

I HAVE SWORN UPON THE ALTAR OF GOD ETERNAL HOSTILITY AGAINST  
EVERY FORM OF TYRANNY OVER THE MIND OF MAN — THOMAS JEFFERSON

# THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE RENAISSANCE  
OF ARTHUR SZYK

Vol. 8 No. 1

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2007

## Major Szyk Exhibition to Open in Berlin at Deutsches Historisches Museum, Fall 2008

### First-Ever German Exhibition for Anti-Nazi Polish-Jewish Artist

The Arthur Szyk Society is pleased to announce that it will collaborate with the Deutsches Historisches [German Historical] Museum, Berlin on a milestone exhibition of the original artwork of Arthur Szyk. The nearly 5000 square foot exhibition will take place in the I. M. Pei Building with opening night festivities on Thursday, August 28, 2008 and running through Sunday, January 4, 2009. This landmark exhibition will highlight Szyk's first appearance in Germany, and present his anti-Nazi political art in Europe for the first time in almost 70 years, since his "War and Kultur" exhibition in London in January 1940.

"We are particularly pleased that Dr. Hans Ottomeyer, Director of the Deutsches Historisches Museum, proposed to The Society an exhibition that will introduce Szyk's art to the German people and to the peoples of Europe once again" said Irvin Ungar, Curator of The Arthur Szyk Society, who will serve as guest curator for the exhibition. While most of Szyk's WWII propaganda art was primarily seen in England (1939/40), Canada (1940), and the United States (1940-1945) –in all of the countries Szyk resided, the German leaders were also well aware of Szyk's art as witnessed by Hitler placing a personal price tag on Szyk's head (see page 6). Similarly, the Japanese were quite aware of Szyk's international reach, while using one of his works of art for their own propaganda purposes (see photo page 6). Naturally, Szyk was extremely well-known in Paris in the 1920s, as well as in his Polish Homeland both prior to WW I and continuing through WW II. With the Berlin show, Szyk returns to international attention.

"The German Historical Museum's exhibition will be a major milestone in the renaissance of the art of Arthur Szyk," said Sander I. Stadtler, President of The Arthur Szyk Society. "For those people who are not familiar with Arthur Szyk's entire body of

work and his immense skills, this exhibition will be a revelation. We are excited to be working with Dr. Ottomeyer and Dr. Monika Flacke, head of the Museum's 20<sup>th</sup> century art collection, on this seminal art world event."

The Society will be consulting with the Deutsches Historisches Museum to create special events prior to and directly after the exhibition's opening. **For more information about these events and how you might join us, see page 7.**



*I. M. Pei Building will host the 5000 sq. ft. Szyk Exhibition.*

## Szyk Returns to International Stage

### Germany, Japan, Poland, England among countries joining the United States in witnessing Szyk Renaissance

It is becoming increasingly clear that world-wide interest in Arthur Szyk continues to heighten, more than one-half century since his death. In the coming months, in addition to the milestone exhibition in Berlin, the following will be taking place: the first book about Szyk will be published in Japanese by a Tokyo history professor (see page 8), and Joseph Ansell's biography of Szyk will be published in Polish in Krakow (see page 8). Within this past year a building in London's East End was declared a historic landmark due to Szyk's three-dimensional art adorning its façade and interior (see page 3). Naturally, traveling exhibitions (see page 11), documentaries (see page 10), and publications about Szyk continue to appear in the US (see page 10). And, not to leave out Italy, a focus of Szyk's attention as one of the WW II Axis power nations, even a book of Szyk's was published in Italian in recent years (see page 10). And, in Texas, Holocaust Museum Houston has a Szyk exhibition on its schedule.



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

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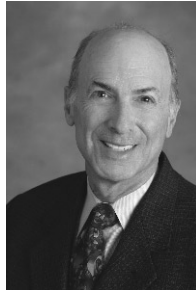
**PROJECT / OFFICE MANAGER**

Lori Wood

**PROGRAM / EXHIBITION COORDINATOR**

Debbie Spazman

## NEW FACES



### Sander Stadtler Inaugurated as Society President

Sandy Stadtler was the unanimous selection of The Arthur Szyk Society Board of Directors to become Board President, taking over from Dr. Charles Syers, who had presided as President from 2002 to 2007. Sandy, a prominent CPA in northern California, brings tremendous business acumen and experience to this position, as well as a visceral personal connection to Szyk through both of his parents. His father, Dr. Oscar Stadtler (a Szyk Society member) is past President of the International Society of Israel Philatelists and for over 25 years the editor of the Society's magazine, *The Israel Philatelist*. Through that society, Dr. Stadtler was very familiar with Arthur Szyk because of his United Nations stamp album frontispieces. In addition, he has authored several articles about the artist. Sandy's mother, Bea Stadtler, a Jewish educator and author has also written about Szyk. "Arthur Szyk has been an American Jewish treasure whose artwork is becoming better known and understood through the wonderful efforts of The Arthur Szyk Society. I am proud and excited to be the Society's new president to help advance the already extraordinary progress made by previous presidents and the ongoing work of curator Irvin Ungar and the rest of the Board."



### Actor, Singer, Activist Theodore Bikel Joins Society Honorary Board

We are pleased to announce that Theodore Bikel has accepted our invitation to join The Arthur Szyk Society Honorary Board, in the company of Arthur Szyk's daughter, Alexandra Szyk Bracie; U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos; artist Art Spiegelman; author and humanitarian Elie Wiesel; professor of Social Ethics at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union, Father John Pawlikowski; and senior lecturer in African-American studies at UCLA Professor Paul Von Blum. Mr. Bikel is well known for his far-ranging talents that include acting on the Broadway stage in such roles as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Mitch in *Streetcar Named Desire*; appearing in such films as *The Defiant Ones*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actor, *The African Queen* and *My Fair Lady*. In television he was nominated for numerous "Emmy" awards, winning in 1988 for his portrayal of Harris Newmark, one of the early immigrant pioneers of the West Coast. In addition, he is a highly regarded folk-singer, lecturer and international political activist. He currently lives in Los Angeles, California, and is active in the resurgence of Jewish community life in Poland.



### Lori Wood named Society Project Manager

As a result of the expanding activities and programs, The Arthur Szyk Society is delighted to welcome Lori Wood for administrative and project management support. Lori works three days a week at The Society offices in Burlingame and has jumped in with enthusiasm and skill. Her background includes marketing, public relations and advertising experience across several industries, including financial services, hospitality and technology. Most recently she was Senior Vice President at Ketchum PR where she worked with FedEx, Philips Electronics, Electronics for Imaging, and a host of Internet startups. Prior to technology PR, Lori was Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for Il Fornaio, where she guided their efforts in expanding throughout California. Lori has already made a significant impact on the outreach of The Society. In her spare time, she volunteers at the DeYoung Museum, one of San Francisco's Fine Arts Museums.

## British Building named Szyk Landmark

*Arthur Szyk's Three-Dimensional Art Recognized in London*

By Hannah Parham



It is no surprise that the location of Arthur Szyk's most notable surviving work in England is in Whitechapel in London's East End. The area was the home of the majority of Jewish émigrés who arrived in Britain, via the nearby Docklands, having fled the Pogroms of the 1880s in Eastern Europe. Today's popular Jewish Heritage Trails identify the monuments of this community's history which include the magnificent 'hidden' synagogue at 19 Princelet

Street, the handsome 'Soup Kitchen for the Jewish Poor' on Brune Street and the memorial fountain to Edward VII sponsored by his Jewish subjects on Whitechapel High Street.

A humbler monument testifies to the talent of Arthur Szyk, who resided in London in the early and late 1930s before emigrating to the USA in 1940: a cast iron sign above the doorway of 88 Whitechapel High Street. In the 1930s the building was the home of the *Jewish Daily Post*, who refurbished their offices in 1934-5 and installed Szyk's sign along with a second sign above the elevator entrance on the first floor. The external sign contains no inscription but depicts a Magen David supported by two lions of Judah rampant and wielding sabers. The second sign comprises two Lions of Judah holding the *Lubot* inscribed with the first Hebrew letters of each of the Ten Commandments, topped by the *Keter Torah*. The distinctive signs outlived the newspaper, which ceased circulation in the mid-1930s, and were incorporated by Alberts, a gentleman's outfitters which had been trading from Whitechapel High Street since the Edwardian period. Alberts moved to No. 88 when their premises were bombed in the WWII London Blitz into the stylish Art Deco-inspired shop. The shop thrives to this day and the signs survive, too, as an enduring symbol of Jewish cultural identity in this now predominantly Bangladeshi area of London.

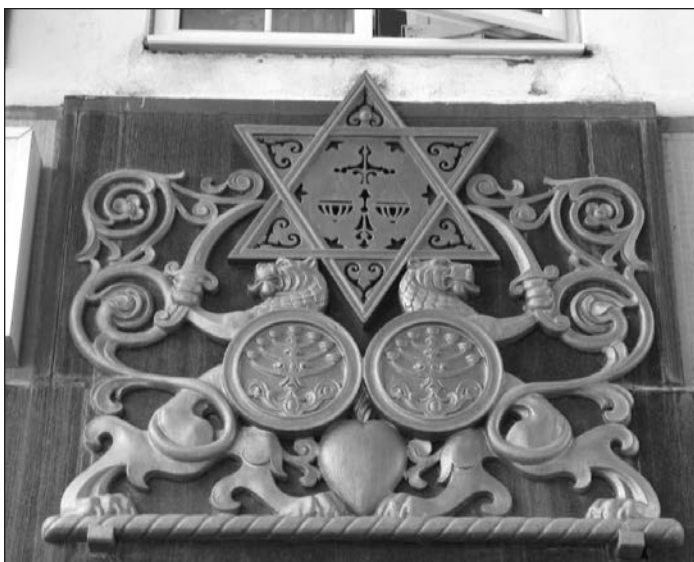
Although thought to be the only composition by Szyk executed in sculptural form, the two signs are related to the illustrator's

other work in their deft use of symbolism and high artistic quality. The design of the internal sign, for example, is similar to one used in a draft title page for the Haggadah (see page 12) which Szyk created shortly after Germany annexed Austria in 1938. Szyk's authorship of the signs was highlighted by Joseph Ansell in his book *Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole* and confirmed by the artist's daughter, Alexandra, who remembers her father completing the commission for a man named Mr. Solomon.

In May 2007, in recognition of the special artistic and historic interest of the two signs, 88 Whitechapel High Street was given legal protection from demolition or alteration on the advice of English Heritage, the UK government's adviser on the historic environment. It is hoped that this will extend the fortuitous survival of the signs through the bombing raids of the 1940s, the shop refurbishment by Alberts in the 1950s and the dramatic demographic changes in the Whitechapel area in recent decades into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Hannah Parham is the Heritage Protection Adviser, London, England

Additional three-dimensional works of art by Szyk can be seen at the Forest Hills Jewish Center in Queens, New York and at Abba Hillel Silver's Temple, Tifereth Israel, in Cleveland, Ohio.



*Exterior cast iron work of art above doorway of 88 Whitechapel High Street*



*Interior design above elevator entrance on the first floor*

# Newsweek

Number 15  
Volume XX

The Magazine of News Significance

October 12, 1942

## • FIGHTING FRONTS •

# Hitler and Göring Speeches Show Nazi Cockiness Gone

### Undertones Reveal Worry on Some Phases of War Despite Subdued Boasting of Victory

All around the world, the United Nations fronts last week were stiffened or pushed forward. The biggest gain was in the wintry Aleutians. There, the Navy revealed, strong American forces which had landed in the Andreanof group and established airfields were already carrying out an air offensive against Japanese-held Kiska, only a few hundred miles west. The Aussies advanced in New Guinea. In Western Europe, Flying Fortresses resumed daylight raids on an ever-growing scale. And at Stalingrad, the outnumbered Russians were launching counteroffensives against the Germans.

But the most encouraging sign for the Allies originated outside the actual battle zones. It came from Berlin. For the first time, Adolf Hitler made an important speech in which he neither promised further world-shaking victories nor pretended to foresee the end of the war.

The occasion was the launching of the 1942 Winter Aid campaign. The Führer came especially from the Russian front to bolster the spirits of the German people now facing their fourth war winter. And in the great Sportpalast, he regaled 10,000 Nazis, including Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, temporarily home from Egypt, with a characteristic brew of sarcasm, boasts, pledges of loot, and hints of prolonged fighting.

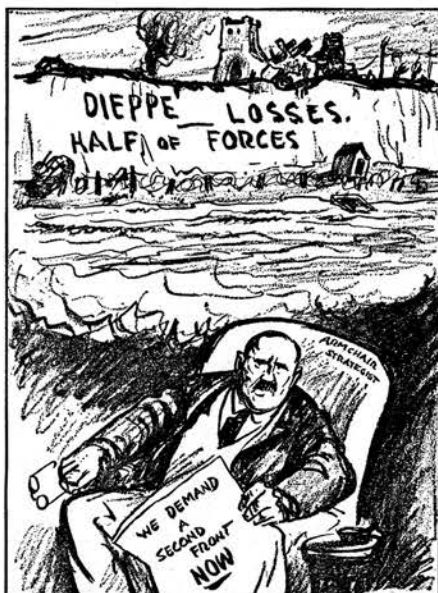
As a crucible for irony, Hitler relied on his old stand-by—Axis victories. Jeering at Britain, he pulled out all the well-worn stops from Norway to Crete. These he compared with that “most astonishing sign of the inexhaustible victorious strength of the British Empire”—the recent raid on Dieppe. For the first time, too, he was able to barb his tirade with a list of Japanese “defeats” at Singapore and elsewhere. There was the usual flood of lies. A typical one was that Churchill or some other British spokesmen in 1939 declared that U-boats were “disposed of once and for all.”

It was when he came to Russia that the Hitlerian anthem seemed to get out of tune. That Red land which Hitler a year before had said would “never rise again” was still holding up the whole Nazi scheme of conquest. So the Führer announced a list of 1942 objectives that had obviously been scaled down to actual events. The goals, he said, included domination of the Black Sea and a break-through to the Volga. As for Stalingrad, he could only pledge that it would be taken. And he boasted that afterward the Germans would never relinquish it.

But Hitler showed his sharpest symptoms of worry in referring to the second front. First, he belittled the Allied “military idiots” and their offensive power. Then he admitted, in effect, that Nazi nerves were frayed at uncertainty over where the Allies would strike next—“It may be the craziest sort of undertaking, and that is the one unpleasant thing—the fact that in the case of these mentally diseased or perpetually drunk persons one never knows what they are really up to.” He left no doubt about what the Germans were up to. They were preparing “everywhere” against a second front.

At another part of the speech, it was the German people’s worry that showed up. That was where Hitler referred briefly to the Allied air offensive and promised that “the hour will come this time also in which we shall answer.” The remark brought the loudest and most prolonged applause during the whole speech.

Finally, Hitler went out of his way to whip up the war effort of the home front. This he did by picturing the “terribly difficult” conditions of the soldiers fighting on the Russian front.



Duffy in The Baltimore Sun

“The Cliffs Opposite Dover”



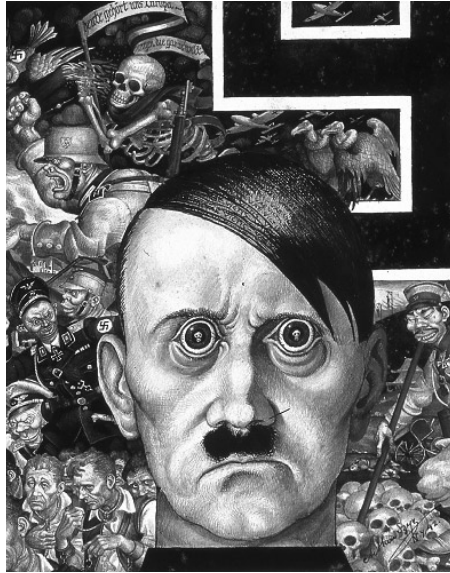
Szyk in The N. Y. Post

“Answer Him on the Production Line”



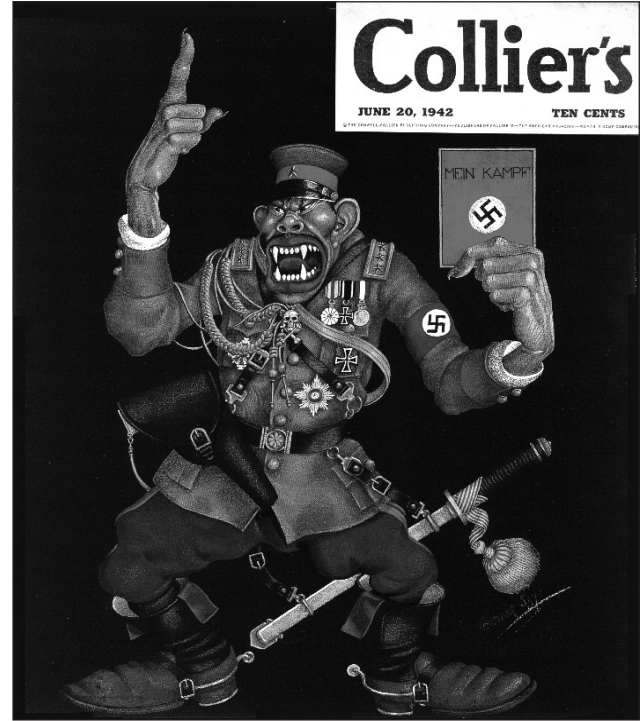
## AXIS REACT TO SZYK'S ART

One of Szyk's most powerful images is that of Hitler as the Anti-Christ. The German leader is shown as the embodiment of evil, with skulls of death in his eyes, and signs of destruction and death all around him. This work of art appeared on the front cover of *The New York Times Book Review*, March 25, 1945 with the title of "Preview of Chaos" and on the front cover of *Answer* magazine, January 1945 with the subtitle "This is Germany."



*Anti-Christ. New York, 1942*

With images such as this it is no wonder that Hitler is presumed to have placed a price tag on Szyk's head.



## The Furor of the Führer

### THE HALIFAX HERALD Famed Polish Artist Has Price On His Head

*Halifax Herald* newspaper. Nova Scotia, Canada, September 1940

Caption reads:  
*Arthur Szyk, renowned Polish artist whom Hitler regards as "one of Germany's most dangerous enemies" arrived in Canada yesterday to begin a lecture tour of the Dominion and the United States. He is shown above with his daughter, Alexandra, right, and his wife. His son, Georges, is with General de Gaulle in London.*



Arthur Szyk, renowned Polish artist whom Hitler regards as "one of Germany's most dangerous enemies", arrived in Canada yesterday to begin a lecture tour of the Dominion and the United States. He is shown above with his daughter, Alexandra, right, and his wife. His son, Georges, is with General de Gaulle in London.

## Japanese Use Szyk's Propaganda for Their Own Propaganda Purposes

These two images and their captions appeared in the *Philadelphia Record* newspaper, September 30, 1942.

### 'The Japs Are Great Imitators'



*And here is where the Japs got it—a drawing by Arthur Szyk, noted Polish artist, in his book of cartoons, "The New Order," published by Putnam's. The likeness of the two drawings was discovered by Allan Richter, 15-year-old Upper Darby High School boy.*

Here is one of the terror leaflets showed down on Bataan's defenders by Japanese fliers. It was brought out of the Philippines by Charles Van Landingham, accountant for a mining company, and is reproduced with his article in the current issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*.

# Society Announces Berlin Program in Conjunction with Milestone Exhibition at Deutsches Historisches Museum: August 27-29, 2008

THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO OUR "SZYK IN BERLIN CULTURE TOUR" AUGUST 27-29, 2008.

The tour is our third Special Event program in conjunction with landmark Szyk exhibition openings in U.S and European capitals.

In Fall 2005, The Society conducted a Szyk Renaissance Tour to Poland in honor of its 1<sup>st</sup> International Exhibition Tour, which included attendance at the "Justice Illuminated" opening reception in Krakow. The exhibit previously showed in Warsaw and Lodz venues. In Spring 2002, The Society hosted a gala event at The Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, DC, to celebrate the opening of "The Art & Politics of Arthur Szyk" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with special guests from embassies and Honored Guest Hadassah Lieberman. And now, we invite

you to witness and be present at Arthur Szyk's first-ever exhibition in Berlin's flourishing arts and culture capital in the heart of Germany. Spaces are limited. If you are interested, please reserve now.



*Jewish Museum, Berlin*

## The Program:

### Wednesday, August 27

**Early Evening Welcome and Orientation at Berlin Hotel** followed by **VIP dinner** with prominent members of the German government, embassy representatives, and Berlin and European Jewish community leaders

### Thursday, August 28

**Day of sightseeing on your own** with recommendations from our local travel consultants for Berlin high spots and hotspots including prominent museums

**Private Invitation to Press Conference and Szyk Exhibition Opening/Reception** at the **Deutsches Historisches** [German Historical] **Museum**, I.M. Pei Building

### Friday, August 29

**Private Exhibition Tour** with Curator, Irvin Ungar

**Followed by lunch** at the Museum and afternoon **Guided Bus Tour of Jewish Berlin** with Milk and Honey Tours

**Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat Service** at historic synagogue followed by Sabbath Dinner

### Saturday, August 30

**Optional:** Saturday afternoon at the **Berlin Jewish Museum** designed by architect Daniel Libeskind

## Program/Tour Cost:

**\$786 per person** (excludes Airfare and Hotel). Cost includes:

- VIP Dinner and reception
- Press conference/Exhibition opening
- Special tour of exhibition
- Lunch at Museum
- Exclusive bus tour of Jewish Berlin
- Shabbat Services/Dinner

*\$286 is tax deductible (includes Szyk Society membership). Space is limited.*

### The trip does not include:

**Airfare:** Participants should plan to arrive in the morning/early afternoon of August 27, or earlier. **Hotel:** The Society has reserved rooms with special rates at a five-star Berlin Hotel within walking distance of The German Historical Museum, in the heart

of Berlin. The Society is also recommending two other hotels nearby with whom we have been in contact. **Alcohol expense at meals** not included.

After registering with The Society for the trip, you will receive a list of hotels with their rates and contact information so you may be in touch with them directly. Should you cancel, you will be responsible for any cancellation fees.

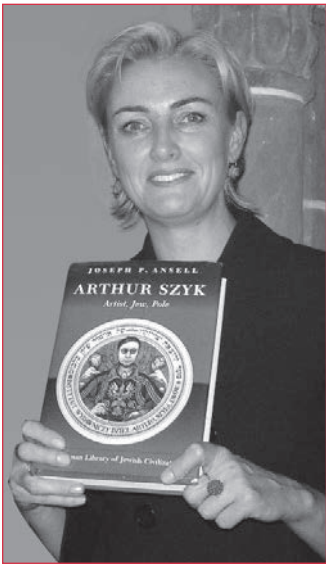
A non-refundable per person deposit of \$250 to The Society is required to reserve your space on the tour. Balance is due by March 31, 2008. Visa or MasterCard accepted. Checks should be made payable to: The Arthur Szyk Society, 1200 Edgehill Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010.

**To Register:** Please phone The Society office at 650-343-9588 and ask for Lori or Debbie, who will be pleased to accept your reservation. No reservation will be confirmed until a deposit is received. Upon receipt of deposit, an email confirmation will be sent to you confirming your place in The Arthur Szyk Society "Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour." A list of Society designated Hotels will also be sent to you.

## OUR BERLIN COORDINATOR: HARTMUT G. BOMHOFF

HARTMUT studied modern history, art and literature in Göttingen and Berlin. He is a staff member of Abraham Geiger College at the University of Potsdam, training rabbis for Europe. In 2006, he worked with B'nai B'rith Europe as founding director of MAKOR, the Jewish cultural forum in Bratislava, Slovakia. He is co-editor of *Kescher*, a journal about liberal Judaism in the German-speaking world, and *Golem*, the European Jewish almanac. Since August 2006, he has served as editor of "Jüdische Zeitung", Germany's Jewish monthly paper. Hartmut is working very closely with Szyk Society Project Manager, Lori Wood to coordinate an outstanding cultural and historic Berlin program.

## Ansell Book To Be Published In Polish



*Malgosia Ornat, publisher*

Joseph Ansell's acclaimed Arthur Szyk biography entitled: *Arthur Szyk, Artist, Jew, Pole* is being published in Polish before the end of 2007 by Malgosia Ornat of Austeria Publishing in Krakow, Poland. The Polish translation has taken two years since Ansell's book first was published in English by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in Oxford, England under the guidance of Connie Webber. Malgosia and her husband are also the proprietors of Klezmerhois Restaurant in Krakow. The Polish translation is available through popular book stores throughout Poland, as well as online at [www.austeria.pl](http://www.austeria.pl)

## Tokyo Professor Writes Szyk Biography *Japanese work first of its kind*



*ARTHUR SZYK: Indignant Jewish Illuminator* by Japanese professor Rinjiro Sodei has been published by Shakai Hyoronsha, Tokyo in Japanese, November 2007. Sodei's full biography is profusely illustrated and combines Szyk's major illuminations with his WWII political art, with a special focus on his anti-Japanese cartoons. Sodei, who did graduate work at UCLA, writes concerning his book: "The idea is to have the Japanese people confront the ugly faces of their wartime leaders, including Hirohito and his allies, Hitler et al., so that they, the Japanese, learn and self-reflect about how they engaged in the insipid and vicious war. Szyk's wartime illuminations should work as a mirror for the Japanese to see and acknowledge their wartime atrocities."

The staff of The Arthur Szyk Society expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Joseph Ansell on his passing this year. Joe was a true *mensch* and an excellent scholar. Our dialogues with Joe will be sorely missed.

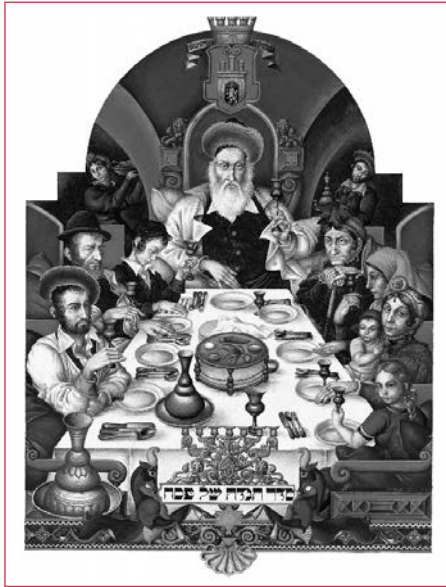
The front and back covers of the Polish edition of Ansell's book (see below) are taken from Szyk's *Visual History of Nations* series. In this instance, the artwork expresses the dual identity of Arthur Szyk as a Pole and a Jew.



## Haggadah Sells at New York sale for Record Sum, and another!

When *The Szyk Haggadah* was first published in London in 1940, it was the most expensive new book in the world, selling for \$500, the equivalent of a new car at that time! And now, The Haggadah once again continues to set record prices.

The June 2006 Christies auction catalog had a color photograph and major spread on one of the original 250 vellum copies of the 1940 Szyk Haggadah. An auction review publication headline read: “A monument of sacred art and...craftsmanship” sells at auction announcing that The Szyk Haggadah sold at a record price of \$54,000 to an Israeli dealer. And in a more recent sale, held at Kestenbaum and Company in New York (June 2007), which described The Szyk Haggadah as “the most sublime of all Passover Haggadahs”, another record price was set at \$59,000 to an anonymous buyer. Sales prices of Szyk’s original art also continue to achieve higher and higher price-setting levels at public auction.



## Historicana to Publish New Edition of Szyk’s Haggadah Using Digital Photography of Original Artwork

In his position as Founder & CEO of the antiquarian bookseller firm HISTORICANA, Irvin Ungar will publish an entirely new edition of Arthur Szyk’s popular Passover Haggadah. This will mark the first time any publisher will have had access to Szyk’s original art since the first edition was published in 1940. Through state-of-the-art digital technology in photography and printing, viewers of the book will have the opportunity to see Arthur Szyk’s most renowned and beloved art as never before. The new limited edition combines the best of the new with the mastery of tradition, featuring the work of some of the book arts’ most highly regarded practitioners. Scholars participating in the project include: Dr. Byron Sherwin (Spertus Institute, Chicago), Tom Freudenheim (former deputy director of the Berlin Jewish Museum and curator at The Jewish Museum, NY) and Professor Shalom Sabar (Hebrew University). Historicana will publish a total of 310 sets, in both Deluxe and Premier editions.

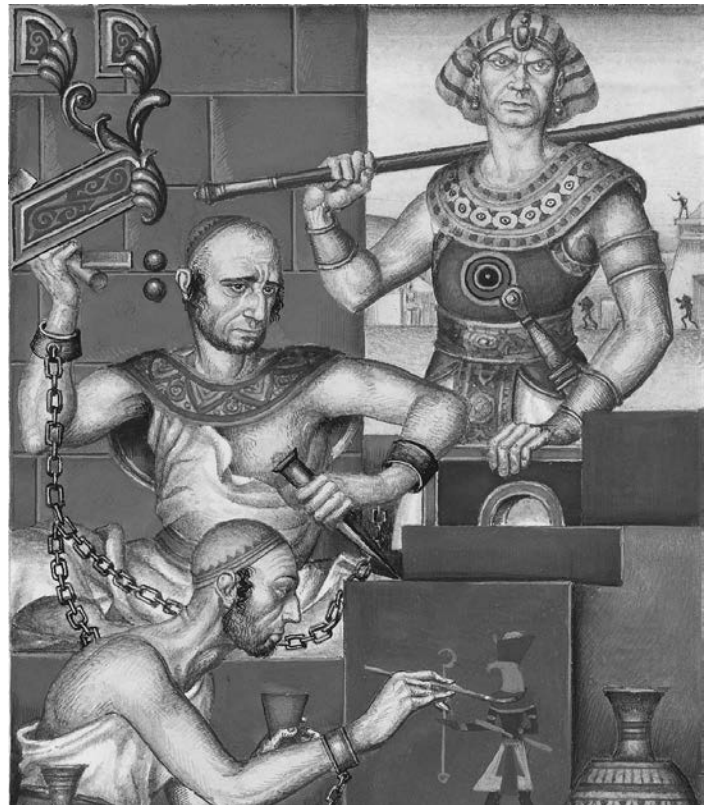
For further information visit [www.szykhaggadah.com](http://www.szykhaggadah.com) or phone Historicana at 650.343.9578 for a prospectus.

## Szyk draws parallel between Nazis and Ancient Egyptians

For Szyk, the Haggadah was not merely a religious book which Jews used solely at their Passover meal, but a political work as well, commenting on the events unfolding around him in pre-WW II Europe. Szyk saw Hitler as the new Pharaoh and the Nazis as the new Egyptians who had come to tyrannize and oppress the Jewish People.



*Here Szyk paints the Haggadah’s “wicked son” in a Hitleresque fashion. Originally a swastika was painted as an armband.*



*Szyk also painted swastikas on the Egyptians but they were removed prior to publication.*

## Arthur Szyk Documentary Accepted at Five Film Festivals

*“Soldier in Art” Premieres in Jerusalem*



*Szyk's self-portrait from "Ink & Blood." Here the artist pins Hitler to the table while trashing the Axis to the ground and garbage pail.*

This is the third documentary of Szyk to appear in the past three years, including a film by Polish director Piotr Zarebski *“Arthur Szyk: Illuminator,”* and a *“History Detectives”* special on PBS entitled *“Arthur Szyk's Earliest Cartoons.”*

## Szyk at Jewish Museum, New York

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Friedman Society at the Jewish Museum, New York held a program entitled *Freedom Illuminated: Arthur Szyk and His Haggadah* during which The Society curator provided a history of *The Szyk Haggadah*.

## Italian edition of *Le Juif Qui Rit*

In Paris, in 1926 and 1927, two volumes of Arthur Szyk's *Le Juif Qui Rit* [The Jew That Laughs] were published. These miniature pen and ink drawings, over 200 in all, illustrated brief jokes and anecdotes about Jewish life and character, from business to sex, from hygiene to personal family matters. Two of the leading humorists of the time, Curnonsky and J.W. Bienstock, reportedly met with Szyk at Parisian cafes trading humorous stories (Szyk had a great sense of humor!) and convinced the artist to illustrate their book, quite different in style from any of his works at the time. This small paperback was translated into Italian by Fiorella Bassan and published in Ancona-Milan in 2000.

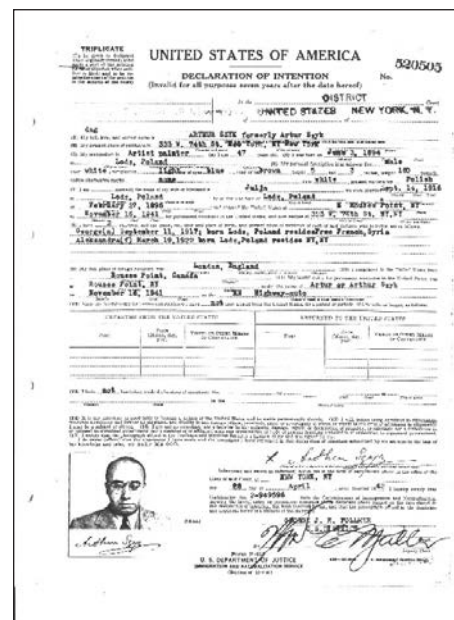
See [www.editoriassociati.com](http://www.editoriassociati.com).

Hollywood director Jim Ruxin and Irvin Ungar produced a documentary short entitled *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art*, in which Arthur Szyk's art is introduced to a group of students and teachers at Mercer Island High School in Seattle, Washington. In the film, the students are encouraged to share their reaction to Szyk's art that is as vivid, profound and worthy of discussion today as it was over 60 years ago. The film has already been screened in the US at Jewish Film Festivals in Hartford, Tucson, Los Angeles, and in Warsaw, Poland. The film also was accepted for its Israeli premiere at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival on December 1-7, 2007. In addition, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum has requested a copy of the film for its Library. Check [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org) for future locations and screenings of the film.



## Forthcoming Publication:

The Society is pleased to announce that it will publish, in early 2008, the fourth Paper in its Art History Series. Entitled *“Arthur Szyk: Documents as a Palette of Life”* by Rhoda Miller, this essay views Arthur Szyk through documents and certified records, and is embellished by the experiences of those who personally knew him. Rhoda Miller, Ed.D. is a Certified Genealogist who teaches credit-bearing genealogy, Holocaust, and educational technology courses at Dowling College, Long Island, NY. She organized an exhibit of Szyk's art in conjunction with a presentation of Szyk's genealogical records at Dowling in March 2006. Rhoda's sister, Pam, serves on the Society Board.



*Szyk's April 28, 1942 Declaration Of Intent to become a citizen of the United States which he was awarded in 1948*

## Previous Art History Papers published by The Society

- *Calling Out From the Depths: Arthur Szyk's "De profundis" and Holocaust Protest in the United States* by Darlene Miller-Lanning, Ph.D. (University of Scranton)
- *Democracy's Weapon: Arthur Szyk in America* by Harry Katz. (Library of Congress)
- *The Civil Rights Art of Arthur Szyk* by Paul Von Blum. (UCLA)

The group of three newsletters may be ordered from The Society for \$20 (includes priority postage).

## Honorary Board Member publishes on Szyk

Professor Paul Von Blum of UCLA has published two articles about Arthur Szyk, the first entitled: *The Civil Rights Art of Arthur Szyk*. In it, Professor Von Blum analyzes Szyk's portrayal of African-Americans as dignified contributors to American Culture, in addition to supporting the African American freedom struggle. Recently Professor Von Blum contributed a chapter on Jewish Political Artists including Arthur Szyk, in the book entitled, *Jews And American Popular Culture*, edited by Paul Buhle and published by Praeger Publishers. The compendium is an informative collection of articles on all aspects of popular culture, including literature, comics, sports, music, food and Yiddish theater. Regarding Szyk, Von Blum writes that he "remains a tragically neglected figure in American art history. Deeply Jewish in his identity as an artist and as a human being, Szyk's entire body of work reflected a passionate response to the traumatic political events of the early twentieth century... critics and scholars are slowly rediscovering him, providing a long overdue recognition of his outstanding artistic stature."



UNI gallery director, Darrel Taylor, with Society curator at local radio station in Cedar Falls, Iowa



Highway 58 billboard, Waterloo, Iowa.

## Traveling Exhibition Stimulates and Engages Museum & University Audiences



*Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* extended its journey throughout the United States this past year at University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The UNI folks pulled out all the stops to promote the exhibit, including a billboard in town, radio and local print advertising, direct mail and number of articles in local media. More than 1,500 visitors attended, leaving such glowing comments in the guest book, as "Fantastic!" "Brilliant and brutal,"

"Breathtaking," "Reminds us to work at preventing history from repeating itself," and "Provoking and still relevant." Many thanks to Gallery Director Darrell Taylor for his dedication and professionalism.

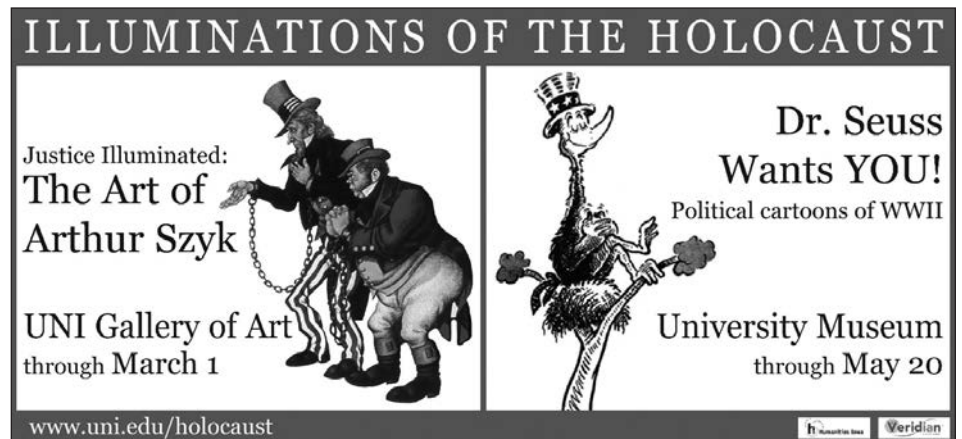
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art also promoted the exhibit aggressively to its local community. We send our thanks and appreciation to Curator/Registrar Karen York and her staff for their excellent work and results.

The exhibition is presently at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton through the end of 2007. Under the direction of Terry Berns, FAU has augmented the exhibition with original art from the collection of Arthur Szyk's daughter, Alexandra Szyk Bracie, who also is scheduled to speak during the exhibit's run. In 2008, "*Justice Illuminated*" will travel to The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center in Maitland, Florida (April through June), and onto Baltimore Hebrew University (September through November).

Please continue to check The Society website for an exhibition near you. Please contact us to learn how to bring *Justice Illuminated* to your community.



University of Northern Iowa presents *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*



Szyk and Dr. Seuss at the same venue

## What is The Arthur Szyk Society?

The Arthur Szyk Society, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991, presents Arthur Szyk's prolific body of works to broad and diverse audiences in the United States and worldwide, thus ensuring that his legacy as a great artist and champion of democratic and Jewish values will never be forgotten. Born in Poland in 1894, Szyk (pronounced Shick) has been called the greatest 20<sup>th</sup> century master illuminator in the tradition of the 16<sup>th</sup> century miniaturist painters. During WW II, he arguably became the leading political artist in America fighting the Nazis through his art. While Szyk died in 1951, the messages of fighting against tyranny and oppression, for social justice and freedom, and serving as an advocate for humanity, as articulated through his art, remain very much alive.

## What are The Society's Programs?

The Society's programs include: traveling exhibitions, cultural tours, publications, speakers' bureau—all presenting Szyk's artistic development while linking his work to the social history of the United States and Europe.



*In October 2005, The Arthur Szyk Society organized a Szyk Renaissance Tour to Poland visiting Krakow, Lodz, and Warsaw and meeting with Polish and Jewish community leaders.*

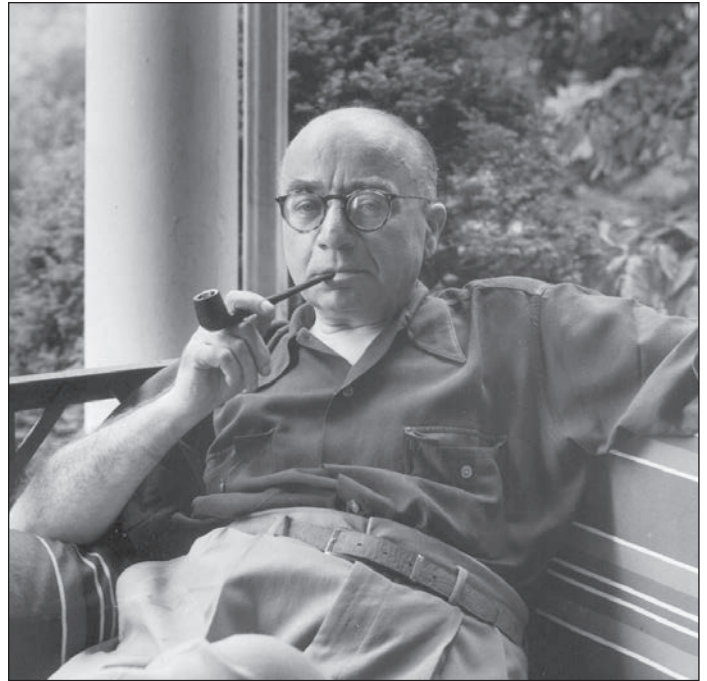
## What can I do?

Please join in our endeavors! Become a Society member or sponsor one of our programs. Join us at one of our exhibition openings. Host an “Evening with Arthur Szyk” in your home. Visit the Society website at [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org). Contact us at 650-343-9588 or email us at [info@szyk.org](mailto:info@szyk.org) to inquire about membership.

## Brandenburg Family Foundation Contribution to The Society Joins Taube, Robbins and Lokey Supporters

We are pleased to announce that the Brandenburg Family Foundation of San Jose has made a most generous donation of \$10,000 to The Arthur Szyk Society. They have dedicated their contribution “...toward the renaissance of the artist Arthur Szyk.” The Taube Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Robbins Family Philanthropic Fund and the Eva Chernov Lokey Fund (all funds channeled through their respective endowments at the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco), continue to be important benefactors of the ongoing programs of The Society.

The Arthur Szyk Society is also grateful to the many members during this past year who have supported our efforts.



*Arthur Szyk. Lodz, Poland 1894–New Canaan, CT 1951*

**“Art is not my aim, it is my means.”**

— Arthur Szyk



*The Szyk Haggadah. Dedication page “to the Jews of Germany and Austria” painted immediately after Kristallnacht, November 1938. This illumination was not published in the 1940 edition of The Haggadah but appears within the context of the new edition to be published by Historicana in early 2008.*