

Mark H. Podwal illustrations, 1998
FLP.CLRC.PODWAL

Finding aid prepared by Cory Kram

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 06, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

June 2017

1901 Vine Street

Philadelphia, PA, 19103

215-686-5382

CLRC@FreeLibrary.org

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Biographical/Historical note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents note</u> | 5 |
| <u>Arrangement note</u> | 5 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> | 5 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> | 6 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> | 7 |
| <u>King Solomon and His Magic Ring</u> | 7 |

Summary Information

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Repository | Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection |
| Creator - Illustrator | Podwal, Mark H., 1945- |
| Title | Mark H. Podwal illustrations, 1998 |
| Date | 1998 |
| Extent | 1.58 Linear feet |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | This collection contains illustrations by Mark H. Podwal. |

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Mark H. Podwal illustrations, 1998-1999, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

Podwal is the author and illustrator of *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses and Crescents*; *A Sweet Year*; *Doctored Drawings*, among others. *King Solomon and His Magic Ring*, in collaboration with Elie Wiesel, won a Silver Medal from the Society of Illustrators in 1999 and *You Never Know*, in collaboration with Francine Prose, won a National Jewish Book Award in 1998.

Fallen Angels, in collaboration with Harold Bloom was published in 2007. Author Cynthia Ozick has given Podwal the Hebrew name Baal Kav Emet, or "Master of the True Line." As she explains in her essay *Ink & Inkling*, "[Podwal] joins metaphysics to physics: essence to presence; ideas to real objects...The Master of the True Line is also master of hidden meanings, of symbol and metaphor." In 1996, the French government named Podwal an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. Hebrew College, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, in 2003 awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa. Mark Podwal may have been best known initially for his drawings on The New York Times OP-ED page. In addition, he is the author and illustrator of numerous books. Most of these works - Podwal's own as well as those he has illustrated for others - typically focus on Jewish legend, history and tradition. His art is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Israel Museum, the Jewish Museums in Prague and New York, the Vatican, the British Library, Yad Vashem, among many others.

Though he always loved to draw, Podwal never pursued formal art training and eventually his parents encouraged him to become a physician. While attending New York University School of Medicine, his passion for drawing once again crept in: the tumultuous events of the 1960's compelled Podwal to create a series of political drawings that were published as his first book *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. These images were brought to the attention of an art director at The New York Times, and in 1972, his first drawing appeared on its OP-ED page. That drawing of the Munich massacre was later exhibited at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs Palais du Louvre.

Beyond his works on paper, Podwal's artistry has been employed in an array of diverse projects, including the design of a series of decorative plates for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His work has been engraved on a Congressional Gold Medal and woven into an Aubusson tapestry that adorned the ark in the main sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El in New York. Moreover, he designed sixteen kiln cast glass panels for the United Jewish Appeal Federation Headquarters. Podwal is represented by Forum Gallery, New York and has exhibited there since 1977. His papers are archived at Princeton University.

Mark Podwal collaborated with Academy Award winning filmmaker Allan Miller on the documentary *House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague*, narrated by Claire Bloom, which was broadcast on PBS in 2009 and 2010.

In 2011, Podwal received commissions to illustrate a new Passover Haggadah for the Central Conference of American Rabbis Press; to design new embroidered textiles for Prague's seven hundred year old Altneuschul; to create a limited edition print for The Metropolitan Opera's production of *Nabucco*; and to design Hanukkah cards for The Metropolitan Museum and The Metropolitan Opera. Also in 2011, he received the Jewish Cultural Achievement Award from the Foundation for Jewish Culture.

In 2014, at the Terezin Ghetto Museum there was an exhibition of Podwal's cycle, All this has come upon us... The forty-two paintings and drawings, disturbing reminders of how Europe's extensive history of "Jew-hatred" laid the groundwork for the Holocaust, have been published as archival pigment print portfolios. Portfolios have been acquired by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Library of Congress, Yad Vashem, the Bodleian Library, the British Library, Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Yale University, Princeton University, Columbia University, Hebrew University, National Library of Israel, among many others.

Bibliography

Mark H. Podwal, Online Portfolio, <http://markpodwal.com>, accessed: 2017 June 21

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains two illustrations created for *King Solomon and His Magic Ring*.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by title.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection June 2017

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open to researchers by appointment. Please contact the Curator for information on access.

Conditions Governing Use note

The right of access to material does not imply the right of publication. Permission for reprinting, reproduction, or extensive quotation from the rare books, manuscripts, prints, or drawings must be obtained through written application, stating the use to be made of the material. The reader bears the responsibility for any possible infringement of copyright laws in the publication of such material. A reproduction fee will be charged if the material is to be reproduced in a commercial publication.

Some of the materials in this collection may be too fragile for use without the Curator's supervision.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Illustrations

Personal Name(s)

- Podwal, Mark H., 1945-
- Podwal, Mark H., 1945-

Subject(s)

- Art
- Artists
- Children's literature--20th century
- Illustrated children's books--20th century

King Solomon and His Magic Ring

Collection Inventory

| King Solomon and His Magic Ring 1999 | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Map-case | Drawer | Folder |
| clrc000311 King Solomon and His Magic Ring, Title page 1998 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| clrc000310 Fish with King Solomon's Magic Ring 1998 | 2 | 10 | 6 |

Scope and Contents note

Illustration not used in final publication.