



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

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Newsletter

Winter 2008/2009

World-Class Szyk Berlin Exhibition an International Success

Produced and curated in cooperation with The Arthur Szyk Society, the major solo exhibition, “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” (August 29, 2008 – January 4, 2009), at the Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin (DHM) proved a stunning international success.

The most comprehensive Szyk exhibition to date, the exhibition included original artwork and historically significant items loaned from nine institutions and more than a dozen private collectors from the United States, Canada, Germany, and Japan. The purpose and focus of the exhibition, in the words of DHM curators Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner:

Arthur Szyk (1894–1951) was one of the most memorable political caricaturists and illustrators during World War II. With his artist’s pencil he fought against the National Socialist regime and its Axis partners. His pieces appeared in high-circulation American magazines and daily newspapers. With his drawings and the active involvement in relief organizations, he sought ceaselessly to direct the public’s attention to the mass murder of the European Jews. The First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt referred to him as a “one-man army”. The exhibition provides a representative cross section of Szyk’s oeuvre for the first time in Germany, focusing in particular on his political drawings.

The opening reception of “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” began at 7:00pm on August 28, 2008, in the large courtyard of the Deutsches Historisches Museum’s historic *Zeughaus*, formerly a 18th century artillery arsenal and one of very few historic buildings to survive the World War II Allied bombings of Berlin.

The 250 chairs set up to accommodate RSVPs were not enough: nearly 500 people attended. Curators Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner remarked that the turnout was one of the largest ever for a DHM exhibition opening, a feat even more impressive considering that most Germans take vacation in August.

Exhibition coverage continues on pages 3-9



The Society’s film crew captures DHM director Hans Ottomeyer’s speech in the historic Zeughaus

LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO BERLIN EXHIBITION



Szyk artwork is crated for the trip to Berlin, Germany.

- The Art Gallery of Toronto, Canada
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum
- Jüdisches Museum, Berlin
- The Jewish Museum, New York
- Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division
- McGill University Library, Montreal, Canada
- The Polish Museum of America, Chicago
- University of Michigan Special Collections Library
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Joseph and Alexandra Braciejowski Collection



THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Greetings and wishes for a happy and healthy, peace filled New Year from The Arthur Szyk Society! As you will read in this exciting newsletter, the year 2008 has been especially momentous for The Society. Prestigious institutions from Berlin to Rome to Houston to Pittsburgh have mounted major exhibitions examining Szyk's compelling work and timeless message of freedom and justice (*see pages 1, 3-9, 12-13*). New publications shed light on all aspects of Szyk's life and art (*see pages 10-11, 14*), and significant documentary films about Szyk and his continued impact are being produced (*see pages 8 and 16*). We all ought to take pride and great joy in these wonderful achievements.

Thanks to the timely and generous support of our members, the Society plans on 2009 being a year of continued expansion and growth. We will be continuing our effort to make The Society's database of Szyk images public, no small undertaking. In addition, we plan to keep our new Society Coordinator busy (*see page 16*); and share our resources and expertise with Szyk exhibitions of all stripes, both in the U.S. and abroad.

As you are probably well aware, Arthur Szyk's art and life communicated his deep belief in universal human dignity, our capacity and yearning for transformation, and the need for social justice in the here and now. It is our hope that you will be encouraged by what you read here in our newsletter and, if you have not done so already, will be moved to join The Society as a member or perhaps even serve as a patron of a special Society project. Phone us at 650.343.9588 for details.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to bring Szyk to the world. Best wishes for a better, more peaceful and healthy 2009!

Sandy Stadtler, President

Updates on Society Board and Honorary Board Members

Congratulations to actor/playwright **Theo Bikel** on the continued success of his original solo show, *Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears*. A seamless 90 minutes of song and masterful storytelling, *Sholom Aleichem* celebrates Yiddish heritage through author/playwright Sholom Aleichem's most beloved characters - including *Fiddler on the Roof's* Tevye the milkman, a role Bikel has performed more than 2000 times in the course of his long career.

John Pawlikowski has continued an active schedule of lecturing in the area of Christian-Jewish relations and attempting to deal with the fallout from Pope Benedict XVI's most regrettable decision to welcome Bishop Richard Williamson, clearly a Holocaust denier, back into the Catholic Church. Pawlikowski recently completed a major lecture tour during a twelve-day visit to the UK and Ireland, delivering major presentations at the University of Glasgow and giving the annual Holocaust commemoration lecture at the Jesuit Center in Edinburgh.

Congratulations to **John Rothmann**, SF Bay Area KGO radio talk-show host, on the success of his new book, *Icon of Evil: Hitler's*

Mufti and the Rise of Radical Islam. Icon of Evil covers the history of the alliance between German chancellor Adolf Hitler and Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin al-Husseini.

Congratulations to **Art Spiegelman**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novelist, on the re-release of "Breakdowns: Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@*!", the first collected book of comic art he published. The 1977 autobiographical work, notable for its ambitious story-telling and non-traditional narrative structure, is said to have paved the way for comics as an accepted art form.

In Memoriam

The Honorable **Tom Lantos**, U.S. House of Representatives (D-San Mateo), an Honorary Board Member of The Arthur Szyk Society since 1999, passed away in February 2008. The sole Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, Lantos was a life-long champion of human rights and strong supporter of Israel. President George W. Bush posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008.

“Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror”

continued from page 1



The Kwartet Polski Deutsche Oper performs stirring 20th century music at the Berlin exhibition opening

Through the support of the Polish and American Embassies, the audience enjoyed the music of the Kwartet Polski Deutsche Oper, which performed stirring works composed by Jewish Holocaust survivors. Arthur Szyk’s daughter, Alexandra Szyk Bracie, who traveled from Florida to attend the exhibition opening, briefly addressed the crowd. She and The Society presented DHM director Hans Ottomeyer with a gift of original Szyk artwork for the Museum’s permanent collection. Prof. Dr. Ottomeyer, Prof. Dr. Christoph Stölzl (the DHM’s first director and noted German historian), and Society Curator Irvin Ungar each delivered short speeches on Arthur Szyk, recognizing

him as a truly great artist with an unparalleled ability to communicate his thoughts both beautifully and persuasively. The three speakers praised Szyk’s commitment to justice and his willingness to speak the truth about current events, no matter how unpopular or dangerous such an undertaking might be.

For a panoramic tour of the Berlin exhibition, visit:
www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/arthur-szyk/en/index.html

Following the official program, the crowd moved to the first floor of the I.M. Pei Building to experience the exhibition first-



Alexandra Szyk Bracie and Szyk scholar Rinjiro Sodei



Szyk exhibition inside the Deutsches Historisches Museum

hand. The exhibition included five sections: Art and Politics; “Murder, Inc.” - Hitler and the Axis; “Fight the Nazi Dragon” - The World at War; “Action, Not Pity” – Genocide and Resistance; and the Epilogue. To encourage viewers to examine and appreciate Szyk’s intricate craftsmanship, magnifying glasses hung alongside some of his most detailed works, including “Wagner” (1942) and “De profundis” (1943). The audience took its time moving through the exhibition, as nearly every guest stopped to read each placard and carefully consider the artwork. One of the exhibition’s centerpieces, “Anti-Christ” (1942), consistently sparked conversations on topics ranging from Szyk’s use of symbolism to the role of propaganda in a time of war. Jim Ruxin, a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, and his Berlin-based camera crew conducted several touching English-language interviews. The event came to close well after 10:00pm, when the last few guests – who had stayed to speak in depth with curators Irvin, Katja, and Johannes – finally left for the evening.

Opening night was a night to remember. It was truly extraordinary to witness Jews, Germans, and people from all over the globe come together to celebrate a Polish-Jewish artist, an anti-Nazi artist, who spared no feelings in his searing condemnations of injustice and intolerance. That Arthur Szyk was received with such admiration and respect in Berlin, the heart of former Nazi Germany, is a testament to the unique power of his art and its enduring importance. The audience was profoundly moved by the experience.



A full house at the DHM exhibition opening

Szyk Exhibition Press Conference in Berlin

AUGUST 28, 2009, began with a 10:30am press conference in the stunning new I.M. Pei Building of the Deutsches Historisches Museum. With more than 100 reporters and supporters in attendance, the event was standing room only. Prof. Ottomeyer, Katja, Johannes, and Irvin each presented remarks on the “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” exhibition, providing an overview of Szyk’s life and art and explaining his significance to Germany today. Numerous press and radio interviews with the curators were conducted directly afterward. Each reporter received a complimentary copy of the museum exhibition catalogue and was ushered into a preview of the exhibition itself.



“Ich bin ein Burlingamer”: Society Curator Irvin Ungar (center right) speaks at the DHM press conference

From Cuba to Korea, Mexico to Madrid — Szyk Makes News

The DHM Szyk exhibition earned critical acclaim from *The New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *BILD* (Germany’s #1 tabloid), *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, *Die Tageszeitung*, *Jüdische Zeitung*, *Hadassah Magazine*, *Spiegel-TV*, and several radio stations, including the influential *Deutschlandradio Kultur*. News of the exhibition reached as far as Cuba, Korea, and Finland, and the story was featured in dozens of Spanish-language publications throughout Fall 2008.

The New York Times’ Michael Kimmelman favorably compared Szyk to Honoré Daumier, the renowned 19th century French artist best known for his satirical prints of the aristocracy, and noted that Szyk’s works “are more intricate than Swiss watch works and sublimely obsessive.” Art critic Jeffrey Marcus wrote a concise and glowing review of the DHM exhibition for the December 12, 2008 European and online editions of the *Wall Street Journal*. *Hadassah Magazine*’s 8-page feature article in the October 2008 issue, by Berlin correspondent Toby Axelrod, provided an overview of the DHM exhibition and chronicled Society Curator Irvin Ungar’s extensive efforts to reignite international interest in Szyk’s artwork.

THE Arts

The New York Times

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

A Caricaturist, but No Funny Stuff Here

BERLIN — It means coming to terms with the past: Vergangenheitsbewältigung, a German mouthful. Every German knows the word. Generations have been raised on it. An Italian woman who used to run multicultural affairs for the city of Rome, a Jew, was complaining over a coffee the other day, apropos of rising anti-immigrant sentiment there, that Italy still sells Mussolini bobble-head dolls and other Fascist knickknacks as souvenirs. Like the French and Poles, she said, Italians have never properly reckoned with their own history.

MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

ABROAD

“Germans, on the other hand,” she added — and at this point she rolled her eyes the way people do

when a second helping of meat dumplings is placed before them — “with them, it’s maybe enough already.”

Not that everyone would agree with this view of course. But it is a widely held sentiment across Europe, to the credit of the Germans. As part of this endless endeavor to leave no byway of guilt and self-flagellation unexplored, we now get the exhibition of Arthur Szyk’s work that just opened at the Deutsche Historisches Museum.

Szyk (it’s pronounced shik) was a Jewish caricaturist who spent roughly the last decade of his life in the United States. He’s unknown here, hardly familiar in America. Born in 1894 in what is now Poland, he fought with the Russian Army on the German front in World War I, then moved during the 1920s to

Paris, like many young artists. There he studied at the Académie Julian, declining Modernist abstraction for an old masterly, illuminated-manuscript, miniaturist style of eye-straining detail. Perhaps he was influenced, or fortified, by the “return to order,” as neo-Classicism in that era was called.

In any case, from Paris he went to London and onward to New York, having established a reputation with several exhibitions. During the 1940s he became famous as a popular illustrator of books and magazine covers for *Time*, *Collier’s*, *Esquire* and others, and as a political cartoonist for newspapers like *The New York Post* and *PM*. Several generations of Americans grew up on his versions of “Mother

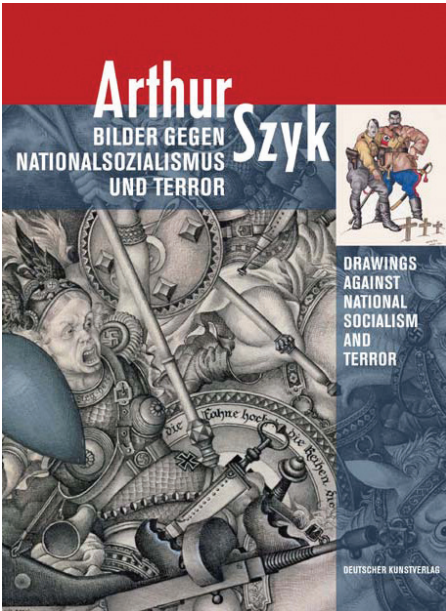
Continued on Page 6

HENRRO SOE1
“Anti-Christ” (1942) by Arthur Szyk, part of a show at the Deutsche Historisches Museum.

The powerful introduction to art critic Michael Kimmelman’s review of the Berlin exhibition in *The New York Times*

The German news agency *Deutscher Depeschendienst* (ddp) remarked that Szyk’s art deserved attention not just because of his extraordinary skills as an artist, but also because of his humanitarian attitude:

The main source of information nurturing his expressive drawings was general media coverage about the atrocities committed [by the Germans] in Europe. Szyk was not better informed than others, [but] he was more clear in his approach, which was neither opportunistic, nor diplomatic or in any way politically hesitant.... For today’s Germany, Szyk is a discovery.



In anticipation of worldwide interest in “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror,” the Deutsches Historisches Museum published the exhibition catalogue as a bilingual German/English edition, a significant first for the institution. (All previous catalogues have been German-language only.) Written by curators Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner, the full color, 340-page exhibition catalogue is an encyclopedic overview of Szyk’s long and varied career, with a special focus on political artwork he completed during the rise of Nazism and World War II. Guest curator Irvin Ungar contributed the major 7500-word essay “Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art” to the catalogue. His examination of Szyk’s potential role in *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (the process of modern Germany coming to terms with its past) has sparked lively international discussion.

Want to buy the exhibition catalogue?

The hardcover edition of “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” is available from Deutscher Kunstverlag (www.deutscherkunstverlag.de).

The softcover edition is available on Amazon (www.amazon.com) and at the Deutsches Historisches Museum (Unter den Linden 2, Berlin).

From the DHM Exhibition Catalogue

by Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner



PARADE OF THE MIGHTY WARRIORS, New York, 1942.
From the collection of Warren D. Starr

Szyk caricatures the Axis powers as participants in a carnival-like procession. A gigantic and ungainly Göring trudges on all fours, letting the Japanese ally with his weapon at ready march ahead. The French general Pétain lights the way with a candle. The Italian “Duce” Mussolini allows himself to be brought along only reluctantly and in chains. In contrast, the Spanish dictator Franco is happy that he is allowed to join the march—officially neutral, he supported the German Wehrmacht as of 1941 with troops in the campaign against the Soviet Union.

A cheerfully dancing drum major in a colorful costume leads the parade; its face, however, is that of a dead person. Only at first glance, the Axis and its rank and file of soldiers appear to be laughable, for they are actually in league with death.



HIROHITO, HITLERHITO AND BENITO: MURDER INCORPORATED, New York, December 1941.
From the collection of Daniel and Joanna S. Rose

With the Three-Power Pact of September 27, 1940, the German Reich, Italy, and Japan had entered into an alliance. Szyk caricatures the political leaders of these nations as a peculiar troop of martially decked-out men playing pirates. A compact formation of three, with offensive stances and provoking looks, they present themselves as “murder incorporated” to an opponent not shown in the image. Yet, as farcical as this scene may be, the skull figure in the background and the bloody dagger reveal that these men represent a serious danger. Graphic precision, richness of detail, and coloration make this drawing a typical example of the political caricatures that Szyk created during World War II.

SZYK IN BERLIN CULTURE TOUR REPORT



“Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour” participants pose with DHM curators Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner (far left) after a private tour of the Berlin exhibition

The Society’s 2008 “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour” opened on August 27, 2008, with a Welcome Reception at The Regent, Berlin, a renowned five-star hotel only blocks from the Deutsches Historisches Museum. The 30 Tour participants, including special Tour guests Alexandra Szyk Bracie and Honorary Board Member Reverend John Pawlikowski, became acquainted while enjoying fresh fruit and cold beverages on the outdoor Terrace.

Following the Welcome Reception, the Tour group walked to the nearby *Zeughauskino* at the DHM to attend Society Curator Irvin Ungar’s illustrated lecture, “Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art”, based on his 7500-word exhibition catalogue essay of the same name. This public talk was well-attended and attracted widespread interest, most notably from *Hadassah Magazine* reporter Toby Axelrod, who took the opportunity to interview Tour participant and Szyk scholar Rinjiro Sodei, who had traveled from Tokyo for the occasion. The Society capped the first evening of the Tour with a delightful three-course dinner at the famous *Guy Restaurant am Gendarmenmarkt*.

We were privileged to host Prof. Hans Ottomeyer, Director of the DHM; Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner, the Szyk exhibition curators; Ms. Maria Bartczak of the Polish Embassy in Berlin, who attended on behalf of Deputy Minister Wojciech Pomianowski; and Polish author and journalist Ms. Joanna Podolska, who served as The Society’s guide in her hometown of Lodz for The Society’s 2005 Szyk Renaissance Tour to Poland.

The next day, August 28, 2008, Tour participants attended the DHM press conference (*see page 4*) and the opening reception (*see page 1*), enjoying VIP seating and exclusive behind-the-scenes access. The morning of August 29, 2008, before the exhibition opened to the public, DHM curators Katja and Johannes led the Tour group on a private 90-minute tour of “Arthur Szyk - Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror.” Johannes, a historian, explained that Szyk’s command of world history and accurate insight into the events of his time make his *oeuvre* a priceless record of the unfolding of World War II. Katja, an art historian, pointed out Szyk’s choice



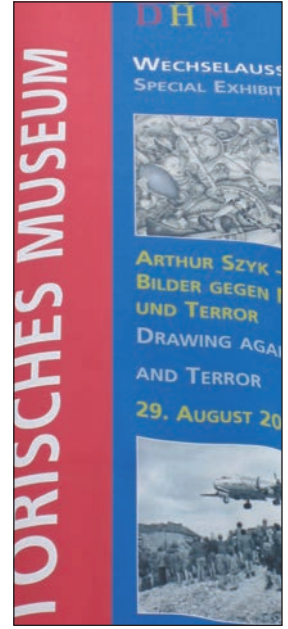
Tour participants (from left) Sandy Stadtler, Joanna Podolska, Esther Rocha-Stadtler, and Hava Tabari enjoy dinner at Berlin’s Guy Restaurant



Tour participants (from left) Arlene Finger, Gail Shak, Margie Ungar, and Nina Weil speak with special guest Margarita Bardich at the Kadima Restaurant



DHM curator Katja Widmann and her husband, Joachim Widmann, of Deutscher Depeschendienst (a German news agency), at the Guy Restaurant



Society members celebrated their passion for Szyk and explored facets of modern-day Germany on the exciting “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour”

to work in the style of medieval miniatures was no accident, as the form afforded him the artistic vehicle and level of detail he needed to effectively communicate his ideas through both image and text. After lunch at the Museum’s delightful *Café im Zeughaus*, Katja and Johannes joined The Society for an emotionally stirring guided bus tour of Jewish Berlin, led by Milk & Honey Tours.

On Friday evening, August 29, 2008, the Tour group headed to the *Synagoge Oranienburger Straße* in the *Mitte* borough of central Berlin, which was the Jewish area of the city in the 19th and early 20th century. The Society attended a traditional service, which was attended by several luminaries from the local community: Dr. Margarita Bardich and Drs. Karl and Elvira Grözinger, of Berlin’s Jewish Community’s Committee for Cultural Affairs; Harmut Bomhoff, a freelance journalist and The Society’s on-the-ground coordinator for the “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour”; and Rabbi Dr. Walter Homolka, the Executive Director of Abraham-Geiger College at the University of Potsdam, the first liberal rabbinical seminary established in continental Europe since the Holocaust. All joined The Society for Shabbat dinner and hours of conversation at the Kadima Restaurant. The Society was encouraged to hear that

Berlin’s Jewish community is growing stronger and more visible each year. In his remarks to the group, Rabbi Homolka stated that the Szyk exhibition is clear evidence that Germany is making great strides to once again become a country where Jews can thrive in peace and harmony.

On the morning of August 30, 2008, before bidding farewell to Germany, Tour participants enjoyed a bonus addition to the announced events of the “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour” - a guided architectural tour of Daniel Libeskind’s lauded 2001 design for the *Jüdisches [Jewish] Museum Berlin*. The prominent Museum, with its shining, fragmented façade and “zigzag” footprint, is a sobering symbol of the complex and evolving relationship between Jews and Germans in Berlin.

The experiences of the “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour” gave the Tour participants (Society members all!) both a new appreciation for modern Germany and a stronger commitment to the mission and goals of The Society. It is truly inspiring to know that The Society’s work has brought Arthur Szyk’s timeless ideals and values to receptive new audiences, both in Germany and around the world.



Clockwise, from top left:

Walter Homolka, Irvin Ungar, & Harmut Bomhoff at Synagoge Oranienburger Straße

Alexandra Szyk Bracie and Society Project Consultant Lori Wood at The Regent, Berlin

Society members Jackie and Howard Levine of New Jersey on the bus tour of Jewish Berlin

Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For their generous support of the “Szyk in Berlin Culture Tour,” The Arthur Szyk Society would like to thank:

THE TAUBE FOUNDATION
FOR JEWISH LIFE AND
CULTURE

PAUL AND SHERI ROBBINS
ALEXANDRA SZYK BRACIE

THE BRANDENBURG FAMILY
FOUNDATION

THE KORET FOUNDATION



TAUBE
FOUNDATION
FOR JEWISH LIFE
AND CULTURE



SZYK ON THE BIG SCREEN? DOCUMENTARY FILMING IN BERLIN



Director Jim Ruxin (right) and his camera crew interview DHM curator Johannes Zechner

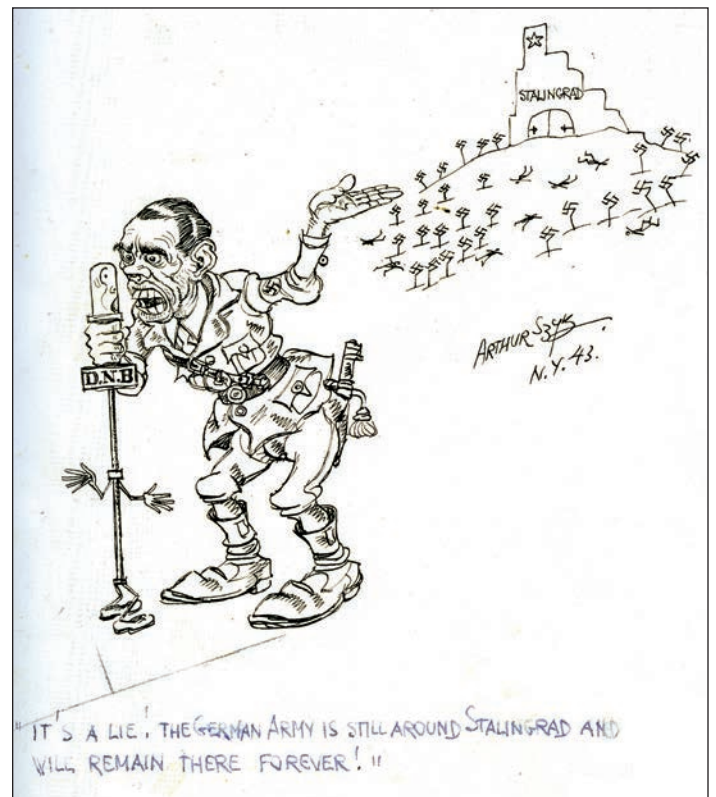


German high school students and two DHM docents (front) on a field trip to the Berlin exhibition

Thanks to the generosity of long-time Society members and benefactors Paul and Sheri Robbins, Emmy-nominated director Jim Ruxin and his Berlin-based team filmed the opening of “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” and its accompanying events for The Society. The film crew returned to Berlin in December 2008 to document several groups of German high school students interacting with Szyk’s art during field trips to the Deutsches Historisches Museum. The students’ filmed reactions and cultural insight into Szyk’s anti-Nazi caricatures and artwork about the Holocaust serve as a valuable contrast to the documentary film, “Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art” (2006), which chronicles the classroom discussions of American high school students interacting with Szyk’s wartime art.

The film crew also documented the German students’ conversations with Iring Fetscher, one of Germany’s most celebrated philosophers and historians, who by chance visited the DHM exhibition the same day. Fetscher recounted his personal experiences serving in the German army as a soldier who was not a Nazi and did not admire Hitler. In one remarkable moment, Fetscher mentioned that he heard Goebbels’ live radio broadcast claiming (falsely) that Germany continued its assault on Stalingrad; the curators then took the opportunity to guide the group to view Szyk’s “It’s a Lie! The Germany army is still around Stalingrad...” (1941), a searing visual indictment of very same speech.

The successful Berlin filming adds to a large and growing archive of documentary footage that will one day become a feature-length documentary on the impact of the life and art of Arthur Szyk.



IT'S A LIE! THE GERMAN ARMY IS STILL AROUND STALINGRAD...
New York, 1943. From the collection of The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

WANT TO SUPPORT THE SZYK DOCUMENTARY?

Contact The Arthur Szyk Society at info@szyk.org or 650-343-9588 to find out how you can help!

German Consulate in San Francisco Celebrates Szyk Exhibition



Shana Penn (center) accepts a Szyk print from *The Society while German Consul General Rolf Schütte (seated left) looks on*

The German Consulate General in San Francisco, which officially represents the German government in the U.S. Pacific Northwest (including Alaska and Hawai'i), co-hosted with Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland Tad Taube a special event to honor "Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror" on June 11, 2008. Consul General Rolf Schütte, who later traveled to Berlin to attend the exhibition opening, offered a thoughtful speech on the historic significance of Arthur Szyk and the importance of the DHM exhibition for the world today. His closing:

The Szyk exhibition in Berlin is but one of the clear signals that show that the Germany of today is no longer the Germany Jews and Poles

came to hate in 1933 and 1939. The exhibition is also proof that victories against evil and for liberation can be won – with the help of artist warriors such as [Arthur] Szyk.

Shana Penn, Executive Director for the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture, marked the occasion by presenting a speech written by Taube Foundation founder and Consul Tad Taube, who was unable to attend the evening's festivities. An excerpt:

...To bring Szyk's Judaic illuminations and anti-Nazi political satire to Germany 63 years after the end of WWII and for the first showings ever, is a bold and necessary effort, long overdue perhaps, but still pertinent, and a sign of the kind of divine justice and redemption in which Szyk believed.... For Szyk, art demanded action, not pity. He understood and depicted Jews and Jewish history in heroic terms, not as victims. Jews were warriors, whether using arms, pens or paintbrushes; they were political, military and spiritual leaders; they were cultural pioneers and patriots.



German Consulate General, San Francisco

U.S. Cultural Attaché at Exhibition



A first edition print of Arthur Szyk's "Declaration of Independence of the United States of America" (1950) was presented to Peter Claussen, the Cultural Attaché from the American Embassy in Berlin, during his visit to the "Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror" exhibition at the DHM. Mr. Claussen accepted the work with much enthusiasm and plans to hang it prominently in the American Embassy. In the background of this photograph is Szyk's original watercolor and gouache painting of "The Declaration" on loan to the DHM from The Library of Congress.

Touro College Welcomes Szyk



Prof. Rabbi Andreas Nachama (second from right) with Touro College graduate students

In December 2008, Prof. Rabbi Andreas Nachama invited Society Curator Irvin Ungar to give presentations on Arthur Szyk at *Sukkat Shalom*, a local synagogue, and at Touro College Berlin. The encounter with Szyk's brilliant wartime artwork fascinated and enlightened the graduate students of Touro College, as they are all pursuing Master of Arts degrees in Holocaust Communication and Tolerance.

WANT TO BRING AN ARTHUR SZYK PRESENTATION TO YOUR AREA?

Society Curator Irvin Ungar frequently lectures worldwide.
Contact The Arthur Szyk Society at
info@szyk.org or **650-343-9588**
to learn how to host and/or sponsor a Szyk presentation.

NEW EDITION OF THE SZYK HAGGADAH A TRIUMPH

The landmark artisan publication of the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (Historicana, 2008) attracted major media attention and admiration from *The New York Sun*, *The Jewish Journal* (Los Angeles), *The Jewish Week* (New York), *Hadassah Magazine* (April 2008 issue), and *The Jerusalem Post*. The new Haggadah, which includes all-new translation and commentary by Dr. Byron L. Sherwin of the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, captures the brilliance and detail of Szyk's original miniatures through state-of-the-art digital photography and ink-jet printing.



Society member Dr. Carl "Rusty" Herbert proudly displays his new Deluxe edition of The Szyk Haggadah

The new Haggadah, which includes all-new translation and commentary by Dr. Byron L. Sherwin of the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, captures the brilliance and detail of Szyk's original miniatures through state-of-the-art digital photography and ink-jet printing.



The new Premier edition of The Szyk Haggadah

Haggadah Wows Jerusalem and the World

The new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* debuted in Israel at the prestigious 24th Annual Jerusalem International Book Fair, which was held February 15-20, 2009. The 21st century reimagining of Szyk's visual interpretation of the Passover story won new devotees and impressed long-time fans. Salon afternoons introducing *The Szyk Haggadah* were also held at the home of Jacob and Jo Milgrom in Jerusalem, as well as at the home of Bill and Lisa Gross in Tel Aviv.



(Top) Joseph Robbins shows the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* to a visitor in Jerusalem

(Left) Avital Ungar stands ready to present *The Szyk Haggadah* at the Jerusalem International Book Fair

Where to View The Szyk Haggadah

- The Library of Congress
- The British Library
- University of California, Berkeley
- Yale University
- University of Michigan
- Indiana University
- Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley, California
- National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia
- University of Northern Iowa
- Florida Atlantic University



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW EDITION OF THE SZYK HAGGADAH
The Prospectus and sample images are available on www.szykhaggadah.com

Haggadah Team Marks Publication with Seder Celebration

Many contributors to *The Szyk Haggadah* traveled to Publisher Irvin Ungar's home in Burlingame, California, to celebrate a third Seder night on Thursday, April 24, 2008. Bookbinder Paul Vogel, printer Rick De Coyte, designer Irene Morris, box maker John DeMerritt, Companion Volume bookbinder Cory Reisbord, and filmmaker Jim Ruxin joined each other on Passover to celebrate the achievement as a whole. Most met in person for the first time. Courtesy of Paul and Sheri Robbins (who also attended the evening event), Szyk's original Haggadah paintings were shown prior to the Seder, an extraordinarily rare privilege.



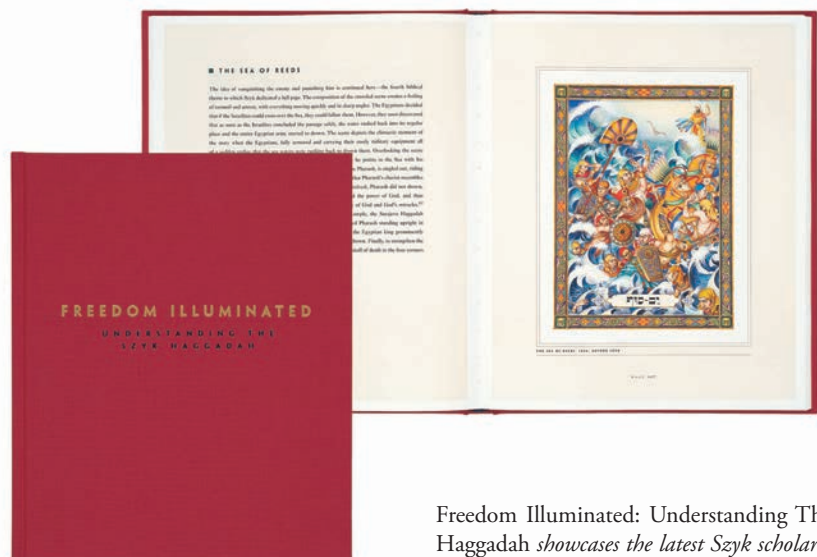
Szyk Haggadah contributors and supporters celebrate its publication in Burlingame, CA, Passover 2008

Haggadah Companion Volume Advances Szyk Scholarship



Detail. THE GREAT HALLEIL. Lodz, 1935.

Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah (Historicana, 2008), originally published as the Companion Volume to new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*, is now available as a separate limited edition fine art book. In addition to analyzing the miniatures and historical context of *The Haggadah* itself, *Freedom Illuminated* also places Szyk within the context of contemporaneous artists and artistic movements through "Arthur Szyk in Context," an original essay by noted art historian Tom L. Freudenheim. The first serious inquiry into the possible influences on Szyk's inimitable style and broad visual vocabulary, "Arthur Szyk in Context" is exclusive to *Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah*.

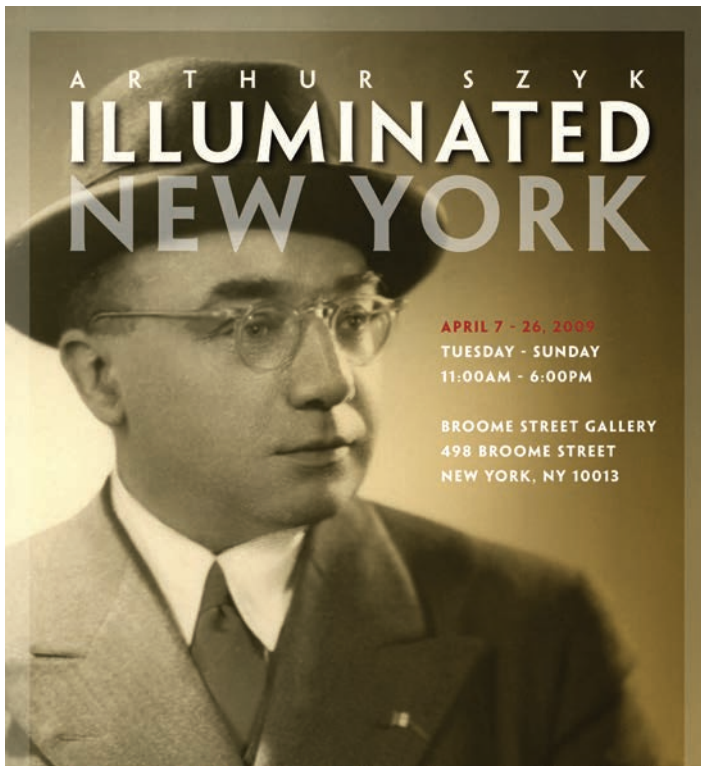


Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah showcases the latest Szyk scholarship

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Szyk Returns to New York for First Time in 35 Years

Broome Street Gallery and Historicana will host the original exhibition *Arthur Szyk Illuminated* (April 7-26, 2009), the first gallery showing of Szyk original art in New York City in more than 35 years. Special events include the opening reception on April 7 (5-9pm) and three gallery talks: "Freedom Illuminated: Understanding *The Szyk Haggadah*" on April 12 (3pm), "Arthur Szyk in Context" on April 16 (6:30pm), and "Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art" on April 19 (3pm).



**WANT TO VISIT THE NEW YORK SZYK EXHIBITION
AND/OR ARRANGE A GROUP TOUR?**

Contact Historicana at ungar@historicana.com or (650) 343-9578.

Szyk Part of Washington's Birthday Celebration

Daniel Semel, an attorney and avid Szyk enthusiast, lectured on "The Art of Arthur Szyk" in conjunction with Washington's Birthday Celebration on February 15, 2009, at the De Wint House in Tappan, New York. Semel's talk introduced his original research into Szyk's use of Masonic symbolism, which may be seen in the portrait of Washington at right. The De Wint House, which served as George Washington's temporary headquarters multiple times during the American Revolutionary War, is a historic site owned and operated by the New York Masons. It is open to the public. Please visit <http://www.dewinthouse.com/> for more information.



Major Szyk Exhibition in Houston

The Holocaust Museum Houston staged the new exhibition, "A One-Man Army: The Art of Arthur Szyk," from October 20, 2008 to July 26, 2009. "A One-Man Army: The Art of Arthur Szyk," curated by Marci Dallas, highlights the private collection of Gregg and Michelle Philipson, and includes loans of important works from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the United States Naval Academy Museum.



Detail. "WALPURGIS NIGHT," NIEBELUNGEN. New York, 1943. From the collection of The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



Poster. From the collection of Gregg and Michelle Philipson

Szyk Anti-Nazi Images Displayed in Rome

Inspired by the Deutsches Historisches Museum's Szyk exhibition, the prestigious *Vittoriano* in Rome included high-quality reproductions of several Szyk works in the new exhibition, "1938 Racial Laws – An Italian Tragedy" (December 14, 2008 – February 22, 2009). The exhibition, which examined the sad legacy of antisemitic legislation enacted in Italy just prior to WWII, was curated by Marcello Pezzetti, director of the future Italian Museum of *HaShoah* (The Holocaust), and Bruno Vespa. The major 204-page Italian-language exhibition catalogue features full-page color images of Szyk's "Murder, Inc." (1941) [see image on page 5], and "A Madman's Dream [*Der Untermensch*]" (1940).

Szyk at Stanford's Hoover Institution

The new exhibition "Shattered Peace: The Road to World War II" (January 13 - May 27, 2009), curated by Nicholas Siekierski, Assistant Archivist for Exhibits and Outreach at Hoover Institution, includes six photo-panel reproductions of Szyk political artwork from the 1930s. Hoover Institution is a think tank on the campus of Stanford University, dedicated to research in domestic policy and international affairs. "Shattered Peace" may be viewed at the Stanford University's Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibition Pavilion in Stanford, CA. Please visit www.hoover.org for more information.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Society Traveling Exhibition at Carnegie Mellon University

Under the direction of Special Collections Librarian Mary Kay Johnsen, The Posner Center and Carnegie Mellon University Libraries are hosting *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*, The Society's traveling exhibition, from January 7 to March 28, 2009. Society Curator Irvin Ungar served as keynote speaker at the January 25 exhibition opening in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Please see <http://www.library.cmu.edu> for more information about the CMU exhibition and the Posner Center's special hours.

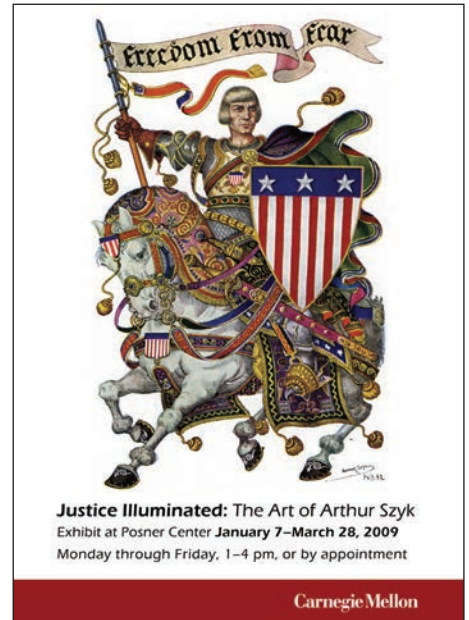


The Society's traveling exhibition, "Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk," on display at the Posner Center at Carnegie Mellon University.

WANT TO BRING THE SOCIETY'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION TO A VENUE NEAR YOU?

For an overview of the traveling exhibition program visit:
<http://szyk.org/szykonline/index.html>

Contact The Society at 650-343-9588 or info@szyk.com to schedule.



Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk
Exhibit at Posner Center January 7–March 28, 2009
Monday through Friday, 1–4 pm, or by appointment

Carnegie Mellon

“Arthur Szyk: Illuminator of Freedom” at Peninsula Jewish Community Center in California

The Peninsula Jewish Community Center (PJCC) Art Gallery in Foster City, CA, will host The Society's traveling exhibition, “Arthur Szyk: Illuminator of Freedom,” which features lithographs from the series *Washington and his Times* as well as large reproductions from *The Szyk Haggadah*. Szyk was brought up in a tradition that respected the love of freedom and the pursuit of justice. He used his artistic talents to celebrate the heroes of liberty — in this case, Americans who fought the War for Independence, and the Jewish people, who in every generation (according to the Haggadah) face adversity and those who rise up against them. The exhibit is on display from March 12 - May 27, 2009. For more information on “Arthur Szyk: Illuminator of Freedom” and the PJCC, please visit www.pjcc.org.

Esteemed Professor Presents Szyk Seminar in Israel

Professor Shalom Sabar of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem delivered the lecture, “*The Szyk Haggadah: East European Origins and the Image of the Brave New Jew*,” at the conference, *The Jewish Presence in Art*, at Bar-Ilan University in Israel on June 16, 2008. Shalom contributed the essay “The Historical and Artistic Context of *The Szyk Haggadah*” to *Freedom Illuminated* (see page 11).

Szyk Artwork Sets Record Prices at Auction

Setting a new record for Szyk original art, two 1927 Szyk miniatures sold for more than \$33,000 each (including commission) to a private collector at public auction on July 20, 2008, at Trinity International Auctions and Appraisals, Avon, CT. The round paintings, *Danseur Arabe* and “*Russian Folktale*”, each measuring 2.75 inches in diameter, were once in the collection of Harry Glemby, a wealthy American-Jewish industrialist and major Szyk patron during the artist's 1920s Paris period.

The record set by these two Paris miniatures was quickly surpassed. Many Society members may be familiar with the 1940 vellum edition of Szyk's Passover Haggadah, which includes silk pastedowns of a black-and-white illumination of Moses the Lawgiver. The original study for the *Vorsatz* (endpapers) was thought lost until it appeared in the Watercolor and Illustrations sale at Bonham's Knightsbridge on November 19, 2008. The work sold to a private collector for close to \$40,000. This exciting recovery is just one of many instances of “lost” or previously unknown Szyk works coming to light during this past year.



DANSEUR ARABE and “RUSSIAN FOLKTALE” set a new high for Szyk original artwork in Summer 2008

Update on Society Art History Papers

Art History Paper No. 4 of The Arthur Szyk Society, “Documents as a Palette of Life: The Genealogical Self-Portrait of Arthur Szyk” by Dr. Rhoda Miller, is in the final stages of publication. Members of The Society will receive a courtesy copy in Spring 2009. Additional copies of this publication, as well as the previous three Art History Papers, are available from The Arthur Szyk Society for a nominal fee.

Dr. Miller will deliver the presentation “Arthur Szyk: A Case Study of the Effects of The Holocaust on a Polish Jewish Artist and his Family” at the Legacy of the Holocaust Conference at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland (May 21 - 23, 2009). The 2009 Conference focus is “Family and The Holocaust.”



Dr. Rhoda Miller (center left) and Society Curator Irvin Ungar (center right) enjoy the company of Szyk Board member Pam Stein (far left) and Honorary Board member Alexandra Szyk Bracie (far right) in Berlin, August 2008.

Society Art History Papers

Miller, Rhoda. “Documents as a Palette of Life: The Genealogical Self-Portrait of Arthur Szyk.” 2009 (forthcoming)

Von Blum, Paul. “The Civil Rights Art of Arthur Szyk.” 2006

Katz, Harry. “Democracy’s Weapon: Arthur Szyk in America.” 2005

Miller-Lanning, Darlene. “Calling Out From the Depths: Arthur Szyk’s ‘De profundis’ and Holocaust Protest in the United States.” 2004

WANT TO ADVANCE SZYK SCHOLARSHIP?

AUTHORS: The Arthur Szyk Society solicits papers for publication on works of art by Arthur Szyk. Proposals should include your name, address, phone number, email address, institution, suggested title for your paper, a one-paragraph summary, and a 25-word personal biography. Proposals may be emailed to info@szyk.org. Honorarium offered upon acceptance.

PATRONS: Please contact The Society at 650-343-9588 or info@szyk.org to learn how you can sponsor the publication of an Art History Paper.

Tribute to Szyk Scholar, Ansell’s Opus Published in Polish

The Polish translation of Joseph Ansell’s authoritative biography of Arthur Szyk, *Artur Szyk: Artysta Żyd Polak*, was published in late 2007 and included this forward:

This Polish translation of Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole has been made possible by a generous grant by the Robbins Family Philanthropic Fund (of the Jewish Community Federation Endowment Fund, San Francisco, California) and through The Arthur Szyk Society.

This publication has been inspired by the traveling exhibition Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk, which traveled to Warsaw, Lodz, and Krakow, June through December 2005. This exhibition, organized by The Arthur Szyk Society, Burlingame, California (szyk.org) represented the first tour of Arthur Szyk’s art through Poland in over 70 years.

We also wish to pay tribute to the memory of Joseph P. Ansell, who died during this past year and who did not enjoy the privilege to see his life’s work translated into Polish.

Retelling History Through Szyk’s Art

“The Bagel: The Surprising History of a Modest Bread” (Yale University Press, 2008) by Maria Balinska includes a detail from Szyk’s *Statute of Kalisz* and two full pages about Szyk’s artistic efforts on behalf of the Jews of his native Poland. An excerpt:

Alongside beautiful calligraphic translations of the obligations and privileges accorded to the Jews in 1264 by Prince Bolesław the Pious, Szyk paints the story of the Jews’ contribution to Polish life – from the buildings of cities in the fourteenth century and the shipping of grain to the rest of Europe in the sixteenth, to the Jewish heroes who spilt their blood in the cause of Polish independence in the nineteenth and twentieth.

Coincidentally, Szyk’s “Jewish Craftsmen and Tradesmen” illumination from the *Statute of Kalisz* is also featured on the cover of “Bread: A Slice of History” (The History Press, 2008) by John Marchant, Bryan Reuben and Joan Alcock.

These scholarly publications are but two examples of renewed global interest in the *Statute of Kalisz*. Szyk’s original artwork resides in The Jewish Museum, New York.



“JEWISH CRAFTSMEN AND TRADESMEN,” STATUTE OF KALISZ, 1927.
Note: the bakery scene of the center left panel features bagels and other breads.

The Society Welcomes Special Visitors in 2008

During 2008, The Society had the pleasure of hosting Deutsches Historisches Museum curators **Katja Widmann** and **Johannes Zechner** while they conducted research for the “Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror” exhibition (see pages 1-9). Other distinguished guests throughout 2008 included: **Harry Katz**, comics historian and former head curator of the Prints and Photographs Division of The Library of Congress; **Zbigniew Stanczyk**, **Maciej Siekierski**, and **Nicholas Siekierski**, curators at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University; and **Stephen M. Dobbs**, an author and historian who serves on the Advisory Board of Taube Philanthropies.

Grants and Donations

The Arthur Szyk Society would like to thank its members and supporters for their grants and donations in 2008. We are particularly grateful for the generous donations (received through the auspices of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties) of the following funds:

THE ROBBINS FAMILY PHILANTHROPIC FUND

THE EVA CHERNOV LOKEY PHILANTHROPIC FUND

THE WAYNE AND LESLEE FEINSTEIN PHILANTHROPIC FUND

THE JULIUS AIRES PHILANTHROPIC FUND

We also thank Society President Sandy Stadler and the firm of Rothstein, Kass, and Company for once again donating their accounting services to The Society this past year.

WANT TO JOIN THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY?

Contact The Society at info@szyk.org or 650-343-9578



(Top left) “Bilder gegen...” *Jüdische Zeitung* (Berlin), August 2008. (Middle left) “Reckoning with history...” *International Herald Tribune*, September 10, 2008. (Bottom left) Szyk Haggadah cover of *The Jewish Journal* (Los Angeles), August 2008. (Center) “Soldier With a Paintbrush,” *Hadassah Magazine*, October 2008. (Upper right) “Liberty Prints,” *Illustration* magazine (London), Autumn 2008. (Center right) Szyk Haggadah cover of the *Jewish Sentinel* (New York), April 2008. (Bottom right) “Der Mann...” *BILD* (Berlin), August 2008.



At the top of *The Reichstag* with Berlin resident Michael Cullen, recognized writer and international expert on *The Brandenburg Gate* and *The Reichstag*

Exhibitions on the Web

Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin

Arthur Szyk – Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror
August 29, 2008 - January 4, 2009
<http://www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/arthur-szyk/en/index.html>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk
April 10 - October 14, 2002
<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/szyk/>

Library of Congress, Swann Gallery of Caricature and Cartoon

Arthur Szyk - Artist for Freedom
December 9, 1999 - May 6, 2000
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/szyk/>

The Arthur Szyk Society

Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk
<http://www.szyk.org/szykonline/>

Film and Broadcast

In Every Generation: Remaking The Szyk Haggadah
JKR Productions and Historicana, 2008

Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art
JKR Productions and Historicana, 2006

Arthur Szyk - Illuminator
Piotr Zarebski and Danuta Kwiatkowska of Marta TV
in conjunction with Polish TV, 2005

Arthur Szyk's Earliest Cartoons
History Detectives, PBS. National broadcast July 18, 2005

Cartoon Crusader
Universal Pictures, 1945/46

Books and Exhibition Catalogues

Arthur Szyk – Bilder Gegen Nationalsozialismus und Terror/ Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror (Deutsches Historisches Museum, 2008), Katja Widmann and Johannes Zechner, bilingual German/English edition

Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah (Historicana, 2008), Companion Volume to the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (Historicana, 2008), Byron Sherwin and Irvin Ungar

Arthur Szyk: Indignant Jewish Illuminator (Shakai Hyoronsha, 2007), Rinjiro Sodei, Japanese edition only

Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2004), Joseph Ansell, English and Polish editions

The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2002), Stephen Luckert

Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk (Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 1998), Irvin Ungar, trade and deluxe editions

Arthur Szyk (I. L. Peretz Publishing House, 1980), S. L. Shneiderman, Yiddish edition

Society Publications

Newsletters

The Arthur Szyk Society has published at least one newsletter nearly every year from 1998 to 2009. To order the group of 12 newsletters, please send a check in the amount of \$60 (includes USPS Priority shipping) to The Arthur Szyk Society.

Traveling Exhibition Study Guide

Sherwin, Byron L. "Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk - A Study Guide." 2002

Art History Papers

(See page 14 of this newsletter)

NEW FACES

Allison Chang named Society Coordinator



The Society welcomes Allison Chang, our new Society Coordinator, who took the reins from Debbie Spaizman in March 2008. In addition to day-to-day Society business, Allison promotes The Society's traveling exhibition, "*Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*," manages the Szyk image database project, and consults on editorial decisions. Her background in fine art, marketing, and public relations has proved an excellent fit for the expanded duties

of the Society Coordinator position. In turn, The Society has proved the perfect avenue for exploring her main academic interest, illuminated manuscripts, and for furthering her enthusiasm for modern narrative realism. Welcome, Allison!