



Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art

Presentation on the art and messages of the Polish-Jewish artist Arthur Szyk (1894-1951)

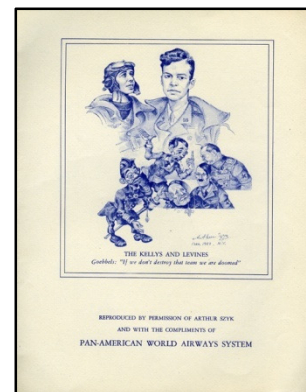
by Rabbi Irvin Ungar, Curator, The Arthur Szyk Society

Veterans Day, November 11, 2009 ▪ 1:00PM-3:00 PM

National Museum of American Jewish Military History

1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 ▪ (202) 265-6280

Rabbi Irvin Ungar brings his years of curatorial experience to an energetic talk about Arthur Szyk, the Polish-born artist who the American military recognized as a World War II “citizen-soldier of the free world,” who fought injustice and tyranny with his brush and pen.



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Arthur Szyk was a Polish Jew who immigrated to New York in 1940. He became famous during World War II for his searing anti-Nazi caricatures and for his advocacy for the rescue of European Jewry. He was the leading political artist in America during WWII and fought the Nazis through his art. He spoke of himself as President Roosevelt’s “Soldier in Art.” The American press called him a “one-man army in the war against Hitler and Fascism.” His illuminated Passover Haggadah has been called one of the greatest illustrated books of all times. For more information on Arthur Szyk, visit the website of The Arthur Szyk Society at <http://www.szyk.org>.

Rabbi Irvin Ungar, curator of The Arthur Szyk Society is also a curator of special exhibitions and a widely published author on subjects relating to Arthur Szyk and Judaica. He served as guest curator for the following exhibitions: *The Cartographer’s Vision: 400 Years of Holy Land Maps*, at the Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley (May - September, 1988); *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*, at The Spertus Museum, Chicago (August, 1998 - February, 1999); *Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom*, at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (December, 1999 - May, 2000). Rabbi Ungar also served as consultant to the United States Holocaust Museum for its exhibition: *Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* (April - October, 2002). He was also the guest curator for the major exhibition, *Arthur Szyk - Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror* (August, 2008 - January, 2009), at the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin. He offered a keynote address, as well as contributed a significant essay, "Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art," to the bilingual museum exhibition catalogue.