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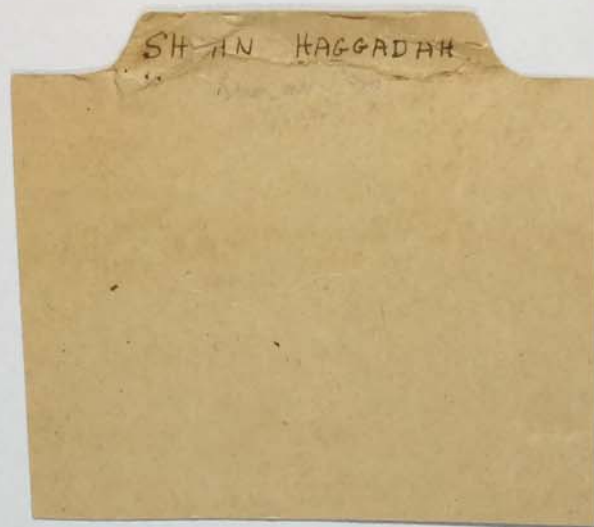
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10 for the Haggadah

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J. T. SOBY  
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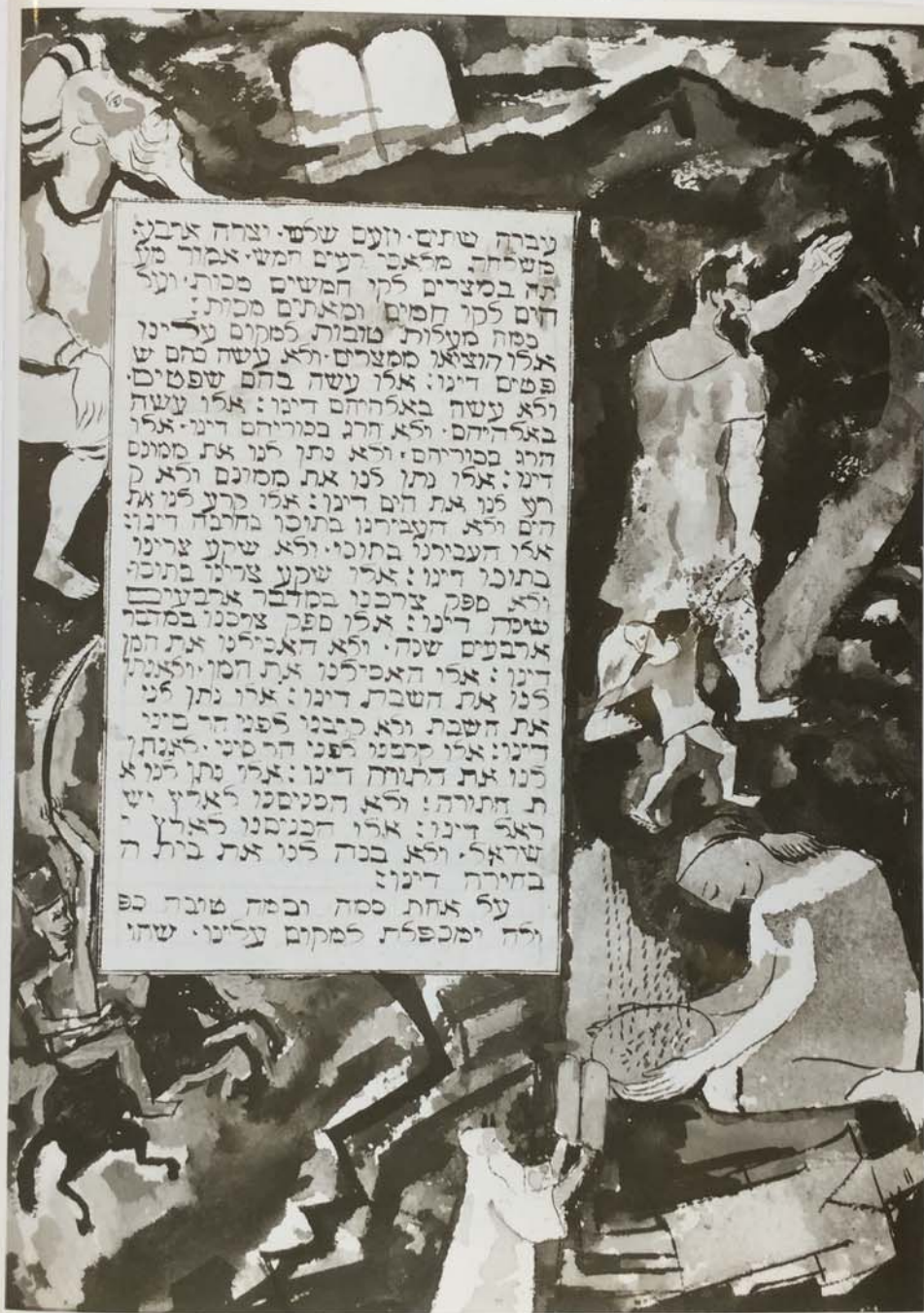
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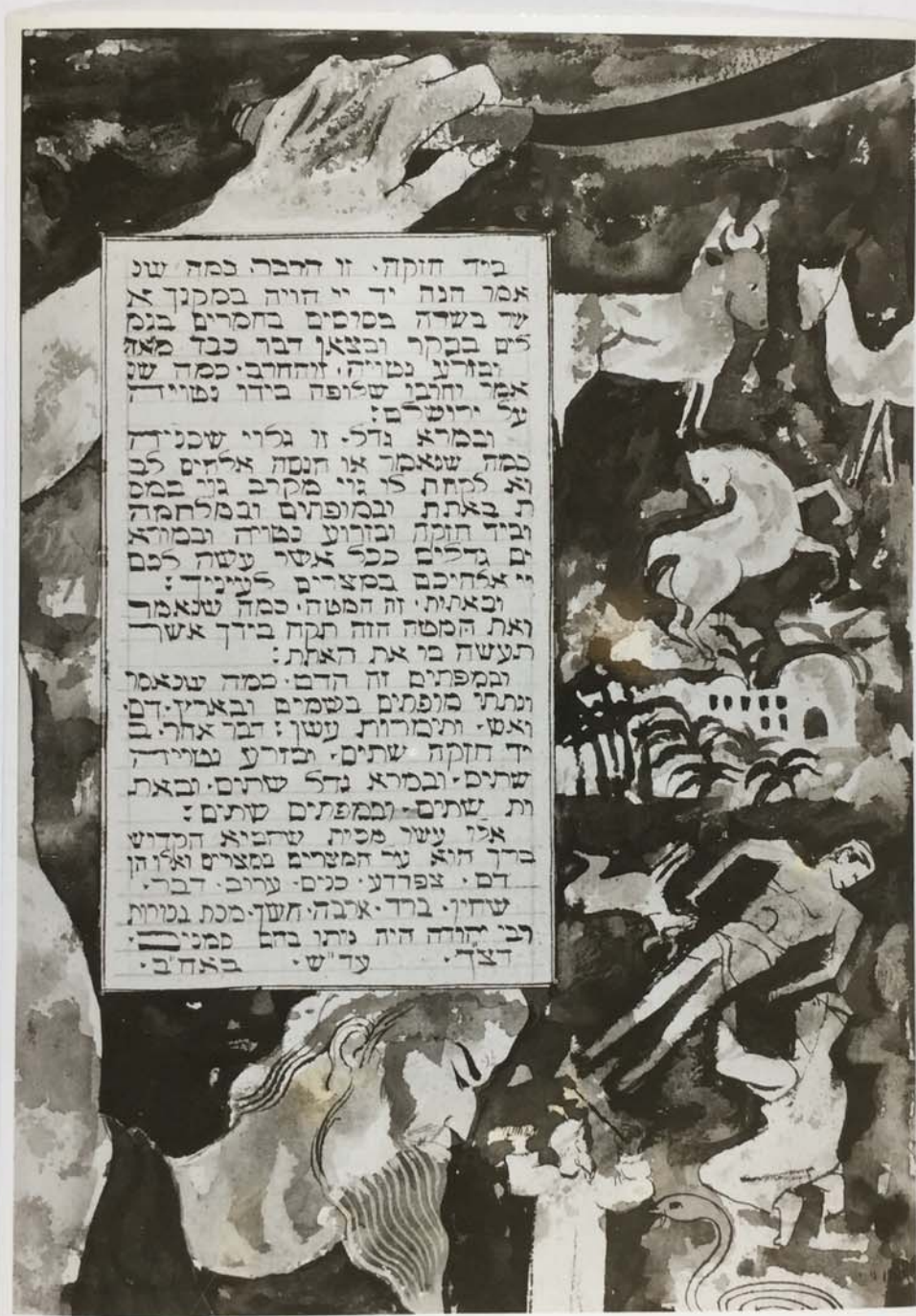
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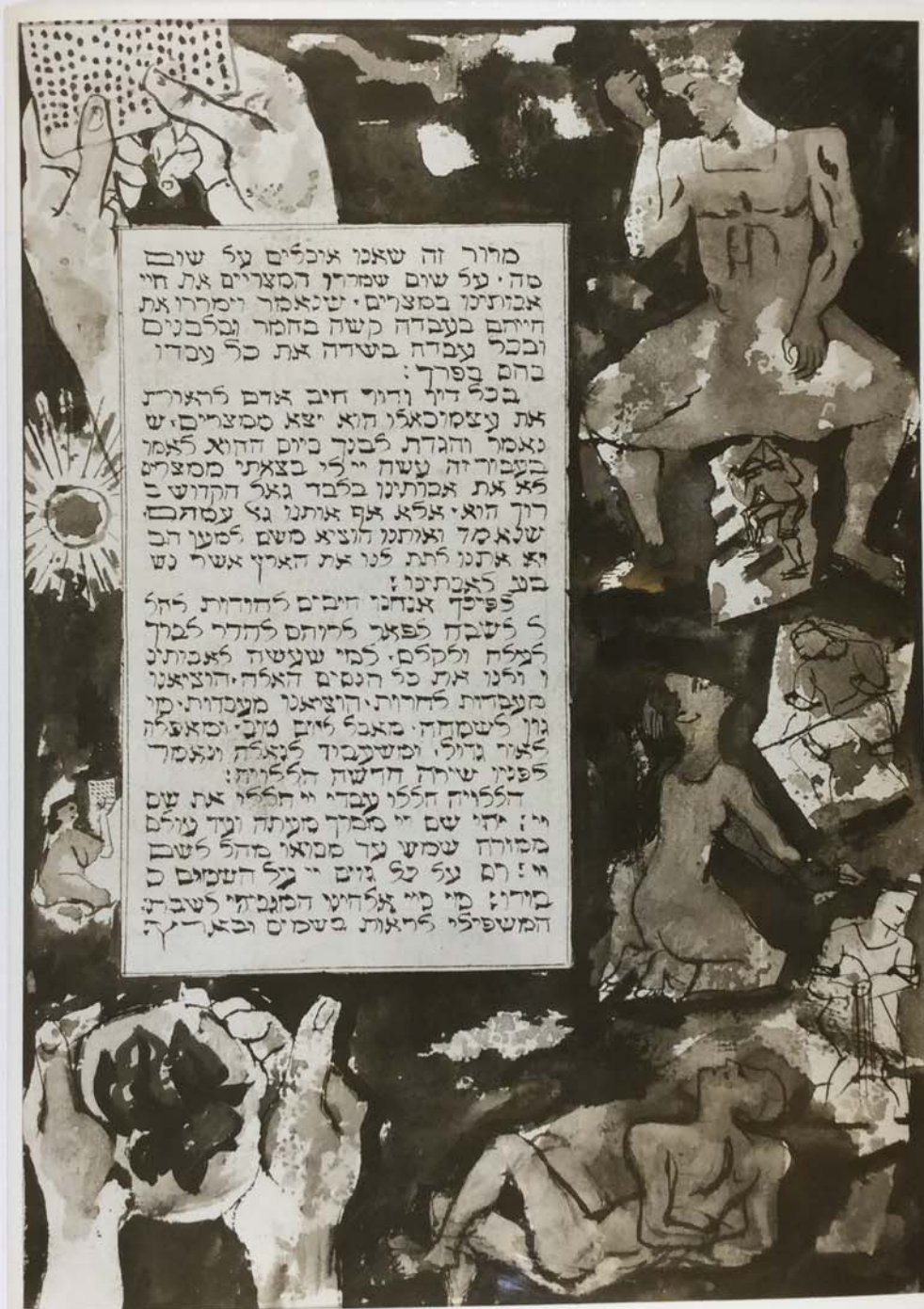
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מרור זה שאנו אובלים על שום  
סד. על שום שמרור המצויים את חי  
אבותינו במצרים. שינאמר וימררו את  
היודים בעבדה קשה מהמר ומלכטים  
ומכל עבדה בעבדה את כל עבדו  
בהם ספרך:

בכל דור ודור חים אדם רוצות  
את עצמם כאלו הוא יאז סמארים. ש  
נאמר והגדת לספר כלום ההוא לאמר  
העבוד יה עשה יי לי בצאתי ממצרים  
לא את אבותינו בלבד גאל הקדוש ט  
רוך הוא. אלא אף אתנו גל עמדת  
שנאמר ואותנו הוציא משם ימשי הט  
לא אתנו לתת לנו את הארץ אשר נש  
בע לאסתנו:

לפיכך אנתנו חבים להודות להל  
ל לשנה לפאג ליותם להודי לבין  
לעלה ולקלם. למי שעשה לאבותינו  
ו נתנו את כל הנסים האלה יהוציאנו  
מעבודת אחרות יהוציאנו מעבודת סו  
גון לשמחה. מאכל ליום טוב. וסאפיה  
אזר גדול. ומשעבוד לעלה נאמר  
לפני שירת הדישת האלונה:

הללויה הללו עמדי י הללו את שם  
י: די שם י ספרך מעתה ועד עולם  
המורה שמש עד סמא מדל לשם  
י: רם על על גים י על השמים ט  
קדוש מי מי אלהי המצותי לשע י  
המשפיע לוצאת בשמים ועא י

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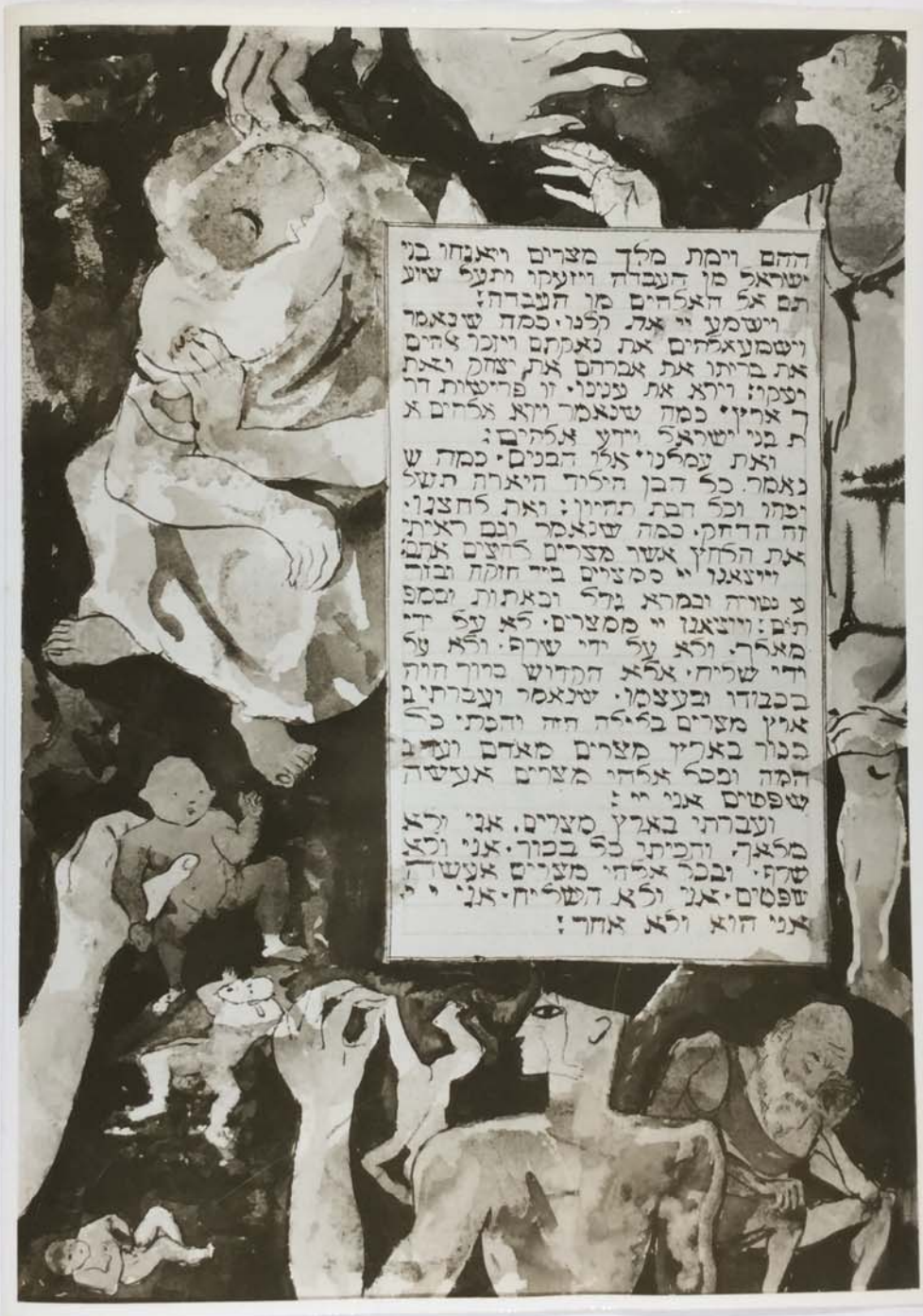
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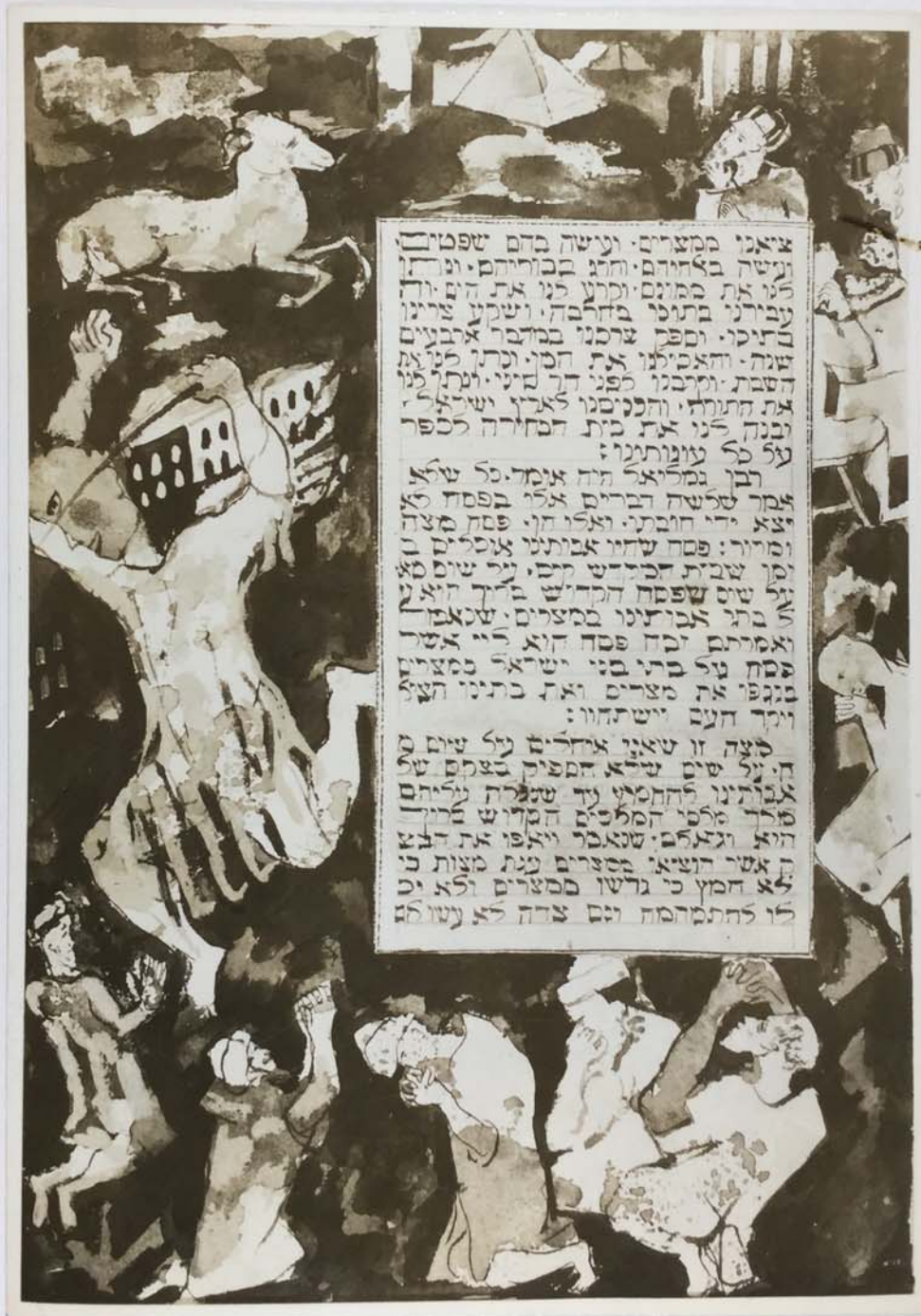
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Bill for the Klaggodah

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cc: Mr. Soby ✓

February 21, 1947

Dear Dr. Kayser:

It took me a few days to find out something about the illuminations by Shahn which represent the pictorial accompaniment to the Haggadah which is the text read in the home during the celebration of the Passover Festival, the so-called Seder evenings. The Hebrew text, prayers, selections and songs as they are found in this work, is just a copy of the traditional text which is written with illustrations. The illustrations are mentioned in Mr. Soby's book on Shahn which we have just prepared for the Penguin Modern Painters series. I appreciate your letting me know so quickly about it. I shall pass your letter on to Mr. Soby.

February 4, 1947

Dear Dr. Kayser:

Thank you for letting me know about the Shahn Illuminations. As a matter of fact, these are mentioned in Mr. Soby's book on Shahn which we have just prepared for the Penguin Modern Painters series. I appreciate your letting me know so quickly about it. I shall pass your letter on to Mr. Soby.

Sincerely,

As far as I know from it, two pieces are taken care of completely in the book. I consider it of great artistic value. The use of the human figure in some way towards the end of the series of Egyptian figure painting which, I think, is of unique quality. I might say that the work is the smallest work I have ever seen. I am sure that this group of pictures, which could be called an illumination, is a masterpiece of art in most respects.

Dr. Stephen S. Kayser, Curator  
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America  
Broadway and 122 Street  
New York 27, N. Y.

Yours very sincerely,

*Stephen S. Kayser*  
Doctor Stephen S. Kayser  
Curator

Dr. Alfred Barr Jr.  
Director, Museum of Modern Art  
11 West 53rd Street  
New York City

AHE/ob

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THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 122ND STREET  
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

*Return to Barr eventually*

January 31, 1947

Dear Dr. Barr:

It took me a few days to find out something about the Illuminations by Ben Shahn. They represent the pictorial accompaniment to the text of the Haggadah which is the text read in the homes during the celebration of the Passover Festival, the so-called Seder evenings. The Hebrew text of the prayers, narratives and songs as they are taken together in this Haggadah, is just a copy of the traditional rendering. However, the words are written without the vowels and therefore hardly usable for the average reader. Therefore the work has a rather unique character and inasmuch as the pictorial part is predominant, it most certainly has to figure under Ben Shahn's works of art and will not come under the heading of Manuscripts. I will put it on display at our opening show at the Museum.

As far as I could trace it, two pieces are taken out, it consists of thirteen sheets. I consider it of great artistic value. The use of the human figure in some way touching upon the basic themes of Egyptian figure painting without imitating it, is of unique quality. I might say these sheets represent the smallest murals I have ever seen. I am convinced that listing this group of pictures, which could be called an Illuminated Haggadah, among Ben Shahn's works of art is most appropriate.

Trusting I could be of some service to you in this matter, I remain with kindest regards

yours very sincerely,

*Stephen S. Kayser*

Doctor Stephen S. Kayser  
Curator

Dr. Alfred Barr Jr.  
Director, Museum of Modern Art  
11 West 53rd Street  
New York City

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James T. Soby - 66 East 79th Street - New York 21, N. Y.

The 12 drawings for the haggadah are mine  
are ~~not~~

Were done 1931 (Summer)

Can I see you for lunch Tuesday-

I'll call not too early

Ben.

*of course.*