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# Ink and Blood

Works of Arthur Szyk  
in the collections of  
McGill University Library



## Exhibition

November 26 – January 31 2013  
McLennan – Redpath Library Complex

## Conference

November 26 2012  
McGill Faculty Club  
and Conference Centre  
3450 McTavish Street  
Montreal

## Arthur Szyk (1894 –1951)

Polish-born graphic artist, book illustrator, caricaturist and stage designer. Born in Łódź, he lived and worked mainly in France, Poland and United Kingdom, finally settling permanently in the United States in 1940. Wherever he lived and worked, Szyk always regarded himself both as a Pole and a Jew.

Best known for his World War II anti-Nazi political art and widely beloved masterpieces: Statute of Kalisz and Passover Haggadah, Szyk revived the medieval tradition of the art of illumination.

A master of miniature painting and calligraphy, Szyk brought his unmistakable style to subjects as diverse as biblical stories, literary classics, and political caricature and cartoons. Many of his works were published as limited edition fine art books and as editorials in periodicals such as *Collier's*, *TIME*, and *The New York Post*.

A self-described “soldier in art,” Szyk was a committed activist-artist, advocating religious tolerance and racial equality for minorities, especially for Jews and black Americans.

Today, collectors around the globe prize Szyk’s art for its vibrant imagery and messages, which remain as stunning and timely as ever.



[szyk.conference.mcgill.ca](http://szyk.conference.mcgill.ca)

## PROGRAM

- 14.00** Stanislaw Latek – The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada and the Polish Library - opening remarks.
- 14.05** Prof. Norman Ravvin – Concordia University, Montreal, Canadian Jewish Studies, Past Chair - *Łódź: Open City* .
- 14.25** Prof. Aleksander Skotnicki - Jagiellonian University, Cracow – *Arthur Szyk (1894-1951)- Polish- Jewish American Artist and His Role in Fighting Nazism During World War II.*
- 15.10** Stefan Wladysiuk – The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada and the Polish Library - Presentation of facsimile edition of *Statute of Kalisz* .
- 15.20** *Coffee break.*
- 15.40** Dr. Richard Virr - McGill University Libraries. Manuscripts, Rare Books and Special Collections, Head and Curator – *Norman Friedman, Collector* .
- 15.55** Irvin Ungar – Curator, The Arthur Szyk Society, Burlingame, CA, – *Arthur Szyk in Canada* .
- 16.15** Projection of the film *Arthur Szyk – Illuminator* directed by Piotr Zarebski .
- 17.10** Discussion and closing remarks.
- 17.30** Closing of the conference.
- 17.45** Opening of the exposition *Ink and Blood – works of Arthur Szyk in the collections of McGill University Library.*