



Cite as: *Cum darám brónza – The story behind cheese making*; performer: Stella Vragali, camera/interview, transcription/ translation: Andreea Pascaru, editor: Valentina Paul, retrieved from www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH, ID number: megl1237GRV0011a.

Meglen Vlach 1 00:00:13,880 --> 00:00:16,040 Brónza, căn l-adútseau láptili,

2 00:00:16,040 --> 00:00:18,440 di la tári giúmi mačcáti di lápti.

3 00:00:18,880 --> 00:00:22,720 Con si nă dutsém, nă dutsém cu fráti-nⁱu.

4

00:00:22,920 --> 00:00:28,960 Cu un măgár, () ĭo pri cur la punęám napó<u>i</u> frátili,

5 00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:32,920 ĭo pri sămár ši giúmli zăcăčóti la párti.

6 00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:35,080 Na dutsém nafáră di cătún.

7

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:38,240 Na dútsem cóla nafáră di cătún. Li múldzeau cáprili,

8

00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:41,760 aʦí nă dắdẹau ăn capáʦíli lu giúmili,

9 00:00:41,920 --> 00:00:44,160 púnęau únă ĭárbă, ăl^j zătseáu férică,

English translation

1 00:00:13,880 --> 00:00:16,040 The cheese, when they used to bring the milk,

2 00:00:16,040 --> 00:00:18,440 we used to put it in big jugs like this.

3

00:00:18,880 --> 00:00:22,720 I used to go together with my brother.

4

00:00:22,920 --> 00:00:28,960 We took a donkey and I helped my brother up on its back,

5

6

7

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:32,920 I sat on the saddle, and the jugs were hanging on the side.

We went outside the village.

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:38,240 So we went outside the village. They used to milk the goats

8

00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:41,760 and then to cover the lids of the jugs

00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:35,080

9

00:00:41,920 --> 00:00:44,160 with one weed, they called it fern,

10





00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:47,760 di s-nu cádă () vrin per, vrin ʦívă góde̯a.

11

00:00:47,800 --> 00:00:50,360 Lă strícuráu, ʦi nă dắdẹ̯au̯ cắti un căpác plin.

12 00:00:50,360 --> 00:00:54,440 <Bets lápti, că-į cald.> Ni ĭert, ni tsíva gódęa.

13 00:00:54,720 --> 00:00:56,840 La béi̯am ʦśla láptili di cóla,

14 00:00:56,840 --> 00:00:59,400 li-ncắrcam giúmili, vínẹam cásă.

15 00:00:59,600 --> 00:01:02,800 Con víneam cásă, láptili ra cald,

16 00:01:02,840 --> 00:01:03,880 cum si mičcá di drúmu

17 00:01:03,920 --> 00:01:05,800 ši cum l-avęáu muls dă la cápri.

18 00:01:06,160 --> 00:01:08,240 Ácu ra rătsít, l-ancăldzám uneác,

19 00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:10,280 acu nu rá, ca cum rá.

20 00:01:10,520 --> 00:01:12,720 Ăị púnẹam cliẹag.

21 00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:14,720 00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:47,760 so that nothing could fall in.

11 00:00:47,800 --> 00:00:50,360 They then strained the milk and gave us a full lid.

12 00:00:50,360 --> 00:00:54,440 <Drink the milk, it's warm.> Uncooked, just like that.

13 00:00:54,720 --> 00:00:56,840 So we drank the milk,

14 00:00:56,840 --> 00:00:59,400 loaded the jugs [onto the donkey] and went home.

15 00:00:59,600 --> 00:01:02,800 When we arrived home, the milk was warm,

16 00:01:02,840 --> 00:01:03,880 because it used to shake on the way

17 00:01:03,920 --> 00:01:05,800 and because it was freshly milked from the goats.

18 00:01:06,160 --> 00:01:08,240 If it had got cold we would warm it up a little bit,

19 00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:10,280 if not, we would leave it like this.

20 00:01:10,520 --> 00:01:12,720 We would then add the rennet.

21 00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:14,720





Clieag --, tátă méu ra casáp,

22 00:01:14,720 --> 00:01:15,960 žunglęá víti.

23 00:01:16,560 --> 00:01:17,720 Žunglęá víti,

24 00:01:17,720 --> 00:01:19,200 vindęá cárne, u vindęá cárnęa.

25 00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:21,040 Casáp, nu štíu cum ălʲ zíʦiʦ voị.

26 00:01:21,080 --> 00:01:23,680 Κρεοπώλη cum ăli zítsim no<u>i,</u> gretseáscă.

27

32

00:01:23,720 --> 00:01:27,720 Casáp ăl^j zitseám noị túntsea la tséla pri vlăšéšti cum ra.

28 00:01:28,120 --> 00:01:35,120 Atsí tséla ănúntru, [...] ăn víti, ăn toáti vítili ári cắti un še<u>i</u>,

29 00:01:35,360 --> 00:01:39,440 ca vrin šíš, tséla ăl^j clięag, maĭá.

30 00:01:40,040 --> 00:01:42,680 La scúte̯a ʦe̥ála máma di cóla, ʦe̥ála ĭáca,

31 00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:45,000 miruséšti mult bun, Rennet --, well, my father was a butcher,

22 00:01:14,720 --> 00:01:15,960 he slaughtered cattle.

23

00:01:16,560 --> 00:01:17,720 He slaughtered the cattle,

24

00:01:17,720 --> 00:01:19,200 then he was selling meat, he was selling the meat.

25

00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:21,040 Butcher, I don't know how you call this [in your language].

26 00:01:21,080 --> 00:01:23,680 We call it "κρεοπώλη" in Greek.

27

00:01:23,720 --> 00:01:27,720 In Vlach we used to call him "casáp" (butcher).

28 00:01:28,120 --> 00:01:35,120 Every animal has this thing inside,

29 00:01:35,360 --> 00:01:39,440 it's like a bottle, that's the rennet, yeast.

30 00:01:40,040 --> 00:01:42,680 My mother used to take it out

31 00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:45,000 and it smells really good,





00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:48,080 că fréšcu unt, cávcu-į vútiru fréšcu,

33 00:01:48,160 --> 00:01:49,520 cótai bun miruseá.

34 00:01:49,520 --> 00:01:51,320 La scútea máma di cóla,

35 00:01:51,360 --> 00:01:54,840 átsi la rắstupɛ, átsi la púne̯a-n un šiš.

36 00:01:55,280 --> 00:01:58,000 Átsi nápta con vinęá di si daróm brónză,

37 00:01:58,760 --> 00:02:01,120 štiám cóta ók^ji di lápti,

38 00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:03,640 cóta língur^j si púnim di tse̯a.

39 00:02:03,760 --> 00:02:05,360 Atsí la púneam cóla.

40 00:02:05,440 --> 00:02:09,360 Atsí la --, cu crútsi, ăị fătsźm únă crútsi ša.

41 00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:12,000 Atsí la búrveam nápta to:t căzánu,

42 00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:13,000 máːri căzán.

43 00:02:13,120 --> 00:02:16,080 00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:48,080 like fresh butter,

33 00:01:48,160 --> 00:01:49,520 it smelled really nice.

34 00:01:49,520 --> 00:01:51,320 My mother would then take it out,

35 00:01:51,360 --> 00:01:54,840 she would melt it and then preserve it in a bottle.

36 00:01:55,280 --> 00:01:58,000 So later when time had come to make cheese,

37 00:01:58,760 --> 00:02:01,120 we knew how many oka of milk

38 00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:03,640 we had to add to that many spoons [of rennet].

39 00:02:03,760 --> 00:02:05,360 So we would add it.

40 00:02:05,440 --> 00:02:09,360 And make the sign of a cross over it like this.

41 00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:12,000 We stirred the whole cauldron,

42 00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:13,000 it was a big cauldron.

43 00:02:13,120 --> 00:02:16,080





Cu únă de tséli tsi-adaróm plătsíntă,

44

00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:19,040 sucálă, că tári mári língurói̯ di vru s-aflóm.

45 00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:21,720 La búrveam tot cazánu, atsí nápta

46 00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:24,800 vẹam că ʦẹِa sucálă ʦi daróm, ắncă un lemn tári,

47 00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:26,240 o púnẹam pri cazán ša

48 00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:29,640 di la cupireám cu un mári trapéznic pri disúpru.

49

00:02:29,920 --> 00:02:33,560 Átsi púneam ši únă cuvértă slábă pri disúpru

50 00:02:33,680 --> 00:02:35,720 ca s-nu cádă atséla šindón^ju.

51 00:02:36,840 --> 00:02:39,320 Atsí nápta căn si dára tsea brónză,

52 00:02:39,480 --> 00:02:41,200 căn si-nclígá,

53 00:02:41,480 --> 00:02:44,560 nápta veam strecătoári, tot cu --,

54 00:02:44,640 --> 00:02:46,240 [We stirred] with one of those that you use to roll out the puff pastry,

44

00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:19,040 the rolling pin, because we didn't have spoons that big.

45 00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:21,720 We stirred the whole cauldron and then

46 00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:24,800 we had, similar to that rolling pin, another wooden utensil like this,

47

00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:26,240 we would put in on the cauldron

48 00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:29,640 and cover it with a big tablecloth.

49 00:02:29,920 --> 00:02:33,560 We would then cover it with a thin blanket

50 00:02:33,680 --> 00:02:35,720 so that the bedsheet would not fall down.

51 00:02:36,840 --> 00:02:39,320 Afterwards, when the cheese was ready,

52 00:02:39,480 --> 00:02:41,200 when it was done curdling,

53 00:02:41,480 --> 00:02:44,560 we would place it into the strainer, with --,

54 00:02:44,640 --> 00:02:46,240





veam strecătoári, cum si-ts zic,

55

00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:48,480 níšti mačcáti ca τραπεζομάντηλο.

56 00:02:48,640 --> 00:02:51,040 Ău púneam pri un lánt căzán,

57 00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:53,560 atsí nápta cu un misúr lăĭám di cóla

58 00:02:53,600 --> 00:02:55,400 ši púnim ăn ʦćli. ľam ši punęám.

59 00:02:55,560 --> 00:02:57,680 Nápta au lígam tse,

60 00:02:57,880 --> 00:03:00,040 úna, dóuă, trei strecătóri, múlti,

61 00:03:00,080 --> 00:03:02,400 că cu ra mári căzánu, c-aveá mult lápti mult,

62 00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:04,080 poáti c-aveá ʦinzó di ókⁱ,

63 00:03:04,080 --> 00:03:06,160 poáti avęá mai mult, poáti mai neac.

64 00:03:06,160 --> 00:03:07,600 Átsi nápta veam un h^jer,

65 00:03:07,640 --> 00:03:10,760 vẹam una odái̯e, cóla sắldi brónză darám ăn ʦe. we had strainers, how should I say this,

55 00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:48,480 this big, like a tablecloth.

56

00:02:48,640 --> 00:02:51,040 We would place this on another cauldron

57 00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:53,560 and then we would use a bowl to

58 00:02:53,600 --> 00:02:55,400 transfer it from one [cauldron] to the other.

59 00:02:55,560 --> 00:02:57,680 We would take it and place it in there,

60 00:02:57,880 --> 00:03:00,040 we would then take one, two or three strainers or more,

61 00:03:00,080 --> 00:03:02,400 depending on how much milk the cauldron had,

62 00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:04,080 it could contain up to 50 okas

63 00:03:04,080 --> 00:03:06,160 or even more, or less.

64 00:03:06,160 --> 00:03:07,600 Afterwards, we had this iron-like bar,

65 00:03:07,640 --> 00:03:10,760 we had this room, a cheese making room.





66 00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:13,520 Átsi o zắcătseau šá tsi si strícura.

67 00:03:13,920 --> 00:03:15,880 Pắnă móni zi za si strícura, si dará --,

68 00:03:15,920 --> 00:03:18,760 fúdzi atseá múltu zor di di žos.

69 00:03:19,120 --> 00:03:22,320 Nápta ău dísfătseam, ău lígam ša strins.

70 00:03:22,520 --> 00:03:24,520 Átsi ău púneam ăn ună tipsíį.

71 00:03:24,760 --> 00:03:27,280 Átsi pi tseá tipsía púneam ắnca úna tipsí<u>í</u>,

72 00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:30,560 tsi púnęam úna rắpă mári, pi tsea tipsíe.

73 00:03:30,600 --> 00:03:35,120 Si strícura búnă tséla --, zor ăl^j zitsęám no<u>i</u>.

74 00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,960 Átsi nápta u scúteam, ará strícurátă,

75 00:03:38,960 --> 00:03:42,840 si dará ca, ca cašér si dará, bun.

76 00:03:43,120 --> 00:03:47,000

66

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:13,520 We would hang it [the strainers] up in there for it to strain.

67

00:03:13,920 --> 00:03:15,880 The cheese would strain until the next day, and then it was done,

68 00:03:15,920 --> 00:03:18,760 the whey would run out through the lower part.

69 00:03:19,120 --> 00:03:22,320 Next we would open it and tie it up tight.

70 00:03:22,520 --> 00:03:24,520 We would then put it on a tray,

71 00:03:24,760 --> 00:03:27,280 Upon that tray we would place another tray

72 00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:30,560 and then we would place a big stone on that tray.

73 00:03:30,600 --> 00:03:35,120 It would strain well, what we called whey.

74

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,960 Afterwards, we would get it out, it was strained then,

75 00:03:38,960 --> 00:03:42,840 it became like --, it was like yellow cheese, it was good.

76 00:03:43,120 --> 00:03:47,000





Nápta o tăljám filí, tsi o púneam ăn tinikjíj.

77 00:03:47,440 --> 00:03:50,040 Ún úrdin di brónză, púneam sári,

78 00:03:50,040 --> 00:03:53,080 de-atsźl grósa sári, mačcátă.

79 00:03:53,080 --> 00:03:56,440 Lántă úrdin, lántă bírda sári (), ʦi ša.

80 00:03:56,880 --> 00:03:59,480 Nápta ĭa scutęá cătilín cătilín,

81 00:03:59,480 --> 00:04:01,800 scutęá zor, di cólă-ĭ zitsęám.

82 00:04:02,080 --> 00:04:05,240 A, tséla ra di s-nu si spárgă brónza.

83 00:04:05,640 --> 00:04:10,040 Ácu nu š-ẹam din ʦéla punẹám ápu ăn un tári

84 00:04:10,040 --> 00:04:11,000 ši sári múltă,

85 00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,280 tsi u darám ahtári, púnẹam tsi si cuperẹáscă tótu,

86 00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:15,440 s-nu si spárgă.

87 00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:18,680 Átsi únă o̯áră, si-ts spun mo cu šárpi, We would then slice it and put it in cans.

77 00:03:47,440 --> 00:03:50,040 One layer of cheese followed by salt,

78 00:03:50,040 --> 00:03:53,080 coarse salt, the big one.

79 00:03:53,080 --> 00:03:56,440 Another layer [of cheese] and then again salt, like this.

80 00:03:56,880 --> 00:03:59,480 And then, little by little

81 00:03:59,480 --> 00:04:01,800 the whey drained off.

82 00:04:02,080 --> 00:04:05,240 But this helped the cheese not to go bad.

83 00:04:05,640 --> 00:04:10,040 Otherwise we would place water in something,

84 00:04:10,040 --> 00:04:11,000 add in lots of salt,

85 00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,280 we would make it like this, cover it all

86 00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:15,440 so that it wouldn't go bad.

87 00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:18,680 Once, and now I will tell you about the snake,





88

00:04:20,040 --> 00:04:22,800 la daráĭ šáʦi ĭo: ʦi puš cliݡag,

89

00:04:22,880 --> 00:04:26,720 I-acópiríĭ cu τραπεζομάντηλο, I-acópiríĭ ši cu tseála.

90

00:04:26,760 --> 00:04:28,720 Ála ăn tsea odái tsi-adarám

91 00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:30,360 nu vea tăván,

92 00:04:32,160 --> 00:04:34,400 că nu u veam dudarát tsea odá<u>i</u>.

93 00:04:34,440 --> 00:04:37,160 Di disúpru si vidęáu̯ plóčili,

94 00:04:37,800 --> 00:04:40,400 nu veam pus taván áncă, că ra nóuă,

95 00:04:40,440 --> 00:04:42,520 nu veam dudarát, nu veam pus tavánea.

96 00:04:43,360 --> 00:04:46,880 Ved cóla pri cuvérta ʦi u ve̯am pus ʦéa,

97 00:04:48,040 --> 00:04:50,240 cad () níšti gaž.

98 00:04:50,280 --> 00:04:53,680

88

00:04:20,040 --> 00:04:22,800 I did the following: I added the rennet,

89

00:04:22,880 --> 00:04:26,720 covered the milk with a tablecloth, and I covered it as usual.

90 00:04:26,760 --> 00:04:28,720 But in the room where we used to make the cheese

91 00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:30,360 there was no ceiling,

92 00:04:32,160 --> 00:04:34,400 the room wasn't ready yet.

93 00:04:34,440 --> 00:04:37,160 We could see the slate slides from above,

94

00:04:37,800 --> 00:04:40,400 we hadn't built a ceiling yet, the room was new,

95 00:04:40,440 --> 00:04:42,520 it was not ready yet, it had no ceiling.

96

00:04:43,360 --> 00:04:46,880 And so I noticed something on the blanket I had laid over it,

97 00:04:48,040 --> 00:04:50,240 there were some flies falling.

98 00:04:50,280 --> 00:04:53,680





<0:,> ziš, <berekiát că o veam cupirít brónză

99 00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:54,840 di nu căzúră gážili,

100 00:04:54,880 --> 00:05:00,080 că cu cădęáu̯,> ziš, <să la turézi.>

101 00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:02,200 [?] cum zitsęám ša,

102 00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:03,200 túcu cắzu un šárpi di disúpru.

103 00:05:05,040 --> 00:05:08,800 Cắzu un šárpi pri căzánlu di tári,

104 00:05:08,920 --> 00:05:12,600 alá ra pri tári, că-ĭ mirusęá láptili.

105 00:05:12,640 --> 00:05:14,920 Că la šórp^j la miruséšti mult láptili.

106 00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:17,720 Că-ĭ mirusęá láptili, căzú di disúpru,

107 00:05:17,760 --> 00:05:21,720 căzú pri căzánlu di lápti ši ĭo mi spărú<u>i</u>.

109

108 00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:24,920 Nu vẹam níʦicari-n cásă, că mi vẹau lăsát sắldi míni, <Oh,> I said to myself, <such a luck I covered the cheese

99 00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:54,840 so that the flies wouldn't fall in,

100 00:04:54,880 --> 00:05:00,080 because if they felt in,> I thought, <they would spoil it.>

101 00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:02,200 And while I was thinking out loud,

102 00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:03,200 a snake fell from above.

103 00:05:05,040 --> 00:05:08,800 A snake fell on the cauldron,

104 00:05:08,920 --> 00:05:12,600 and there it was, because it had smelled the milk.

105 00:05:12,640 --> 00:05:14,920 Because snakes can smell the milk very well.

106 00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:17,720 Because it smelled the milk, it dropped from up there,

107 00:05:17,760 --> 00:05:21,720 it fell on the milk cauldron and scared me.

108 00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:24,920 There was nobody home, they had left me alone





00:05:25,200 --> 00:05:26,880 veam, ma mai minúts frats.

110 00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:30,440 lo tsi si fac? lešći nafáră, lai să tsop.

111 00:05:30,480 --> 00:05:32,360 Íšo un cumšíį di cóla.

112 00:05:32,680 --> 00:05:34,480 <
 <
 Éla, vre Năstáś, > l^j zitseáu,

113 00:05:34,520 --> 00:05:38,960 <ela, číču Năstáśi, că un šárpi ăn^j căzú pri cazánu di lápti!>

114 00:05:39,160 --> 00:05:40,960 Berekját că ra pri tári,

115 00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:41,840 c-ácu ra-n cazán,

116 00:05:41.880 --> 00:05:43.200 va să la turắsc tot láptili.

117 00:05:44,200 --> 00:05:50,080 Átsi căn víni tséla, că --, cu tufẹácu, viní cu So when the man came, he brought his gun also, tufeácu,

118 00:05:50,600 --> 00:05:54,520 si cóla úndi rá ăĭ túri cu tufeácu ăn tári,

119 00:05:54,560 --> 00:05:56,800 la tălčó cóla pri căzánu di lápti.

120

00:05:25,200 --> 00:05:26,880 and I only had my younger siblings with me.

110 00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:30,440 What was I going to do? I went outside and starting screaming.

111 00:05:30,480 --> 00:05:32,360 A neighbour came out.

112 00:05:32,680 --> 00:05:34,480 <Năstasi,> that was his name,

113 00:05:34,520 --> 00:05:38,960 <come, Uncle Năstasi, a snake fell onto the milk cauldron!>

114 00:05:39,160 --> 00:05:40,960 Lucky us, it fell like that,

115 00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:41,840 if it would have fallen into the cauldron

116 00:05:41,880 --> 00:05:43,200 it would have spoiled all the milk.

117 00:05:44,200 --> 00:05:50,080

118 00:05:50,600 --> 00:05:54,520 and he hit it right on the spot

119 00:05:54,560 --> 00:05:56,800 and killed him there right on the cauldron.





00:05:57,640 --> 00:05:58,760 Nápta-l^j ziš la máma:

121 00:05:58,800 --> 00:06:01,560 <Mámă, ĭo cásă nu stau ši lántă zúuă.

122 00:06:01,920 --> 00:06:03,920 Că šá ši ša păʦɔ́i̯.

123 00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:06,880 Viní číčea Năstáś ši la tălčó šárpili,

124 00:06:06,920 --> 00:06:08,640 că căzú pri căzánu di lápti.

125 00:06:08,680 --> 00:06:13,960 Tu cu berekⁱát ca l-aveám cupirít, ănúntru-n cásă,

126 00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:18,800 di súpru, di pri plóč, din taván căzú. 00:05:57,640 --> 00:05:58,760 Later I told my mother:

121 00:05:58,800 --> 00:06:01,560 <Mother, I won't stay home [alone] another day.

122 00:06:01,920 --> 00:06:03,920 I went through this and that.

123 00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:06,880 Uncle Năstasi came and killed the snake,

124 00:06:06,920 --> 00:06:08,640 because it had fallen over the cauldron.

125 00:06:08,680 --> 00:06:13,960 Lucky me for having it covered, inside the house,

126 00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:18,800 from the top, from the plates, from the ceiling.