

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

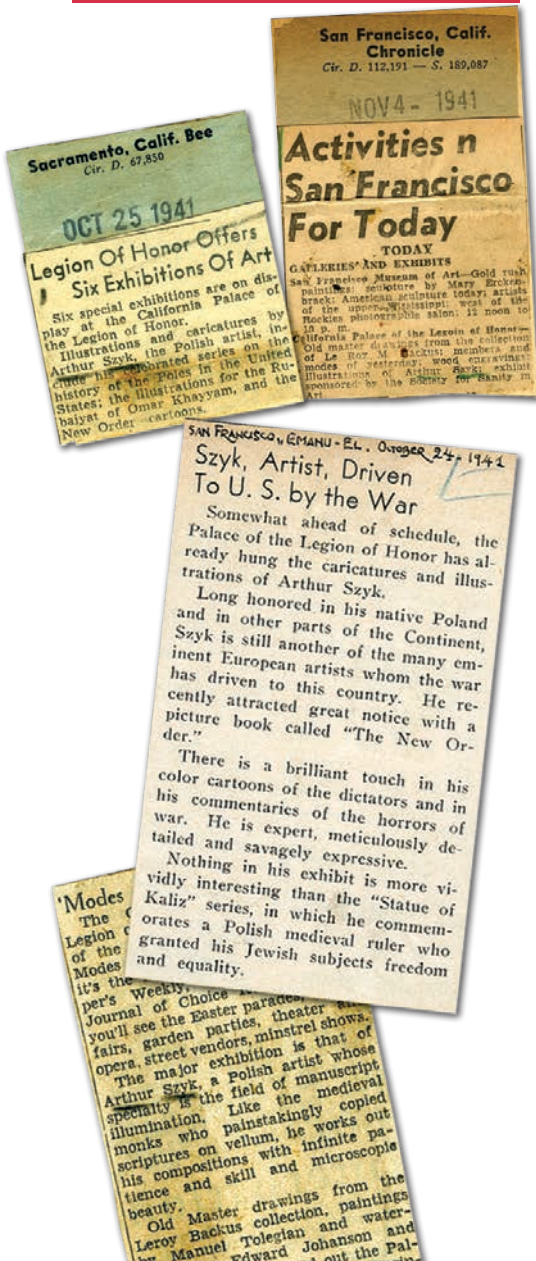
Vol. 10

Newsletter

Summer 2010

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco to Host Solo Szyk Exhibition “Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations” Opens December 4, 2010

ARTHUR SZYK AT THE LEGION OF HONOR 70 YEARS AGO



California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Photograph by Agus Sutanto.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF) recently announced the California Palace of the Legion of Honor will mount an entirely new exhibition of original Arthur Szyk art. Planned for the intimate space of Gallery 1 at the Legion, “Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations” (December 4, 2010 to March 27, 2011) will center on the artist’s illuminated miniatures and book illustrations. In contrast with previous museum exhibitions, which focused on the historical context of Szyk’s art, the Legion exhibition places his work firmly within the realm of fine arts—a major milestone in returning Szyk to his rightful place in the art world. The exhibition is curated by Karin Breuer, Curator-in-Charge of the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Legion. Society Curator Irvin Ungar, lender to the exhibition, is serving as consultant.

An exhibition introduction and gallery walkthrough is scheduled for 11:00am on opening day, December 4, 2010. The walkthrough will be led by Irvin and will include remarks from the FAMSF curator. Additionally, Irvin will deliver the

lecture “Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations” in Gould Theater at 10:30am on Sunday, January 9, 2011. Programs at the Legion are free after museum admission.

See page 3 for more on the exhibition

Newspaper clippings from Arthur Szyk's personal scrapbook.



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Throughout The Arthur Szyk Society's twenty-year history, we have made great strides toward returning Szyk and his art to international prominence. The next twelve months will see two of the most exciting milestones yet: one of the nation's largest fine arts museums will host a solo Szyk exhibition for the first time in nearly 70 years (*see page 1 & 3*); and America's top art publisher will release *The Szyk Haggadah* in a popular edition in time for Passover 2011 (*page 4*).

To my satisfaction, the leadership of these two projects views Szyk first and foremost as an artist—not a “World War II artist” or an “illustrator” but an artist, period. This says to me that the world is at last coming to the realization that Szyk's work really is timeless, transcending any one belief or nation or era. Several years from now, I think we will recognize this moment as a tipping point for Szyk's art, the point when his work stepped out of the shadow of history into the spotlight of today.

Even so, we know our work is not yet done. Whether it is the image database (*page 11*), a website redesign, or a new museum exhibition, another worthwhile project is always on the horizon—and your support makes all the difference. If you want to reach a new generation with Szyk's legacy, or perhaps honor a friend or loved one, **please make a gift to The Society**. Call us at **650.343.9588** or return the enclosed contribution envelope with your membership pledge.

Thank you so much for all you do to sustain the Szyk renaissance. We couldn't do it without you.

Peace and health to you,

Sandy Stadler, President

LATEST UPDATES

The University of Wrocław in Poland recently honored Society Board Member **Alex Lauterbach** for collecting and sending more than 5,000 books to restore the city's once-thriving Judaica library. Wrocław, formerly Breslau, Germany, had one of the largest Jewish communities in Germany prior to the Nazi rise to power. Alex also is active in the Polish capital, building the library of the Progressive congregation of Beit Warszawa.

Honorary Board Member and graphic artist **Art Spiegelman** collaborated with the acclaimed Pilobolus Dance Theater to create “Hapless Hooligan in ‘Still Moving.’” The noir love story, featuring dancers interacting live with Spiegelman's cartoons, was accompanied by a collage score of obscure

cabaret tunes and early jazz. The work debuted July 12 and ran through August 7, 2010 at The Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue (at 19th St), New York, New York.

Grants and donations

The Arthur Szyk Society would like to thank its members and supporters for the grants and donations in 2009 and the first half of 2010. We wish to honor the following supporters for their particularly generous support:

The late Dr. Norman Ascherman

Paul and Sheri Robbins

Eva Chernov Lokey

The Koret Foundation

Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations

December 4, 2010 – March 27, 2011

Legion of Honor, Gallery 1

Arthur Szyk (American, b. Poland, 1894–1951) is best remembered today for his graphic depictions of World War II. His work as an artist and illustrator was considerably more diverse, however, ranging from pochoir illustrations for traditional Jewish and Polish folktales and religious texts, to watercolor designs for political cartoons that were regularly featured on the covers of *Collier's* magazine throughout the 1940s. The exhibition explores Szyk's artistry over a productive career, from his early training at the Académie Julian in Paris, to his work in London, and later New York.

In all areas of his art, Szyk's Polish and Jewish heritage remained central and, whether he was illustrating fairytales or events in history, his attention to detail betrayed considerable historical research into his craft. Like his artist peers, Szyk understood that images could be powerful tools, used to incite change within society. However, he broke most profoundly from contemporary Modernist ideals in his avoidance of abstraction in favor of figurative work. Szyk preferred to work in elaborate detail, recalling the intricate illumination present in medieval manuscripts and near-Eastern miniature paintings. The artist also found inspiration for his artwork in traditional Polish and Jewish folk arts, which tend to be heavily ornamented with fine detail.

Arthur Szyk's drawings and illustrations have recently been the subject of exhibitions at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin, Germany. The recognition that the artist enjoys today is in large part to the tireless work of Irvin Ungar, whose collection of Szyk material comprises the majority of works in the Legion's exhibition.

This exhibition also returns Arthur Szyk to the Legion of Honor, where a selection of his watercolors was shown seventy years ago in 1941.



King and Queen of the Roses, Andersen's Fairy Tales, New York, 1945

The Society thanks Karin Breuer and Colleen Terry for the opportunity to reproduce this article, a version of which appears in the Fall/Winter 2010 *Fine Arts*, the official magazine of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.



ABOUT THE LEGION: The Palace of the Legion of Honor, located in San Francisco's beautiful and historic Lincoln Park, was dedicated in honor of Californians who gave their lives in World War I. (The museum is an exact replica of its sister institution, the neoclassical *Palais de la Legion d'Honneur* in Paris.) The Legion's permanent collection is strong in European decorative arts, European painting, ancient art, and works on paper. The Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts includes more than 70,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and illustrated books; the collection spans more than six centuries.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, comprised of the de Young in Golden Gate Park and the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park, is the largest public arts institution in San Francisco. FAMSF is directed by John Buchanan.



Society Curator Irvin Ungar, Curator-in-Charge Karin Breuer, and Curatorial Assistant Colleen Terry at Society headquarters.

Abrams to Publish *The Szyk Haggadah*

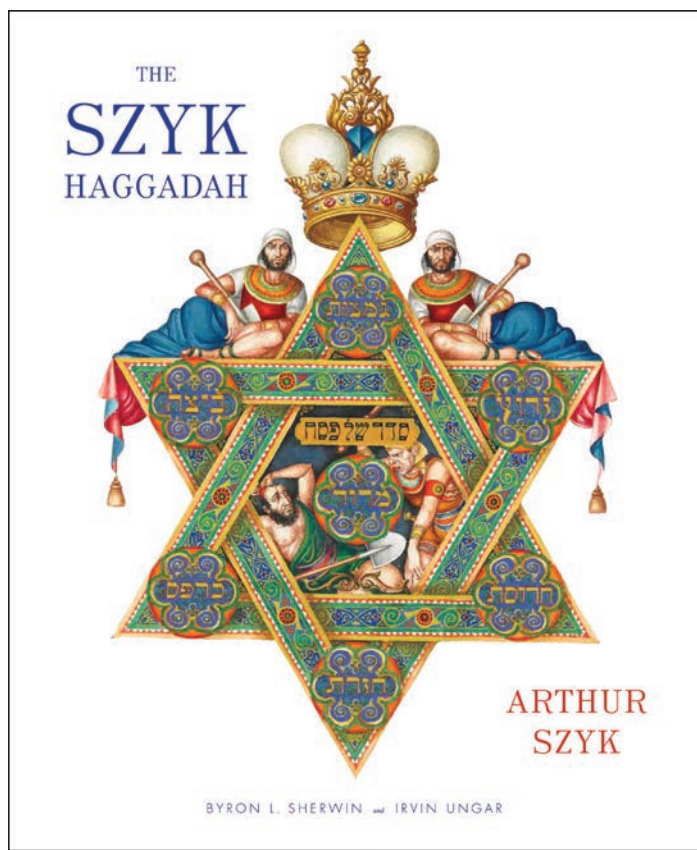
Accessible and Useable Edition for the Seder Table Based Upon Historicana Edition (2008)

Abrams, one of the nation's most respected publishers of illustrated art books, will soon release a new popular edition of Szyk's masterpiece, *The Szyk Haggadah*. Created in Poland during the rise of Hitler, *The Haggadah* is Szyk's visual commentary on the frightening parallels between the ancient Egyptians of the book of Exodus and the Nazis of neighboring Germany. Its 48 illuminated pages show Moses, David, and other heroes of ancient Israel rising up to defeat past and present enemies of the Jewish people. *The Haggadah* was first published as a luxury limited edition in London in 1940; by 1956, the plates had found their way to Israel, where a trade edition remained in print until 2003.

The new Abrams publication is a new chapter in this long history, improving on previous trade editions of *The Haggadah* in every way. Instead of reproducing the old plates, Abrams' edition uses a fresh new design that showcases incredibly high-resolution digital photographs of the original watercolor and gouache paintings. Rather than Cecil Roth's text from 1940, *The Haggadah* will present the all-new commentary and translation of Szyk's Hebrew text by noted Jewish theologian Byron L. Sherwin. (The translation and commentary draw from Dr. Sherwin's pioneering work for Historicana's 2008 Deluxe and Premier editions of *The Szyk Haggadah*.)

The book also will be especially easy to use. Straightforward instructions guide the reader through the order of the Seder; transliterations are provided for important Hebrew-language prayers; and the extensive commentary answers nearly every question about Passover traditions. And because the paperback and hardcover versions are so affordable, everyone in the family can have his or her own copy to use at the Seder Table.

The Szyk Haggadah will be available April 2011 at www.abramsbooks.com and bookstores everywhere. Don't miss it!



The Szyk Haggadah, Abrams, 2011.

Hardcover with jacket, ISBN 978-0-8109-9745-5
U.S. \$40.00 / Can. \$51.99 / U.K. £26.99

Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8109-9753-0
U.S. \$16.95 / Can. \$21.95 / U.K. £11.99

Society to Sponsor Szyk Haggadah Documentary



Director Jim Ruxin filming in Berlin at the German Historical Museum.

The Arthur Szyk Society is pleased to announce that it will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the original documentary film, "In Every Generation: Remaking *The Szyk Haggadah*." A project of Illuminated Productions, "In Every Generation" presents the dramatic story of Szyk's powerful illuminated Haggadah, a milestone of Jewish art and culture. It follows the artisan production of the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (Historicana, 2008) and includes interviews with numerous experts in the arts, history, and Jewish tradition.

Those who wish to support the film project are invited to contact The Society at 650.343.9588 or info@szyk.org.

UPDATE

The Luxury Edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*

Prominent institutions and private collectors around the world continue to seek out the new luxury edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (Historicana, 2008). Copies of *The Haggadah* now reside at:

- The Library of Congress
- The British Library
- Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- Yale University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Michigan
- University of Indiana
- University of San Francisco
- University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
- Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton
- The Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley, Calif.
- National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia

“We Jews have been telling the story of Passover through the Haggadah for almost a millennium, but never has it been as stirringly visualized as by Arthur Szyk, and certainly never as beautifully printed and produced as in this majestic edition.

— Art Spiegelman
Pulitzer Prize-winning author and creator of Maus

“The new edition of The Szyk Haggadah restores the beauty of this masterpiece of 20th century Jewish art and makes its powerful symbolism accessible to a new generation of readers.”

— Richard Siegel
Executive Director Emeritus, Foundation for Jewish Culture

Thanks to the efforts of director Jim Ruxin, more than 100 hours of footage have been shot in 12 cities around the globe. Once complete, “In Every Generation” will travel the film festival circuit and air on broadcast television. The film also will become an important resource for educators seeking a fresh multimedia approach to World War II and the Holocaust.

In consultation with The Society, Illuminated Productions will approach potential grantors starting this summer. The goal is to raise \$77,500 in finishing funds from private individuals and foundations that support the arts, education, Jewish culture, and documentary filmmaking.

Interested in Owning *The Haggadah*?

Deluxe and Premier editions of *The Szyk Haggadah* are still available from Historicana. For more information, or to reserve your copy, call 650.343.9578 or visit www.szyk.com



The Four Questions, The Szyk Haggadah (Łódź, 1935).

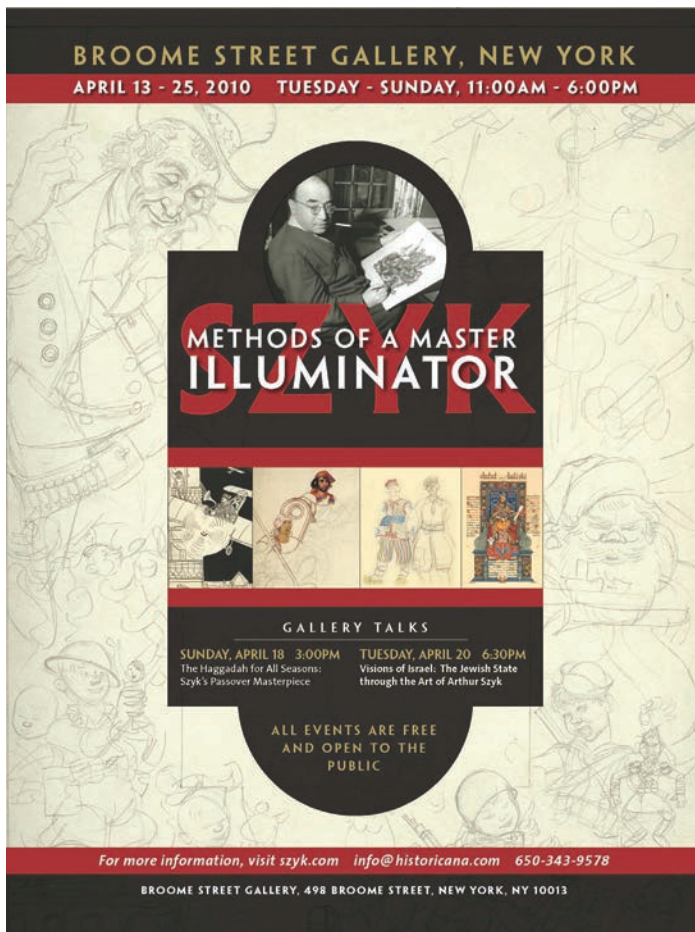
“A tour de force blending of tradition with technology has resulted in a magnificent volume that will introduce Arthur Szyk’s masterful interpretation of the Passover Haggadah to a new generation.”

— Grace Cohen Grossman
Senior Curator, Skirball Museum



The 17-minute Advance Presentation of “In Every Generation” may be viewed at www.szyk.com.

Szyk Exhibited in New York City Successful SoHo Showings



Broome Street Gallery poster

The original exhibition “Arthur Szyk: Methods of a Master Illuminator” was held at New York’s Broome Street Gallery from April 13 to 25, 2010. Following on the success of “Arthur Szyk Illuminated—New York” (April 7–26, 2009), the exhibition featured more than 60 original works of art and premiered never-before-seen sketches and studies from Szyk’s teenage years in Paris. Over the course of the two-week exhibition, institutions as diverse as the School of Visual Arts, New Jersey City University, Central Synagogue, Temple Israel of the City of New York, and The Forest Hills Jewish Center visited the gal-

lery for group tours and special events. Jim Ruxin—director of the documentary films “Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art” and “In Every Generation: Remaking *The Szyk Haggadah*”—traveled from Los Angeles for a day of filming at the SoHo gallery. On April 20, Society Curator Irvin Ungar debuted “Visions of Israel: The Jewish State through the Art of Arthur Szyk,” the first presentation of Szyk’s artistic advocacy for the creation of the State of Israel.



Zachor [Memory] (New Canaan, 1948).



Serenade Aeronautique (Paris, circa 1912).

The Whitney Adds Szyk Original to Permanent Collection



To the beasts preying upon my people...I bring a sword! (New York, 1945).

The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the preeminent institution devoted to the art of the United States, has acquired its first original work by Arthur Szyk. Carter Foster, Curator of Drawings at the Whitney, first encountered the pen and ink drawing “To the beasts preying upon my people...I bring a sword!” (New York, 1945) at the gallery exhibition “Arthur Szyk: Methods of a Master Illuminator” (see above). He was particularly impressed with the line quality and subject matter and so recommended the drawing to the Acquisitions Committee, which approved its purchase in May 2010.

“To the beasts preying upon my people... I bring a sword!” was published as the cover illustration for Paul Eldridge’s post-war book of poetry, *I Bring a Sword* (New York: The Fine Editions Press, 1945). This

image—inspired by the title poem—is an allegorical but unmistakable call for the Jewish people to defend themselves against those who may do them harm, whether by blocking immigration, by proposing lop-sided policy, or by sheer inaction.

I BRING A SWORD

— by Paul Eldridge

*To the beasts preying upon my people
To the hyenas mocking their grief
To the hounds barring their gates
To the ostriches burying heads
To the crocodiles shedding tears
To the snakes hissing malignities
To the monkeys chattering diplomacies
To the asses braying profundities
To the cocks crowing prophecies
To the owls hooting defeat –
I BRING A SWORD!*

SZYK IN THE NEWS

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

The Huffington Post, one of the world's largest independent news sites, featured the story "Arthur Szyk: A New Exhibition of the Great Illuminator" on April 11, 2010. The illustrated account of Szyk's life and work was written by veteran journalist Richard Z. Chesnoff, former executive editor of *Newsweek International*. The introduction and conclusion of his article are excerpted below:



"[Arthur Szyk] was a master of political art, a brilliant draftsman/artist whose evocative works had all the power of Goya's 'The Execution' and Picasso's 'Guernica.' Above all he was the 20th century reviver of the medieval craft of the miniaturists and illuminators of sacred texts, a multi-patriot who devoted his enormous talents to the struggle for freedom and against political evil, an artist who so forcefully depicted the battle to defeat the Nazis and their Axis allies, that Eleanor Roosevelt declared him a 'one man army against Hitler.'"



The New Orderlies. New York, 1941.

"...Thanks in large measure to the efforts of Irvin Ungar of California's Arthur Szyk Society, his work has captured new attention in recent years, including a seminal exhibit at Berlin's Deutsches Historisches Museum in 2008-2009 as well as one at Washington's Holocaust Memorial Museum. The upcoming Broome Street Gallery exhibit should help Szyk reach an even a wider audience. But the great illuminator is more than worthy of a major retrospective of his works in New York at MOMA and/or The Jewish Museum. The time has come!"

Chesnoff's article, which includes a wonderful summary of Szyk's life and art, may be read online in its entirety at www.huffingtonpost.com (search for "Szyk").

The Jewish Press Reviews *The Szyk Haggadah*

The acclaimed painter and writer Richard McBee reviewed the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* in a two-part March 2010 feature for *The Jewish Press*, New York, the largest independent Jewish weekly in the United States. McBee explores Szyk's work in-depth, pointing out the artist's masterful use of symbolism and his deep understanding of Torah and Midrash. An excerpt from Part II:

"At the formal end of the Haggadah Szyk continues to surprise us with Biblical commentary. Just as Szyk begins his Haggadah with an invocation to never forget Jerusalem, the Haggadah proper ends with the proclamation "Next Year in Jerusalem!" His image is of Ruth and Naomi embracing; Ruth affirming her love of God and the Jewish people: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16). Such a fantastic commitment can only be made by an outsider, by someone determined to preserve the newly discovered treasure of Jewishness. Szyk understood that only by love and steely determination would the Jewish people survive to return to their land and see the advent of the Messiah."



Detail, Naomi and her Two Daughters-in-Law (Łódź, 1935).

Both parts of McBee's insightful Passover feature may be read online at www.jewishpress.com (search for "Szyk").



Samson in the Ghetto. New York, 1945.

Documentary Film on Peter Bergson

The new documentary film, “Not Idly By: Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust,” makes extensive use of iconic Szyk works, including “Trumpeldor’s Defense of Tel Chai” (Łódź, 1936) and Szyk’s illustration for Ben Hecht’s heartrending poem “Ballad of the Doomed Jews of Europe” (New York, 1943). A project of the Chambon Foundation and the Varian Fry Institute, “Not Idly By” was directed by child Holocaust survivor Pierre Sauvage. The film premiered at the Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival in 2009 and continues on the festival circuit. To learn more, please visit varianfry.org.



Trumpeldor’s Defense of Tel Chai
(Łódź, 1936).



Ben Hecht. Ballad of the Doomed Jews of Europe (New York, 1943).

Traveling Exhibition of The Arthur Szyk Society

The Society’s Seymour Fromer Traveling Exhibition Program, which includes the original exhibition “Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk”, is still winning admirers around the nation. The museum-quality photo panel exhibition explores Szyk’s art through three linking themes: World War II, America, and Jewish Response. It is accompanied by an excellent Study Guide written by Dr. Byron L. Sherwin. The exhibition may also be viewed online in its entirety at www.szyk.org/szykonline.

Interested in hosting a Szyk exhibition?

“Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk” is perfectly suited to college campuses, small to mid-size institutions, and even local community centers. Exhibition fees start at \$2500 for a 2–3 month rental, plus round-trip shipping and insurance. To learn more, please contact The Society at 650.343.9588 or info@szyk.org.

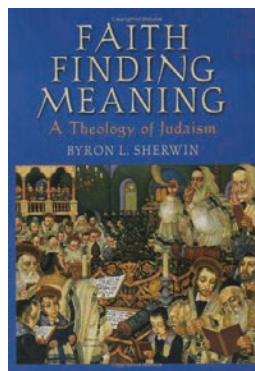
Launch of New Szyk.com



The home page of the new Szyk.com

Szyk collectors will be excited to know that the antiquarian bookseller and art dealer Historicana has launched a redesigned e-commerce website devoted to the works of Arthur Szyk. The new Szyk.com is an authoritative resource for books, first edition prints, original art and more. Highlights of the site include the short documentary film, “In Every Generation: Remaking *The Szyk Haggadah*” and an episodic overview of Szyk’s life. Visit www.szyk.com for more.

New Book from Byron L. Sherwin



“Rosh HaShanah”, one of six paintings in Szyk’s Jewish holiday series, was selected as the cover image for the new book, *Faith Finding Meaning* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). Written by the respected theologian Byron L. Sherwin, *Faith Finding Meaning* explores how one can find individual meaning and identity by returning to the foundation of Jewish theology. Dr. Sherwin is an authority on Szyk and a long-time advocate for the Szyk renaissance. He was instrumental in developing the exhibition “Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk” (Spertus Museum, Chicago, 1998–1999) and wrote the accompanying Study Guide of the same name. Dr. Sherwin also contributed the original translation and commentary for the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*. He is a Distinguished Service Professor and Director of Doctoral Programs at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago. *Faith Finding Meaning* may be purchased directly from Oxford University Press (oup.com) or at Amazon.com.

Szyk Art Presented to Netanyahu



Prime Minister Netanyahu admires Szyk's illumination of Israel's "Proclamation." Photograph by Robert A. Cumins.

The Society is pleased to report that Szyk's art played a small but important role in the 2010 General Assembly (GA) of The Jewish Federations of North America. The Federation presented two GA guest

speakers with framed first edition lithographs of iconic Szyk works. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu received the "Proclamation of the Establishment of the State of Israel", and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel accepted the "Declaration of the United States of America" on President Obama's behalf. Both men commented on the intricate detail and beauty of the art. Our sources at the event tell us that Prime Minister Netanyahu was so moved by Szyk's "Proclamation" that he spent five full minutes gazing at the illumination in silence. Both works, each labeled with a commemorative plaque, now hang in the Federation offices in New York.



Rahm Emanuel with Szyk's "Declaration of Independence." Photograph by Robert A. Cumins.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History



In honor of Veterans Day, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (Washington, D.C.) hosted the presentation "Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art" on November 11, 2009. Delivered by Society Curator Irvin Ungar, the talk introduced Szyk's World War II art, with a special emphasis on works the artist created specifically for the Jewish War Veterans of the United States (JWV). In the same vein, the cover of the Fall 2009 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, the semi-annual publication of the JWV, featured a Szyk cover first published in October 1944. In the striking World War II caricature, a young Jewish-American soldier gestures toward a group of captured Germans, as if to say, "I have the situation under control." For more information, please visit www.nmajmh.org and www.jwv.org.

The Library of Congress

In March 2010, The Library of Congress held a one-day Teacher Institute on "Creating the U.S." to introduce new strategies and educational resources for teaching about the early years of the United States. Szyk's illuminated "Declaration of Independence of the United States" (New Canaan, 1950) was among the suggested primary resources. Visit The Library of Congress online at www.loc.gov/teachers/newsevents/events/creatingus/index.html to learn how teachers are using Szyk's art in their curriculum.

Szyk at the IAJGS Conference

The conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), which was held in Los Angeles from July 11–16, 2010, featured not one but two Szyk events. Dr. Rhoda Miller presented her new paper "Documents as a Palette of Life: The Genealogical Self-Portrait of Arthur Szyk," the fourth and newest Art History Paper of The Arthur Szyk Society. The IAJGS Film Festival also screened the short documentary film "Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art."

Stanford's Taube Center Sponsors Szyk Lecture



View of Stanford University from the Oval.

At the invitation of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University, Society Curator Irvin Ungar will speak on Arthur Szyk on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, as part of the Center's ongoing Text & Culture lecture series. The noon lecture will be a lunch seminar followed by a question and answer period. The event will be free and open to the public.

The goal of the Text & Culture lecture series is to introduce the Stanford community not only to the rich tapestry of Jewish textual traditions, but to enrich ongoing conversations about the significance of studying Jewish literatures in the context of the humanities. Previous Text & Culture lecturers have included Rabbi David Weiss Halivni, Professor of Classic Jewish Civilization at Columbia University, and Professor Robert Brody of Hebrew University (Jerusalem). For more information, visit the Taube Center for Jewish Studies online at www.jewishstudies.stanford.edu.

Program at Burlingame Public Library

In conjunction with the upcoming exhibition at the Legion of Honor, Society Curator Irvin Ungar will deliver the new lecture "Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations" at Burlingame Public Library at 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. The talk will be free and open to the public.

Collector Spotlight



Eugene Seger is a retired phototypeset film technician and lifelong Michigan resident. He was born in a small town in the northern Lower Peninsula 80 years ago.

Eugene has been collecting all of his life, starting with the familiar (rocks and stamps) and progressing to the exciting and fantastic. After collecting Buck Rogers memorabilia for several years, in the mid-1940s Eugene's interests turned toward artwork, especially the illustrations of Boris Artzybasheff and Arthur Szyk. He was first captivated by Szyk's amazing use of detail and color while browsing his mother's copy of the January 1945 issue of *Cosmopolitan*, which was the first item in what would become an impressive collection of Arthur Szyk material. Upon moving to Detroit in the early 1950s, Eugene found a collector's paradise. Books, magazines, and prints were relatively affordable and easy to find. In one of the old bookstores that used to dot the city landscape, he found one of his more

prized possessions: a copy of Szyk's limited edition *Ink & Blood: A Book of Drawings* (New York, 1946), purchased for the then-princely sum of \$80. [Copies of *Ink & Blood* in very good or fine condition now sell for as much as \$2500 or more.—Ed.]

Like all of Eugene's collections, his Szyk collection is the result of a lifelong passion, a passion shaped by selected purchases over time, or when they could be afforded. Patience truly has been a virtue. Though he now owns several hundred (if not thousands) of magazines, books, clippings, ads, posters, and stamps, Eugene continues to look for new ephemera; his "want list" is several pages long. When asked why he collects the work of this particular artist's work, he replied, "Why does any collector collect what they collect? They just do."

—Author Tony Seger is Eugene's son.

Fox-Adler Lecture at Skidmore College

Skidmore College, a liberal arts college in Saratoga Springs, NY, has invited Society Curator Irvin Ungar to deliver the annual Fox-Adler Lecture on Thursday, September 22, 2011. His talk will emphasize Szyk's illustrated books, ranging from his famous Passover Haggadah to Andersen's Fairy Tales and *The Canterbury Tales*. Past Fox-Adler speakers have included New York Times art critic Michael Kimmelman and illustrator Barry Moser.

Skidmore's Fox-Adler Lecture Series is named in honor of Norman M. Fox and the late Hannah Moriarta Adler, connoisseurs and collectors of rare books. In 1967, Adler loaned her extensive collection of 19th-century books to Skidmore. After her death in 1989, Fox and his family took charge

of her collection and initiated a yearly Adler Lecture, which has become an annual occasion to discuss the importance of literature and art in the 19th century. In 2001, the event was renamed the Fox-Adler lecture, and in 2005, the Fox family gave the collection to Scribner Library. The Lecture series is organized by Dr. Catherine Golden, a Professor of English at Skidmore. Learn more at www.skidmore.edu.



A recently rediscovered illustration of "The Knight" (New York, 1945) for The Canterbury Tales.

Szyk Artwork Strong in Marketplace

Szyk original art continues to command healthy prices at auction. At Bonhams' auction of "Victorian Watercolors and Illustrations" in London on November 11, 2008, the Haggadah "Vorsatz" [Doublure] (London, 1937) went for GBP £26,400, or nearly US \$40,000. Measuring 9 ¼ by 7 ½ inches, the pen and ink drawing of the seated Moses is emblazoned with the words "Haggadah Shel Pesach"—that is, the Haggadah of Passover. Once believed lost, the work was known from its reproduction on the silk fly leaf attached to the inside board of the vellum edition of *The Haggadah* (London: Beaconsfield Press, 1940).



The original art for the doublure—i.e., the decorated silk and leather paste-down (inside lining)—of the 1940 edition of The Szyk Haggadah, as issued.

About one year later, on November 24, 2009, Sotheby's sold "Moise et la Fille du Pharaon" for US \$35,000. The watercolor and gouache painting, measuring 6 by 4 ⅝ inches, is one of a handful of Haggadah-themed works to come to light in the past few years. Like many of Szyk's popular Paris works, it was reproduced on a postcard in the 1920s.



Moise et la Fille du Pharaon (Paris, 1926 or 1927).

Do you own Szyk original art?

The Society is on the lookout for Szyk original works to add to the Arthur Szyk image database. If you have a Szyk drawing, painting, or sketch in your collection, please send a photo to info@szyk.org for our review. We will contact you to discuss the work in more detail and answer any questions you may have about the database project.

New Art History Paper on the Heraldry of Arthur Szyk

The Society is pleased to announce that San Francisco-based heraldic scholar David F. Phillips has prepared an article exploring Szyk's mastery of heraldic art. The fifth entry in The Society's series of Art History Papers, "Arthur Szyk: Heraldic Artist" will be published in December 2010 to coincide with the opening of the Szyk exhibition at the Legion of Honor.



St. George and the Dragon, embodying the battle between good and evil. Detail of "English Page" (Paris, 1927), The Statute of Kalisz.



The coat of arms of the city of Lwów. Detail of "The Family at the Seder" (Łódź, 1936), The Szyk Haggadah.



A Lion of Judah, a symbol of Jewish sovereignty. Detail of "State of Israel Bond" (New Canaan, 1950).

NEW FACES

New Project Head for Szyk Image Database

One of The Society's key initiatives is the multi-year Arthur Szyk image database project, an effort to collect and catalogue every Szyk work of art, plus the publications and periodicals that featured them. Thanks to a generous grant from The Koret Foundation, Cody Bahir joined our team as the database project head in May 2010. Over the next several months, Cody will prepare the database for its online debut on The Society website (www.szyk.org). A Ph.D. student at the California Institute of Integral Studies, Cody previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and American Jewish University. His background in rare books and library science has provided him the opportunity to work with languages as diverse as Aramaic, Yiddish, Hebrew, and classical Chinese. The Society is privileged to have such an accomplished researcher and cataloguer overseeing our growing database of thousands of images. Welcome, Cody!



IN MEMORIAM



Our friend and mentor Seymour Fromer, who was larger than life.

Photograph by
Richard Nagler.

We honor the memory of three outstanding individuals for their contributions and long-time commitment to The Arthur Szyk Society.

Seymour Fromer, Board Member of The Arthur Szyk Society, died October 26, 2009, at the age of 87. Seymour was a visionary educator, a mentor, and a mensch. An avid collector of rare Judaica, Seymour founded the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, Calif., one of the premier Jewish institutions in the United States. (The Magnes' 10,000 piece collection will move to UC Berkeley

this summer.) Many other Bay Area institutions owe their founding to Seymour's leadership, including: Lehrhaus Judaica; the Center for Jewish Life and Learning; the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival; and the Jewish Music Festival. His irreplaceable contributions to Jewish art and culture will impact the world for decades to come. We at The Society are grateful for his years of wisdom and guidance. We were privileged to count him as a friend and an advocate.

To Honor a Beloved Mentor

"Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk," the traveling exhibition of The Arthur Szyk Society, has been renamed "The Seymour Fromer Traveling Exhibition Program." Tour the virtual exhibition online at www.szyk.org/szykonline.

Jack H. Schwartz, a founding Board Member of The Arthur Szyk Society (retired 2003), died September 21, 2008, at the age of 86. An avid Szyk collector, Jack was passionate about making the artist's legacy accessible to the public. He and George Gooche (see above) enjoyed a long-term correspondence throughout the 1990s; copies of their letters are now part of The Arthur Szyk Archives. His unfailing enthusiasm for all things Szyk will be sorely missed.

George Gooche, Founder of The Arthur Szyk Society, died February 24, 2009, at the age of 81. George, a retired medical administrator and devoted philatelist, first came to admire Szyk through his stamp designs. He later discovered a treasure trove of Szyk works, including a cache of first edition lithographs from the Visual History of Nations series. In 1991, George created The Society to better preserve the artist's legacy and to educate the public about his life and works. In addition to compiling the first Society newsletters, George facilitated the first Szyk exhibition of the 1990s, "Arthur Szyk: Illuminator," at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles. We are grateful for his pioneering work in returning Szyk to the public eye.

The Visual History of Nations series, one of George Gooche's biggest inspirations.

Join us for the Szyk in San Francisco Tour! December 3–4, 2010

Celebrate the opening of "Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations" at the Legion of Honor with The Arthur Szyk Society.

See insert for details.



*The Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco.
Detail of "Visual History of the United States" (New York, 1945).*

Book a Group Tour of the Szyk Exhibition

Members of The Society's curatorial staff will be available for docent-led tours throughout the exhibition's run at the Legion (December 4, 2010 to March 27, 2011). Institutes, synagogues, churches and other organizations interested in personalized group tours of the Szyk exhibition are encouraged to contact The Arthur Szyk Society to reserve a date. Field trips for college or high school students also can be arranged. Please inquire at 650.343.9588 or info@szyk.org.

