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FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
DOCTORAL SCHOOL “HISTORY. CIVILIZATION. CULTURE”

**The history of Transylvanian children’s book
illustrations**

Due to the illustrations appeared in children’s magazine Napsugár

DOCTORAL THESIS SUMMARY

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Doctoral Thesis Summary

Transylvanian children's book illustration started its own way in 1919 when Transylvania was united with Romania. The 20th century had three major heydays, the first one between 1922-1944, the second one between 1957-1989 and the third one from 2009 till nowadays. The first one was the period between the two world wars, the second heyday was the era of communism in Romania and the third period is characterized by the major changes of the turn of the millennium, the fading of borders between autonomous arts and the genres of illustrations and which placed great emphasis on illustrations.

In my dissertation I would like to examine the Transylvanian contemporary children's book and story illustrations and find the answers to the following questions:

- Which are the main stylistic eras of Transylvanian children's book illustration?
- Who were the graphic grandmasters in Transylvania and what are the main characteristics of the period in which they worked?
- How they reacted to the major happenings of their period?
- How they tried to draw attention to the major social problems or express their thoughts pro or contra ideologies?

To find answers to my questions I started a coverall data collection and the magazines for children proved to be the best sources in this purpose: out of them children's magazine *Napsugár* with its rich illustrational sources and the second and third heyday of twentieth century were meticulously examined. The period from 1957 to 2002 gave me the chance to discover the works of 153 illustrators and out of them I chose 67 to present in details in my dissertation. While examining the artworks from children's magazine *Napsugár* I managed to identify 6 major periods: the first from 1957 to 1970; the second from 1970 to 1978; the third from 1978 to 1989; the fourth from 1990 to 2000, the fifth from 2000 to 2009 and the sixth one from 2009 till nowadays.

Each stylistic era had two main trends which appeared alternately during the actual period. The first trend was characterized by an informatory style and the second one used the style marks received from avant-gardism. These trends went through major changes, were influenced by

social problems caused by the ideology of communism and the international illustrational techniques.

The other outcome of the reasearch was the collection of illustrational grandmasters of the era. Through the careful research of their working periods we can see how they tried to draw attention to the social problems of the era and in this sense children's magazines became a shelter for them. Their works gave a great contribution to the specatcular changes of graphic arts in the period of the millenial turn.

Key words: children's book illustrations, 20th century, the gradmasters of graphic art in Transylvania, children's magazines, illustrational research