestinians understand the friendliness in the phrase Have a "Coke". When they hear it from the visiting Yank soldier, they respond in kind. It's as true on the Jordan as on the Hudson. Around the globe Coca-Cola stands for the pause that refreshes—has become the simple symbol of a friendly-minded attitude.

It's natural for popular names to acquire friendly abbreviations. That's why you hear Coca-Cola called "Coke".

BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO. OF NEW YORK, INC.

Pozwól Coca-Cola = Shalom Alaychem  
(POKÓJ Z WAMI)

... lub nawiązywanie przyjaźni w Palestynie

Palestyniczcy rozumieją przyjaźń zawartą w słowach Pozwól "Coke". Gdy pozdrowienie to słyszą z ust żołnierza Janklesa, odpowiadają grzecznie. Jest ono tak szczerze nad Jordanem jak i nad Hudsonem. Naokoło świata Coca-Cola oznacza przerwę, która odświeża—stając się prostym symbolem przyjacielsko nastawionych ludzi.

Jest rzecz naturalna, iż sławne nazwy zyskują sobie przyjazne skróty. Dlatego też słyszycie, iż Coca-Cola nierzadko jest "Coke".

BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

## ~ SZYK IN THE NEWS ~

*“Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) was the virtuoso caricaturist of World War II”*

— *The New York Times*, Dec. 1, 2002

### *U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Praises Szyk*



Stuart Bernstein, Former US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark recently contacted The Society to express his appreciation for a copy of Szyk's Declaration of Independence which was given to him by his close friend, Albert Small. He writes "It has been proudly hung in my office at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark. As I wrap up my wonderful 3

½ years here in Denmark, I am taking it with me, where it will be proudly displayed in my office in Washington, D.C."

### *Mercer Island High School Holds Szyk program*

Christina Serkowski, a teacher at Mercer Island High School (Seattle, WA), attended a seminar given last summer in San Francisco by the non-profit educational organization Facing History and Ourselves. One of the presentations at that seminar was by Society curator, Irvin Ungar. Ms. Serkowski made arrangements to bring Mr. Ungar to Seattle. The result: over 400 students and teachers attended a presentation on "Fabric of America" as seen through Szyk's eyes and art. One of the students wrote: "I was thrilled to see how all of Szyk's beliefs were portrayed through his art...and reminded about how I need to live my own life. His beliefs of equality and brotherhood have revived my faith in the human race and rekindled similar beliefs I have." One of the teachers wrote: "What amazed me most about Szyk's caricatures were not his messages and allegories, though they were magnificent in their own respects, but the artistic detail that went into his miniature drawings. I got the wrong sense of the size of each of his cartoons from your PowerPoint presentation. I figured that his art was done as a painting or even a fresco. I envisioned his "Satan Leads the Ball" as a museum piece that was twenty feet long, and was nearly floored when I discovered it to be akin to a postcard in size. The detail and meticulous painting work that "Satan's Ball" exhibits is a clear exemplar of the artistic genius Arthur Szyk controlled; its likeness would be like Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpiece on a note card."

### *"Szyk is Chic" at La Sierra University Thanks to George Gooche*

The library at La Sierra University (LSU) in Riverside, California has a new acquisition that is making Szyk "chic" on campus. Thanks to a generous donation from George Gooche, Founder of The Arthur Szyk Society and alumnus of LSU, the library is the owner of The New Canaan Edition of The Declaration of Independence by Arthur Szyk. Gooche donated

this print to the library last fall in order to increase knowledge about Szyk at his alma mater. According to Kelly Reed, journalist for the LSU paper, there are two reasons why students should learn about Szyk. "First, Szyk's fight against racial oppression and his subsequent fame is an inspirational story. Second, Szyk's artwork is amazingly intricate and simply beautiful."

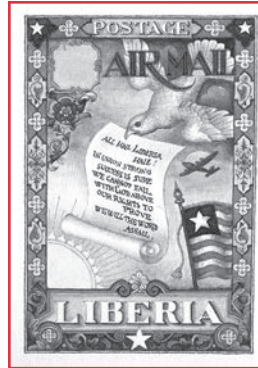
### *Szyk Documentaries to Air*

A Polish filmmaker has recently completed a one-hour documentary on the life of Arthur Szyk for Polish television. No date has been set for its release in Poland, but it is expected to be ready in time to coincide with the Szyk exhibitions in Poland this summer. During his visit to America during this past year, filmmaker Piotr Zabreski visited Szyk's daughter in Florida, The FDR Library in Hyde Park (which houses the original Szyk paintings of George Washington and His Times), Society Board member Alex Lauterbach whose wife Anne is a cousin of Szyk, and The Arthur Szyk Society in Burlingame.

In addition, History Detectives, plans a PBS special to be shown about Szyk this summer during prime time.

The Society will publish air times on its website once they become known.

### *Arthur Szyk featured in Cover Story for "Stamp Monthly"*



The January 2005 issue of "Stamp Monthly" featured Arthur Szyk for its "spotlight" article by Ken Lawrence. The curator of The Society was thrilled to read the article as it was "the first time that I have seen an article which focuses on Arthur Szyk as both an illustrator of postage stamps and poster stamps and contextualizes this aspect of his creativity within the overall body of his work."

The article describes Szyk's life as an artist and extensively covers his life as a stamp artist. Szyk's first experience with stamp art was designing a series for Liberia in 1949 featuring themes of history, culture and the economy. He was commissioned for this project by Franklin R. Bruns Jr. who was a philatelic advisor and an agent for the postal administration in Liberia in the 1940's. (Bruns is also known for his later career as the curator of philately at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.)



Republic of Liberia stamp sheets conceived and illustrated by Szyk

See NEWS on page 8

## Arthur Szyk First Full Length Scholarly Biography Reviewed

The following excerpts are from a Review by Dr. Stephen Mark Dobbs, correspondent, which appeared April 15, 2005 in the "J." the Jewish news weekly of Northern California and are reproduced with the permission of the "J." and the author

### Well-deserved biography on cartoonist Arthur Szyk

Editorial cartoonist Arthur Szyk considered his work to be "weapons of war." He was widely known as the "Citizen Soldier of the Free World."

His biting satires of fascist leaders so outraged them that Hitler once put a price on Szyk's head. The artist revealed the ugliness and corruption of the Nazis with a harshness comparable to the political satire of Goya and Daumier.

Auburn University professor Joseph P. Ansell has written a marvelous and well-deserved biography about the cartoonist: "Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole."

Born in Poland in 1894, Szyk took a bead on Hitler as early as 1933 and remained a personal nemesis of the German dictator — and of Mussolini and Tojo — throughout the war. Szyk's cartoons and drawings were ubiquitous, appearing in the nation's leading newspapers and major magazines.

The attraction of Szyk's work was not only topical but also stylistic. His meticulous craftsmanship was showcased by excessively detailed drawings. Szyk's prolific output belied his careful, methodical, patient way of working. Viewers were fascinated with Szyk's drawing, which served the interests of propaganda for the war effort but also as works of art that might stand on their own.

Szyk's biting sarcasm, ridicule and opprobrium against the Axis powers raised the morale of Allied troops who saw his caricatures of the enemy wherever they served. On the home front there was an emotional resonance with the cartoons and drawings, which portrayed the ugly and grotesque nature of the foe. For example, Szyk pictured Himmler, Goering and Hoess as toadies to Hitler and otherwise in the worst possible light.

### David Wyman Institute Features Szyk at exhibit, "Cartoonists Against the Holocaust."

The David Wyman Institute, a research and educational institution focusing on the US response to the Nazi genocide, created a one-day exhibit for the Hebrew Academy in Rockville, Maryland on November 9, 2004. This exhibit, officially called, "Cartoonists Against the Holocaust: Art in the Service of Humanity," featured artwork of wartime editorial cartoonists, one of whom was Arthur Szyk.

The Wyman Institute's Director, Dr. Rafael Medoff spoke to the student body about the exhibit and praised the effort of these unique artists, "At a time when many Americans were indifferent to the plight of European Jews, these courageous artists used their talents to try to rouse America's conscience. This exhibit pays tribute to the few who spoke out – and shows our own generation how cartoon art can be used to rouse a nation's conscience."

But Szyk was more than a cartoonist. He was also a fine artist whose gouache paintings of Jewish tradition and American history issued from him in a steady stream. Perhaps his most well-known Jewish work is his Haggadah, a 48-page masterpiece that took six years to complete and was published in 1940, the year Szyk moved from Europe to the United States.

After the war, Szyk continued to pursue the themes of freedom and tolerance. In one cartoon, a black man pleads for forgiveness from his Ku Klux Klan tormentors. He is dressed in the uniform of an Army soldier with a Purple Heart on his chest. (Szyk died in 1951 unable to witness the full grown Civil Rights Movement.)

With the Third Reich in ruins, Szyk also turned to commercial art and book illustration, and to his ongoing Jewish and American themes. These included a series on the Book of Esther, the Ten Commandments, the Book of Job, presidents of the United States and the Declaration of Independence. Forty years later, Szyk's acclaim would bring him the first solo artist retrospective exhibition at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Szyk was an artist with a clear philosophy. He was on a personal mission to use his artistic talents to serve the Jewish people and all humanity.



"Do not forgive them Oh Lord, for they do know what they do!..." New Canaan, 1949. Also in Szyk's hand: "Each Negro lynching is a national disaster, is a stab in the back to our government in its desperate struggle for democracy."

Joseph Ansell's Book, *Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole* is now available for purchase through The Society. This first full-length scholarly study of Szyk was published in November 2004 by The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in Oxford, England. Copies are \$50 each, plus shipping and can be ordered by phoning The Society office 650-343-9588.

## OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Lynka Adams - *San Francisco, CA*  
Fiorella Bassan - *Rome, Italy*  
Pete & Charlotte Berkowitz - *Houston, TX*  
Stuart A. Bernstein - *Washington, DC*  
Dr. Jay Blum - *Highland Park, NJ*  
Perry Bolkin - *Fairfax, NJ*  
Lee Brandenburg - *Monte Sereno, CA*  
Phillip Brin - *Park Forest, IL*  
Harvey A. Brode - *Farmington Hills, MI*  
Walter Finkelstein - *Charlotte, NC*  
Don & Janie Friend - *San Francisco, CA*  
Marcia Galletti - *Baldwin, NY*  
Louis Girling - *San Francisco, CA*  
Leon Greenspan - *Burlingame, CA*  
Valoree Huysentruyt - *Wake Forest, NC*  
Deanne & Arnold Kaplan - *Allentown, PA*  
Emil Knopf - *San Francisco, CA*  
Rita Kopin - *Bethesda, MD*  
Alex & Ann Lauterbach - *Encino, CA*  
Abe Lenczner - *Fairfax, CA*  
Howard Lickerman - *Columbus, IN*  
Eva Chernov Lokey - *San Mateo, CA*  
Robert & Frances Low - *San Francisco, CA*  
Monica Markowicz - *Boca Raton, FL*  
David Markowitz - *Princeton, NJ*  
Eleanor Marr - *Poughkeepsie, NY*  
Laurence & Laurie May - *Hillsborough, CA*  
Robert O. McCabe - *New York, NY*  
Barbara Mortkowitz - *San Mateo, CA*  
Shirley Moss - *New York, NY*  
Richard Nowakowski - *Philadelphia, PA*  
Sybil Preisler - *Morristown, NJ*  
Mike Richman - *Yonkers, NJ*  
Paul & Sheri Robbins - *Palo Alto, CA*  
Daniel & Joanna Rose - *New York, NY*  
Charles Schiffman - *Portland, OR*  
Josh Shak - *Hillsborough, CA*  
Selma Sitrick - *Highlands Beach, FL*  
Richard M. Sitron - *Altamonte Springs, FL*  
Albert Small - *Bethesda, MD*  
Rinjiro Sodei - *Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo*  
David & Pauline Soffa - *San Francisco, CA*  
Morton L. Spitz - *Cincinnati, OH*  
Esther Stadtler - *Fairfax, CA*  
Sandy Stadtler - *San Francisco, CA*  
Jerome Stern - *New York, NY*  
Herman Taube - *Rockville, MD*  
Rodney H. Washburn - *Atherton, CA*  
Gerald Weiss - *Westport, CT*  
Philip Westerman - *Atlanta, GA*  
Elliot Zaleznik - *Naples, FL*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Society would like to thank all members and supporters for their donations this year and we would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals and foundations for their generous contributions ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000:

The Brandenburg Family Foundation  
Eva Chernov Lokey Philanthropic Fund  
Robbins Family Philanthropic Fund  
Daniel & Joanna Rose  
Albert Small  
Jerome Stern Family Foundation  
Charles Syers  
Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture

### NEWS from page 6

Szyk also designed commemorative stamps for Israel in 1949/1950 with images of the Jewish holiday festival of Sukkot.

What might be most familiar to Szyk admirers are his images from the United Nations Series. Lawrence explains that these images were actually designed as title pages for stamp albums. Before his death, Szyk completed title pages for nine countries: United States, Canada,

**Poland.** New Canaan, 1946. One of nine countries painted by Szyk as part of his *United Nations series*. This visual representation features heroes of Polish history: Copernicus, Chopin, Kosciuszko, and Pulaski. The miner and peasant in Polish national costume represent the hardy and enduring Polish labor force. The coat of arms of Warsaw sits just above and between the miner and peasant. The Eagle (at the top) is not wearing a crown of independence because Poland was under Russian rule at the time this history was painted.

Mr. Small's contribution has been designated to underwrite our forthcoming Art History Paper on Szyk and Americana by Harry Katz, former Curator of Prints and Graphics at the Library of Congress. The Brandenburg contribution allows us to move forward on the Image Database project and exhibition proposals. Paul and Sheri Robbins' contribution provides support for general operating funds, the Database project, as well as supports our traveling exhibition program to Poland. The Eva Chernov Lokey, Stern, Syers, and Rose contributions enable us to sustain our programs as well as to plan future exhibition projects. The Taube Foundation grant has been designated to enable The Society to travel its exhibition to Poland.

Poland, Great Britain, U.S.S.R., France, China, Switzerland, and Israel as well as the History of Flight (airmails of the world).

In tribute to Szyk, Lawrence quotes the New York Times Herald Tribune stating, "His paintings, art critics have said, were done with colors as rich as crushed jewels, lines fine as hair, and with a fantastic wealth of exquisitely minute detail secured in compositions frequently no more than a few inches in dimension."

