
Guide to the Beash Roma illustrations to Sándor Petőfi's *János Vitéz (John the Valiant)* Mss 347

Collection processed and arranged by Emily Corb, 2018. Finding aid prepared by Emily Corb and Zachary Liebhaber, 2019.

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April 2019

Title: Beash Roma illustrations to Sándor Petőfi's *János Vitéz (John the Valiant)*

Identifier/Call Number: Mss 347

Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Research Collections

Language of Material: Multiple languages

Physical Description: 16 linear feet(4 map cabinet drawers)

Date (inclusive): 1980s

Abstract: 43 illustrations depicting the story of *János Vitéz (John the Valiant)* drawn in Pécs, Hungary, by special needs high school students, many from the Beash Roma community, under the instruction of art teacher Ildikó Fodor in the 1980s.

Physical Location: Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library

Language of Material: Materials in English and Magyar.

Access Restrictions

The drawings are still framed in their original mattings, which are unstable. Please contact Special Research Collections staff for more information.

Use Restrictions

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Beash Roma illustrations to Sándor Petőfi's *János Vitéz (John the Valiant)*, Mss 347. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ildikó Fodor, 2017.

Historical Note

In 2001, an Hungarian--English--Beash Roma edition of *János Vitéz* was released. Funded by the Dévi Foundation in Pécs (Devi Art Alapítvány), the book includes the text of the poem in the three languages: the original Hungarian of Sándor Petőfi, John Ridland's English translation, and a translation into Beash (the Roma dialect of the region around Pécs) by Anna Orsós. In addition to the parallel translations, the book features over 50 illustrations of various episodes within the poem, drawn in Pécs by special needs high school students, many of whom were Beash Roma, under the instruction of art teacher Ildikó Fodor in the 1980s, as part of her pedagogical approach focusing on creativity and imagination in learning. Exhibited in Budapest in 2001, 43 of these drawings eventually came to the UC Santa Barbara Library's Special Research Collections in 2017, through a donation of Ildikó Fodor.

Scope and Content

43 illustrations drawn in Pécs, Hungary, by special needs high school students, many from the Beash Roma community, under the instruction of art teacher Ildikó Fodor in the 1980s. These works tell the story of *János Vitéz*, or "John the Valiant," a Hungarian national epic written by Sándor Petőfi in 1845.

The collection is made up of pen and ink illustrations ranging from 10" to 33" wide, and 24" to 11" tall. The drawings are rich in the uniqueness of "outsider art", produced by individuals who create despite a lack of formal training. The young artists include Bogdán Tibor, Csonka Hajnalka, Mátyás Gligorovics, Zoltán Kalányos, Ferenc Kiss, Sándor Orsós, Zoltán Orsós, Mária Pálfi, Gyula Sárközi, Zsolt Sárközi, and Zsuzsanna Sipos.

Related Archival Material

John Ridland papers (UArch FacP 51). Papers of University of California, Santa Barbara Professor Emeritus of English, critic, translator, and poet John Ridland (1933-). Materials include correspondence, manuscripts, teaching files, subject files, publications, and diaries.

Roma in Central Europe: A bibliography compiled by Emily Corb, 2019.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Children's art
Epic poetry
Hungary -- History -- 20th century
Outsider art
Illustrations
Pen and ink drawings
Petőfi, Sándor, 1823-1849 -- János Vitéz

Exhibition posters and articles 2002-2017

Flat-files

Description

Includes four posters advertising exhibitions where the illustrations were displayed, as well as a 2017 copy of a Hungarian newspaper titled "Műértő" that covers the 2017 exhibition.

"János Vitéz búcsúja Pécsről" 2017

Description

Poster

Az Éltes Iskola „kincsestárából” János vitéz újjászületése 2012

Description

Poster

Sándor Petőfi: János Vitéz 2002

Description

Poster

János Vitéz újjászületése Pécssett 2010

Description

Poster

Műértő 2017, May

Description

Newspaper. Review of illustration exhibition on page 2.

Drawings 1980s

Flat-files

item R0301

"What befell was, the flower turned into his Nell" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h) 59 cm x 41.28 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h) 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm

Description

By Bogdán Tibor.

Illustration from chapter 27, when John the Valiant travels to the fairy land after mourning the loss of his love, Nelly. Having plucked a rose growing from her grave, he places the rose in a mystical pool, thus reviving Nelly. From page 103 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0302

"I will wander, wander, to the ends of the earth" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 30.5 cm x 42.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm

Description

By Bogdán Tibor.

Illustration from chapter 19, when John the Valiant marches into a dark wood after discovering that his Nell has died. From page 81 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0303

"Where he sank on her dear, mournful grave with a groan." 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 61 cm x 42.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm

Description

By Bogdán Tibor.

Illustration from chapter 18, in which John the Valiant mourns at the grave of Nelly. The artist has not only drawn John at the graveyard, but also shows him walking down a path to the ride, as if in a continuous narrative. From page 79 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0304

"And the terrible uproar of battle resounded" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm

Description

By Bogdán Tibor.

Illustration from chapter 12, when John joins the French king in a battle against a Turkish army. From page 65 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

- item R0305 **"Beside him the gem of a princess stood" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 42 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
By Sipos Zsuzsanna.
Illustration from chapter 13, when John retrieves the princess of France from the Turkish army. From page 67 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0306 **"And the turn of the very last witch of the legion..." 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 42.5 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 21, when John summons giants to kill the witches that have cast darkness over the country. John realizes that the very last witch to be killed is Nelly's evil stepmother. From page 9 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0307 **"In the dragon's midsection he searched for the heart" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 70.5 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 25, in which John defeats the dragon that guards the entrance to Fairyland. From page 25 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0308 **"Over glorious Fairyland holds happy sway" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 42 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
By Csonka Hajnalka.
Illustration from the final chapter, chapter 27, in which Nell and John are finally reunited in Fairyland. From page 105 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0309 **"Now slowly, now quickly, they marched in formation" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 8, when John defends a Hungarian army from dog-headed soldiers named Tartars with his fellow hassars. From page 63 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0310 **"Magnificent hussars approached him, astride" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 58.5 cm x 41.28 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Kiss Ferenc.
Illustration from chapter 7, after John defeated a group of bandits in the forest, he comes across a band of hussars (knights/cavalry). He is recruited and impresses his new team. From page 61 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
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- item R0311 **"He took a fond leave of the king's pretty daughter" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
 By Bogdán Tibor.
 Illustration from chapter 15, when John bids farewell the princess of France on a galley supplied by the king, heading towards his home town to see Nelly once again. From page 69 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0312 **"The griffin was nursing her brood on the shelf" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 58.5 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50 cm
Description
 By Kiss Ferenc.
 Illustration from chapter 17, John's galley and crew is trapped in a horrific storm that destroys the ship. The waves toss John in the air, but he manages to grab a cloud in the sky and avoid falling into the sea. There, he sees a griffin perched on a mountain, and rides it home. From page 71 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0313 **"A churchyard, a graveyard, but sadly decayed" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 85 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 100 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
 By Bogdán Tibor.
 "Illustration from chapter 22, in which John falls asleep in a graveyard and is about to be attacked by ghosts, but the sun rises and saves him. At the top right of the image, the sun can be seen appearing from behind the moon. Also includes the dragon that protects Fairyland on the left, implying that the image is a continuous narrative. One of the graves that the foreground of the image reads ""ezel'al próbababa takaa"", which, translated from hungarian, very roughly reads ""These mannequins left behind"". Will have to do research to get a more accurate translation. From page 11 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)"
- item R0314 **"From hacking and hewing John's saber grew warm" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 86 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 100 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
 By Bogdán Tibor.
 Illustration from chapter 20, during which John faces off against a horde of giant mosquitos and crows on his way to the kingdom of giants. From page 13 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0315 **"Robbing, looting, and killing, for us are a joke" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 42 cm x 61 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 49.5 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
 By Bogdán Tibor.
 Illustration from chapter 6. John has been chased from his home by his master, and stumbles upon a thieves hideout in the wood. John impresses them with his bravery, and is invited to join them. A sign reads "őrség álló" which translates to "guard stand" From page 53 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
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- item R0316 **"Johnny'd been to the Back of Beyond, and by then" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50 cm
Description
 By Gligorovics Mátyás.
 Illustration from chapter 7. John has just killed the bandits, and is continuing his journey through the woods. From page 59 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0317 **"At each of its corners he lighted the roof" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 60 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50 cm
Description
 By Bogdán Tibor.
 Illustration from chapter 7, the moment when John sets the bandit's hideout aflame after pretending to join the thieves and waiting for them to fall into a drunken sleep. From page 55 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0318 **"But your life will be menaced by dangers so grim" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 42.5 cm x 29 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50 cm
Description
 By Sárközi Gyula.
 Illustration from chapter 24. The giant that is escorting John across the sea informs John that there are vicious monsters guarding Fairyland. John is confident that he will be able to overcome these monsters. From page 19 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0320 **"The witch is behind you, a Fiend from hell" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (in) (w x h): 34 cm x 49.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (in) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
 By Sárközi Zsolt.
 Illustration from chapter 2. Here, Nell's evil step mother becomes suspicious when her stepdaughter has not returned from washing clothes in the pond. The malevolent woman vows to find and punish Nell if she is not working. From page 41 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0322 **"Over how many countries she'd crossed, Heaven knows" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 42.5 cm x 30 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
 By Pálfi Mária.
 Illustration from chapter 17, John's galley and crew is trapped in a horrific storm that destroys the ship. The waves toss John in the air, but he manages to grab a cloud in the sky and avoid falling into the sea. There, he sees a griffin perched on a mountain, and rides it home. From page 75 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0323 **"Orphan bud, you were nourished by Nelly's sweet dust" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 26.5 cm x 39 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm.
Description
 By Kalányos Zoltán.
 Illustration from chapter 18, the moment that John plucks the rose bud from Nelly's grave. From page 77 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
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item R0324

"But the buns that they lunched on, --- you'll never guess what ---" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 42.5 cm x 30 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 49.5 cm

Description

By Sárközi Zsolt.

Illustration from chapter 20. John had intruded on the Giant Kingdom, and is invited to lunch with the king, who mockingly makes a bet with John. He takes what appears to be a bun, but is actually a rock, and tells John that if he can not eat it, then the giants will kill him. John accepts this challenge, requests that a small piece can be broken off for him to eat, and then strikes the Giant King in the head with it. The king is killed, and his followers cower in fear from John, their new leader. From page 87 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0325

"Are you able to wade the whole width of the Sea?" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 41.28 cm x 60cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 49.5 cm x 69.85 cm

Description

By Bogdán Tibor.

Illustration from chapter 24. The image depicts a giant, with John standing in his palm, as he prepares to wade the sea to Fairyland. From page 97 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0326

"He could see that his sword wouldn't conquer this sentry" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 30.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm

Description

By Kalányos Zoltán.

Illustration from chapter 25. John comes face to face with the dragon-snake guarding Fairyland, and realizes that he would not be able to pierce it's body with his sword. Instead, he allows himself to be swallowed by the beast, and once inside, locates its heart and stabs it. From page 101 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0327

"Is Johnny Grain-o'-Corn, and the lass" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 42 cm x 61 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm

Description

By Orsós Zoltán.

Illustration from chapter 1, in which we are introduced to our protagonist, who begins his journey as "Johnny Grain-o'-Corn". From page 33 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0328

"Johnny was standing at the foot of Nell's yard" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 26.5 cm x 39 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm

Description

By Kalányos Zoltán.

Illustration from chapter 4, after Johnny has been chased from his home by his master and goes to say good-bye to Nelly at her home. From page 49 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

- item R0329 **"The Mosquitoes here grew so enormously big" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 43 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 20. John has entered the woods of the giant country and is confronted by giant mosquitoes and birds. From page 85 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0330 **"News of Winter is wafted to Fairyland -- never" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 41.28 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 26. John finds that Fairyland is a perfect paradise. From page 27 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0331 **"Pandemonium reigned as they cackled and cawed" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 21. John is wandering the country when we suddenly finds himself enveloped in shadows, having entered the Country of Darkness. Overhead, he hears the flying witches that cursed the land. From page 95 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0332 **"And the bandits' charred skeletons gave back its stare" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 43 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor. Illustration from chapter 6. Depicting the bandit's lair as it burns down with the thieves inside. From page 57 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0333 **"This land had a great stand of timber so tall" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 59 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 20. John enters the forest of the Giant Country. From page 7 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0334 **"Against the King's forehead the stone thudded so" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 40 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 20. A continuous narrative drawing of John leaving the forest of the Giant Country, entering their castle, and felling the Giant King with a stone at dinner. From page 89 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
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- item R0335 **"This is farewell forever, our final goodbye!" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 40 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 69.85 cm x 50.17 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 4, when Johnny says good-bye to Nelly after he is banished from his home by his master. From page 51 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0336 **"Yet you'd have to agree that it must have been tall" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 42 cm x 60 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50.17 cm x 69.85 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor.
Illustration from chapter 20. John approaches the gate to the giant castle. The sign reads "Orsos Var!", which translates to "Giant castle" From page 83 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0337 **"John made his way on and on into the wood" 1980s**
Physical Description:
Description
By Kiss Ferenc.
Illustration from chapter 20. John enters the forest of the Giant Country. From page 29 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0338 **"The blistering sun in the midsummer sky" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 30 cm x 21.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 70 cm x 50 cm
Description
By Orsós Sándor. Illustration from chapter 1. The verse that opens the story, as John relaxes in his home town and watches Nelly as she washes laundry in the lake. From page 31 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0339 **"You trashy trollop! You shameless slut!" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 43 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 70 cm x 50 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor. Illustration from chapter 2. Nelly's evil stepmother discovers Nelly and Johnny relaxing together instead of doing chores. Note the broom in the hands of the stepmother, foreshadowing a future chapter when it is revealed that she is a witch. From page 43 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
- item R0341 **"After Johnny with stackpole raised high overhead" 1980s**
Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 60 cm x 42 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 70 cm x 50 cm
Description
By Bogdán Tibor. Illustration from chapter 3. Johnny's angry master chases him from town. From page 47 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)
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item R0342

"With his blandishments he coaxed her out" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 21.5 cm x 30.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 50 cm x 70 cm

Description

By Orsós Sándor. Illustration from chapter 1. Johnny convinces Nelly to take a break from her chores. From page 37 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0343

"And catch it you will, little orphan Nell!" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 30.5 cm x 21.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 70 cm x 50 cm

Description

By Orsós Sándor. Illustration from chapter 2. Nelly's evil stepmother discovers Nelly and Johnny relaxing together instead of doing chores. From page 39 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)

item R0340

"And he herded on home the few sheep he could find" 1980s

Physical Description: Image Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 42 cm x 30.5 cm; Mat Dimensions (cm) (w x h): 70 cm x 50 cm

Description

By Sárközi Zsolt. Illustration from chapter 3. Johnny was charged with watching over the sheep of his master, and the flock ran away. Johnny was only able to recover half, causing his master to become angry with him and kick him out of his home. From page 45 of János Vitéz, (Devi Art Alapítvány, 2001)