

**Presenting the 20th century Khanty and Mansi songs collected by Éva Schmidt
in the 1980s**

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The legacy of Éva Schmidt, Hungarian ethnographer and linguist, can be processed and published from 2022 on. Her earliest collections, which focus on the Ob-Ugric song culture, are a part of the legacy that was processed by Schmidt herself, and they have been processed in a complex way. It was largely this material that served as the basis for the articles and studies in which she elaborated the system of Ob-Ugrian folklore genres (Csepregi 2023).

Our poster introduces this methodology of processing Khanty as well as Mansi private and cult songs, and it will also highlight the values of this unique collection, which represents the 20th century song culture of the two Ob-Ugrian peoples.

The results of the two successful expeditions in 1980 and 1982 reveal the characteristic features of the Western Siberian song culture in its motion and change, exhibiting both archaic features and the way in which this song tradition responds to the everchanging social and cultural environment. The songs amount to a total of 5,771 lines. They range in length from 6 to 370 lines, the shortest pieces of which are obviously fragments. The vast majority are in Khanty, namely in Kazym or Šerkaly Khanty, and the Northern Mansi language is also represented by a few songs. It was largely this collection that served as the basis for Schmidt's articles, in which she explored the system of Ob-Ugrian folklore genres.

The sound recordings were processed by Éva Schmidt in the following moduls:

- (a) Transcription of the Khanty/Mansi language text, which also exhibits the various filler elements (sounds, syllables, suffixes, words).
- (b) Hungarian translation, which accurately follows the syntactic and morphological structure of the original sentences.
- (c) Background information (the origin of the song, circumstances of collection, where and from whom the performer learned the song, to what extent the characteristics of the genre are represented; typical and atypical features, etc.) This shows that, during her fieldwork, she was already very consciously focused on exploring the relationship between culture and songs.
- (d) Linguistic comments on the problematic points of the Khanty text (mispronunciation, misinterpretation, loanwords, dialect features etc.) (footnotes)
- (e) Commentaries concerning linguistic, cultural, family or local history etc. accompanying the Hungarian translation (footnotes)
- (f) Tabulated metrics analysis
- (g) Music notation and analysis (Katalin Lázár). Thanks to the collaboration of the two researchers, the transcriptions of the recordings were supplemented in the 1980s by Katalin Lázár's notations, so these can also be classified as belonging to the original arrangements of songs.

The result of the two scholars' work is an exceptional, complex analysis, covering melody, text, the relationship between the two, the details of the process of song creation, the origin of the songs, linguistic and cultural commentaries etc.

The text of the songs with background information and footnotes have been published by Kacskovics-Reményi and Sipos (2024), or will be published in Hungarian in the form of traditional volumes. Evidently, the website allows us to make this folklore material available in a more flexible way to meet the needs of the users, i.e. the audio material, the original text or its translations, various pieces of information etc. are easily accessible. Furthermore, the website also gives the opportunity to get to know the villages where the collection was made, as well as the singers, both through a database and through original photographs by Éva Schmidt.

The collection thus has multiple values. On the one hand, it presents the song culture of the two Ob-Ugrian peoples, its diversity as well as its changes over time, on the other hand, the complexity of the processing that is required by this folklore material, and finally, the thoroughness and precision that always characterise Éva Schmidt's work.

In our poster, the above is supported by a number of illustrations, and the digitisation process is also shown with a number of photos.

References

- Csepregi Márta (ed.) (2023), *Tanulmányok az obi-ugor folklór köréből: Schmidt Éva írásai*. Schmidt Éva Könyvtár 6. HUN-REN Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont – HUN-REN Nyelvtudományi Kutatóközpont, Budapest.
- Kacskovics-Reményi Andrea – Sipos Mária (eds) (2024), *Lemenő nap arany hajfonata ha kibomlik... Hanti és manysi egyéni énekek Schmidt Éva 1980-as és 1982-es gyűjtéséből*. Schmidt Éva Könyvtár 7. HUN-REN Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont – HUN-REN Nyelvtudományi Kutatóközpont, Budapest.