

## Elli-Kaija Kögäs Maranda

### In Memoriam

Elli-Kaija Kögäs Maranda, a noted American-Canadian folklorist, died November 1, 1982, at the height of her creative powers at 50.

Elli was born in Tervola, Finland, January 11, 1932. She studied at Helsinki University, where she received her B.A. in 1954 and her M.A. in 1955. In 1959 she came to America to continue her studies at Indiana University. She received her Ph.D. here in 1963. In the 1960's she was a lecturer at Columbia University and a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University. Beginning in 1969, she began her teaching career in Canada; first at the University of British Columbia, where she became professor in 1973, and then from 1979 on she was a professor at Laval University.

Elli was married to Pierre Maranda in 1963 and had two children--Erik Pierre and Nicolas Martin. She always maintained her close ties with Finland. In 1979, she gave a series of lectures under the auspices of the Nordic Institute of Folklore. She was also actively engaged in the work of the Canadian Folklore Studies Association and the American Folklore Society.

In 1982, the last year of her life, I met Elli on several occasions. In the spring she did research at the I.U. Library and gave a fascinating lecture on Melanesian mythology in my seminar. In August, I saw her briefly in the Folklore Archives of the Finnish Literary Society. She had participated in the Uppsala conference on ethnicity and had dropped in to visit her family in Finland. She was happy and full of energy.

Here is what her husband writes of Elli's last semester at Laval University, fall 1982:

Elli had been very happy at the university since the beginning of the term, since her return from Sweden and Finland. She had told me repeatedly that she found her colleagues most open and congenial, enjoyed greatly the scholarly atmosphere of her department, liked her students (who venerated her), looked forward happily everyday to going to the office. She had said "It is such a pleasure to be all excited about going to work, to feel so good about it, so enthusiastic when going to the university. For the first time in my life, I go to work with such eagerness. It's really marvelous." I had seldom seen Elli so taken by her work. And she was getting ready to go to Cambridge, Mass., for a week or so, to the funeral service of Roman Jakobson, a trip she was looking forward to.

Elli never got to Cambridge, but died a couple of days before her planned trip. A funeral service was held for her at the University Chapel on November 6. Her body was cremated, according to her wishes, and her ashes were buried in her native place, Tervola.

Elli was a very productive folklore scholar. Under the guidance of Professor Martti Haavio, she began as a follower of the Finnish method. She wrote a few penetrating studies of Finnish mythology. Later, under the influence of Thomas A. Sebeok, she became a structuralist. This trend was strongly reinforced by Roman Jakobsen and Claude Levi-Strauss. Both Elli and Pierre Maranda, a well-known anthropologist, were close to Levi-Strauss and in some of their works, followed his type of structuralism. Several of Elli's studies were written jointly with her husband.

Recently, Elli was engaged in two major projects. One of them was to do a film on a Finnish winter festival in Minnesota, in connection with the Smithsonian Institution, in which she was to write the accompanying monograph. The other was to be a book on riddles, with the provisional title "The World of Riddles and Riddling," in connection with some other folklorists.

Elli-Kaija Köngäs Maranda was a fine representative of Finnish folklorists. However, she left the confines of the folkloristics of her home country and, with her great talents and enthusiasm, tackled folklore globally and--needless to say--with great success. We are deeply saddened by her loss.