



German Consulate in San Francisco Celebrates Szyk Exhibition

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 & 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



Shana Penn (*center*), Executive Director of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, accepts a Szyk print from Irvin Ungar, Curator of The Arthur Szyk Society, while German Consul General Rolf Schütte (*seated left*) looks on.

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.