

2023

## Arthur Szyk Collection

Irvin Unger

Arthur Szyk

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This collection is part of the Arthur Szyk Archives donated to Fairfield University by Irvin Ungar in honor of: Philip Eliasoph, PhD, professor of art history and visual culture and special assistant to the President for arts and culture; and the Arthur Szyk exhibition, *In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Artist and Soldier for Human Rights, September – December 2023, at the Fairfield University Art Museum. Jewish artist Arthur Szyk was born in 1894 and raised in Poland at a time when totalitarianism was on the rise in Europe. He was educated in France, traveled in the Middle East, lived in London and Canada and finally settled in New York. Known for his political cartoons and caricatures, he used his graphic skills to advocate for human rights, such as religious tolerance, racial equality and rights for global refugees. Active in the years leading up to World War II and during the Holocaust, Szyk became one of America's celebrated artists for his focus on freedom and against fascism and tyranny.

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## Arthur Szyk Collection — Finding Aid

Materials held in the Fairfield University Archives and Special Collections, DiMenna-Nyselius Library  
rev. 2023-11-15

**Title:** Arthur Szyk Collection

**Dates:** 1930s-2023

**Creator:** Irvin Unger and Arthur Szyk

**Quantity:** ~2.8 linear feet; 17 books, 3 DVDs, plus 1 box, 13" x 18"

**Origin:** Gifted by Irvin Ungar

**Repository:** Fairfield University Archives and Special Collections

### Historical Note / Biographical Note

This collection is part of the Arthur Szyk Archives donated to Fairfield University by Irvin Ungar in honor of: Philip Eliasoph, PhD, professor of art history and visual culture and special assistant to the President for arts and culture; and the Arthur Szyk exhibition, *In Real Times. Arthur Szyk: Artist and Soldier for Human Rights*. The exhibition runs from September 29 through December 16, 2023 at Fairfield University Art Museum's Bellarmine Hall Galleries, with an adjunct exhibition entitled *Szyk: The Interactive Experience* in the Museum's Walsh Gallery. Additional Szyk materials held by the Fairfield University Art Museum.

Jewish artist Arthur Szyk (pronounced "Shick"), was born in 1894 and raised in Poland at a time when totalitarianism was on the rise in Europe. He was educated in France, traveled in the Middle East, lived in London and Canada and finally settled in New York. Known for his political cartoons and caricatures, he used his graphic skills to advocate for human rights, such as religious tolerance, racial equality and rights for global refugees. Active in the years leading up to World War II and during the Holocaust, Szyk became one of America's celebrated artists for his focus on freedom and against fascism and tyranny. Szyk, a longtime Connecticut resident, died in New Canaan in 1951.

### Scope and Content of Papers

This collection is comprised of primary and secondary sources including monographs, journals, DVDs, calendars, and playing cards. The majority of the monographs were published from 1998 through 2023. The collection contains single sheets and front covers of journals from the 1940s. The primary sources include brochures, pamphlets and postcards from the 1940s-2000s. The collection also includes a Victor Borge 33 ½ record album cover illustrated by Arthur Szyk from 1945 and a monograph of *Playing Card Art* by Arthur Szyk accompanied by a "Players Deck" from 2011.

### BOOK COLLECTION

#### Located in Special Collections.

- **Ansell, Joseph P.** *Arthur Szyk Artist, Jew, Pole*. The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2004. Special Coll. N7255.P63 S98733 2004
- **Ansell, Joseph P.** *Artur Szyk Artysta, Żyd, Polak* [Polish Edition]. Kraków, Poland and Budapest, Hungary, 2007. Special Coll. N7255.P63 S9833168 2007

- **Cohen**, Mortimer J., Revised by Stein, Davide E. S., *Pathways Through the Bible: Classic Selections from the Tanakh Third Edition*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2002. Illustrations by Arthur Szyk. (See Article: "About Arthur Szyk" by Irvin Ungar, p 519.) [Special Coll. BS1091.C57 2002](#)
- **Luckert**, Steven. *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., 2002. [Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A4 2002](#)
- **Plunkett**, Stephanie Harboush and James J. Kimble. *Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & Four Freedoms*. Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, 2018. (See Article: "Arthur Szyk: Immigrant Artist As FDR'S Soldier In Art" by Irvin Ungar, p. 159.) [Special Coll. ND237.R68 A64 2018](#)
- **Rittner** R.S.M., Carol. *The Holocaust and Nostra Aetate Toward A Greater Understanding*. Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 2017. See Article: "Injustice Illuminated: The Holocaust Art of Arthur Szyk" by Irvin Ungar, p. 67. [Special Coll. D804.33.E844 2017](#)
- **Sherwin**, Byron L. and Irvin Ungar. *Freedom Illuminated Understanding the Szyk Haggadah*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2007. [Special Coll. BM674.643.S98 2008](#)
- **Sherwin**, Byron L. and Irvin Ungar. *The Szyk Haggadah*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2011. [Special Coll. BM674.643.S982 2011](#)
- **Skotnicki**, Aleksander B. *Arthur Szyk: The Glorious Days of the Polish-American Fraternity*. Kraków, Poland, 2014. [Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A4 2014](#)
- **Skotnicki**, Aleksander B. *Artur Szyk: Dziedzictwo polsko-żydowskiego artysty The Legacy of Polish-Jewish Artist* [Polish Edition]. Kraków, Poland, 2011. [Special Coll. N7255.P63 S98732 2011](#)
- **Sodei**, Rinjiro. *Indigent Jewish Illuminator*. Tokyo, Japan, 2007. Text in Japanese. [Special Coll. N7255.P63 S98735 2007](#)
- **Strom**, Adam, Dan Eshet, and Michael Feldberg. *Washington's Rebuke to Bigotry: Reflections On Our First President's Famous 1790 Letter To The Hebrew Congregation In Newport, Rhode Island*. Facing History and Ourselves, 2015. See Article: "Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom" by Irvin Ungar, p. 149. [Special Coll. E312.75 W37 2015](#)
- **Widmann**, Katja and Johanne Zechner, eds. *Arthur Szyk: Bilder Gegen Nationalsozialismus und Terror* (Drawing Against National Socialism and Terror). Berlin, Germany, 2008. Text in German and English. [Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A4 2008](#)
- **Ungar**, Irvin. *Arthur Szyk Preserved: Institutional Collections of Original Art*. Lewes, UK: Giles, and Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2023. [Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A4 2023](#)
- **Ungar**, Irvin. *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*. Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, Illinois, 1998. [Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A4 1998](#)
- **Ungar**, Irvin. *Soldier in Art*. London, UK: Giles, and Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2017. [Special Coll. N7255.P63 S98735 2017](#)
- **Zarębski**, Piotr Jerzy. *Artistic Dilemmas while Making Europe II and Arthur Szyk, the Illuminator*. Łódź, Poland. See Article: "The Idea and Origin of Europe II and Arthur Szyk the Illuminator," p. 53. [Special Coll. PN1995.9.P54 Z37 2019](#)

## FILM / VIDEOS (DVD) COLLECTION

### Located in Special Collections.

- **Ruxin**, Jim and Irvin Ungar. *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2006. Special Coll. ND3039.S98 A784 2006
- **Ruxin**, Jim and Irvin Ungar. *American's weapon against Nazi Germany, Soldier in Art: Arthur Szyk*, Illuminated Productions, Los Angeles, California, 2013. Special Coll. ND3039.S65 2013
- **Ruxin**, Jim and Irvin Ungar. *In Every Generation: Remaking The Szyk Haggadah*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2008. Special Coll. BM674.643.S98 2008

## MAGAZINE / JOURNAL COLLECTION (Arranged chronologically)

### In Box 1 of 1, located in Special Collections.

- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, November 1, 1941. Szyk illustration: *Historic Poker Game*.
- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, January 17, 1942. Szyk illustration: *Madness*.
- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, February 14, 1942. Szyk illustration: *Murder Inc. Hirohito, Hitlerhito and Benito*.
- [Single Sheet] **Esquire**. February, 1942. Szyk illustration: *The New Orderlies*. Himmler, Tojo and Mussolini (who is falling behind) riding on horseback, with the leaders of collaborating nations marching in front.
- [Single Sheet] **Esquire**. May, 1942. Szyk illustration on page 56: *Some Necks*. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Russia dangle miniature Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito.
- [Advertisement, Single Page] **Saturday Evening Post**. May 23, 1942. Page 65. Ad for Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company *Accidents help the enemy* featuring Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.
- **Collier's**, June 20, 1942. Szyk illustration: *A monkey-like Hirohito holding up a copy of Mein Kampf*.
- [Single Sheet] **Esquire**. June, 1942. Szyk illustration: *Il Duce*. Goering leads Mussolini by a chain, while the Grim Reaper walks beside and Tojo follows.
- [Single Sheet] **Esquire**. July, 1942. Szyk illustration: *December 7, 1941*. Shows personification of the United States as a cowboy being approached from behind by a dagger wielding Tojo, while Hitler and Mussolini watch. (See also Esky postcard).
- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, September 12, 1942. Szyk illustration: *The Arsenal of Democracy*.
- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, December 12, 1942. Szyk illustration: *December 7, 1941* (First anniversary of Pearl Harbor).
- [Front Cover] **Collier's**, February 27, 1943. Szyk illustration: *He Who Rules by the Sword*.
- [Advertisement, Single Page] **Fortune** magazine. April, 1943. Ad for Asbestos Limited Inc. *The Thieves Got no Asbestos!* featuring Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.
- **Coronet**, June, 1946. "It is man that makes truth great..." – Confucius. Inside front cover.
- **Coronet**, April, 1948. "Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know..." Inside front cover.

- **The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts.** Miami, Florida, Fall, 1989. See Article: “Art Against Prejudice: Arthur Szyk’s Statute of Kalisz” by Joseph P. Ansell, p. 46.
- **Biblio Exploring the World of Books,** February, 1999. See article: “Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk” by Irvin Ungar and Joseph P. Ansell, p. 28.

#### CALENDAR COLLECTION

**In Box 1 of 1, located in Special Collections.**

- **Illuminations. Arthur Szyk’s Haggadah.** A Jewish Calendar from the Library of Congress. September 1995 – December 1996. Elul 5755 – Tevet 5757. Published and Distributed by Pomegranate Calendars & Books.
- **Jewish Calendar.** Published by The Judith Roth Studio Collection, Mendham, New Jersey, 2017-18. 5778. Features playing card illustrations from *Heroes of Ancient Israel: The Art of Arthur Szyk*.

#### EMPHEMERA COLLECTION (Arranged chronologically)

**In Box 1 of 1, located in Special Collections**

- [Brochure] Arthur Jaffe, A short survey of the collotype and color collotype process. Vienna, Australia, 1932.
- [Bookmark] American Cancer Society, Arthur Szyk Illustration for the American Cancer Society, New Canaan, Connecticut, 1940.
- [Vinyl Record Album] Decca Records, *Victor Borge presents his own enchanting version of Hans Christian Andersen*, Album cover illustrated by Arthur Szyk, Junior Library edition of Andersen’s Fairy Tales. Grosset & Dunlap, Inc. 1945.
- [Pamphlet] War Department Pamphlet No. 21 – 31, Szyk – Two Down and One to go --, Washington, D.C., 1945.
- [Brochure] Pan American Union, *51 Miniatures by Arthur Szyk*. Washington, D.C. April - May 1952.
- [Brochure] The Jewish Museum of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, *The Work of Arthur Szyk: A Memorial Exhibition of Original Miniatures and Paintings*. New York, New York, October – December 1952.
- [Brochure] Historicana, Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) *The Jewish Heritage Works*. Burlingame, California, late 1980s.
- [Brochure] Historicana, Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) *Historic Art*. Burlingame, California, late 1980s.
- [Brochure] Historicana, Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) *The United Nations Series Historic Art*. Burlingame, California, late 1980s.
- [Congressional Record] Proceedings and debates of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress with Tom Lantos of California in the House of Representatives, First Session, *Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom*. Washington, D.C. November 19, 1999.

- [Brochure] Swann Gallery of Caricature and Cartoon, The Library of Congress, *Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom*. Washington, D.C., December 1999 – May 2000.
- [Brochure] The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk*. Washington, D.C. 2002.
- [Brochure] The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and The Newseum, *Drawing on War: Artists as Activists*. Washington, D.C., June 19, 2002.
- [Postcard] Silicon Gallery Fine Art Prints, *The Making of a Masterpiece: The Szyk Haggadah*, New York, New York, March 2008.
- [Postcard] Irvin Ungar and Szyk.com, Introduction of *The Szyk Haggadah*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2008.
- [Brochure] Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin, *Arthur Szyk: Bilder Gegen Nationalsozialismus Und Terror*. Berlin, Germany August 2008 – January 2009.
- [Postcard] Broome Street Gallery, *Arthur Szyk Illuminated New York*. New York, New York, April 2009.
- [Postcard] Broome Street Gallery, *Methods of a Master Illuminator: All-New Exhibition of Original Art, Sketches and Studies*. New York, New York, April 2010.
- [Brochure] Legion of Honor, *Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Modern Illuminations*. San Francisco, California, December 2010 – March 2011.
- [Newsletter] The Arthur Szyk Society: Dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century master illuminator, miniature painter and activist-artist: *Polish Resurgence of Arthur Szyk Led by Poles* [Exhibition in Kraków and Łódź Broaden European Revival], Vol. 11, 16pp., Burlingame, California, December 2011.
- [Postcard] Irvin Ungar and Abrams Books, Introduction of *The Szyk Haggadah*. New York, New York, 2011.
- [Postcard] Irvin Ungar, Introduction of *Heroes of Ancient Israel: The Playing Card Art of Arthur Szyk* Deluxe Limited-edition box set. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2011.
- [Player's Deck] Allison Clare Chang. *Heroes of Ancient Israel: The Playing Card Art of Arthur Szyk*. Burlingame, California: Historicana, 2011. Accompanied with *Heroes of Ancient Israel Playing Cards, Collector's Deck* and *Heroes of Ancient Israel Playing Cards, Player's Deck*.
- [Newsletter] The Arthur Szyk Society: Dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century master illuminator, miniature painter and activist-artist: *National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education Features Szyk Exhibition* [Universities Gather for Major Conference, Mark 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate (Vatican II)], Vol. 14, 16pp., Burlingame, California, Fall 2015.
- [Brochure] New-York Historical Society Museum & Library, *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art*. New York, New York, September 2017 – January 2018.

**Accrual to collection as of 10-2023, located in Box 1:**

- Arthur Szyk Collection Finding Aid
- Ephemera related to the Arthur Szyk exhibitions at Fairfield University 2023.