

ROBERT LEHMANN-NITSCHÉ (LA PLATA)

LAS OBRAS LINGÜÍSTICAS DE THEOPHILUS SCHMID

SOBRE EL IDIOMA

PATAGÓN Ó TEHUELCHÉ, RECIÉN PUBLICADAS *

El idioma patagón ó tehuelche fué estudiado detenidamente por Theophilus F. Schmid, misionero de la South American Missionary Society, cuya sede es Londres.

El resultado de estos estudios lo representan un librito ya impreso en 1860 y un manuscrito. El primero se intitula *Vocabulario y rudimentos de la gramática del idioma Tsoneca*, y es excesivamente raro. Yo poseo una copia caligráfica hecha por la mano del finado bibliófilo doctor Julius Platzmann, de Leipzig, y ésta ha servido para una reedición. Otra copia de propiedad del finado lingüista doctor Friedrich Müller de Viena, se halla en poder del profesor Karl von den Steinen.

Reunióse con esta reedición, la publicación del manuscrito en que se amplifica la gramática del citado idioma ; este manus-

(1) Ofrecemos la citada obra como anexo á este tomo ; el título completo es el siguiente :

Two linguistic treatises on the Patagonian or Tehuelche language by Theophilus Schmid, Catechist of the Patagonian Missionary Society. Edited with an introduction by Robert Lehmann-Nitsche, Buenos Aires, 1910.

crito me fué entregado por el finado misionero inglés don Tomás Bridges y se conserva en el Museo Mitre. El general don Bartolomé Mitre se ocupó detenidamente de él, y el original con los trabajos respectivos del señor Mitre fueron publicados últimamente en el *Catálogo razonado de la sección Lenguas Americanas* del citado museo. Para la obra presentada por mí, sirvió la misma composición que en el *Catálogo razonado* gracias al gentil permiso del señor Alejandro Rosa, director del Museo Mitre. Hállanse así reunidos el vocabulario, el bosquejo y la redacción definitiva de la gramática del idioma tehuelche, llamado por Schmid *Tsoneka* (á pronunciar *Tshó-n-kü*); la publicación de esta obra fué costeadada por el Congreso científico internacional americano que se reunirá en esta capital en el mes de julio próximo.

TWO LINGUISTIC TREATISES
ON THE
PATAGONIAN OR TEHUELCHÉ LANGUAGE

BY
THEOPHILUS SCHMID
Catechist of the Patagonian Missionary Society

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY
ROBERT LEHMANN-NITSCHÉ

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INTRODUCTION

The studies of the English missionary Theophilus F. Schmid on the Patagonian or Tehuelche language are very little known; they were written about the middle of the XIXth century and constitute up to the present the best and most detailed account we have of this dialect which is destined to disappear ere long. After a long search for this valuable material I was at last fortunate enough to find it all and able to present it to the scientific world in a bookform; this is being now published under the auspices of the *Congreso Científico Internacional Americano*, to be held in Buenos Ayres in July 1910, during the Centenary Celebrations.

Theophilus T. Schmid was a member of the South American Missionary Society, which still continues its labours and publishes in London a review viz *The South American Missionary Magazine*. In page 3 of vol. I, which came out in 1867, we find an introduction containing a notice of previous publications, etc., as follows :

«The early Patagonian Missionary Society, founded July, 1841, and of which Captain Allen Gardiner, R. N., was both Hon. Secretary and Missionary, seemed to perish with its founder, but the recovered journals, descriptive of the faith, resignation and joy of seven starving men, caused its revival, and from death in 1851 sprang life in 1852.

«On the 1st January, 1854, appeared a very unpretending monthly serial, «The Voice of Pity for South America»; and month after month for nine years was this interesting little record of the struggles of the Patagonian Mission read by many zealous supporters; but on the 1st January, 1863, it was thought expedient that this monthly appeal for aid should not be based wholly on the ground of *pity*, consequently the name was changed into «A Voice for South America» — a more comprehensive, and yet similar title. Four years have caused this «Voice» to be heard, and the «Voice» will echo still, and the tone thereof will be unchanged.

«But since we believe the «Voice» has made an impression; now that many voices have come *from* South America itself, calling loudly for help — Voice of Indians, voices of our fellow-countrymen, voices of residents, travellers, and sailors; now that these voices have been listened to, Protestant Christian merchants on the east and west coasts of the Continent, of London and Liverpool, and other large cities in Great Britain, have acknowledged the duty of listening not only to plaintive and piteous cries, but to vigorous and solemn appeals; therefore the Committee of the South American Missionary Society adopt, from the 1st of January, 1867, as the title of their record of proceedings, as the exponent of their wants, and the intelligencer of their field of labour, «The South American Missionary Magazine».

Thanks to the kindness of the Revd. William C. Morris, of Buenos Aires, I was able to obtain for the library of the La Plata Museum a complete series of the *South American Missionary Magazine*. Unfortunately the missionary labours of the Revd. Theophilus F. Schmid had come to an end just when the Magazine began to appear, in 1867, and we do not there find any notice of his linguistic work. I have not been fortunate enough to have at my command any of the

forerunners of this magazine; out this I have discovered, that Schmid arrived in Patagonia the year 1856 (see vol. for 1874, p. 124). At one time he was working in Sandy Point (Punta Arenas) (see vol. for 1869 p. 24, in the note). The Tehuelche Indian Casimiro, mentioned by captain George Musters, was one of his teachers when he was learning the Patagonian language (see vol. for 1867, p. 44).

It was only after captain Muster's well known book, *At Home with the Patagonians*, London 1871, that we were able to gather more detailed accounts of Schmid's doings in Patagonia. The author at page 37 has the following:

«Notwithstanding these natural advantages, Santa Cruz could hardly at this period be considered a settlement. Subsequently to my visit, two Frenchmen from Buenos Ayres proposed to try sheep farming in the valley but with what result I have not heard. As already mentioned, the station existed as a depot for sealing, and as a trading post, to which the Tehuelches resorted to exchange their ostrich feathers, and puma, guanaco and ostrich skins, for tobacco, sugar, ammunition, and above all, rum. There was little or no trade going on during the absence of the schooner, as all the stores had been exhausted; but after the summer campaign some of the Tehuelches invariably resort thither, and the vicinity has always been a favourite winter quarters. The missionaries, Messrs. Schmid and Hart, endeavoured to avail themselves of this opportunity for essaying the conversion and civilisation of the Indians. They resided for some time in 1863 at a spot near Weddel Bluff, about ten miles from the mouth of the river. To quote Mr. Sterling's description, the station was at the mouth of a valley which retreats towards the south-west for a considerable distance inland... This valley still bears the name of *Los Misionarios*, but this is the only existing trace of their settlement. Mr. Schmid, however, during his sojourn and jour-

neys with a party of the Indians, compiled a vocabulary of the Tsoneca language, as spoken by the southern Tehuelches. Their plan for establishing trade at Santa Cruz, in order to secure the regular visits of the Indians, was not approved of by the managers of the mission, and they were obliged to abandon the scene of their praiseworthy but unsuccessful efforts — to instruct at least « the little bright-faced Patagonian children », of whom they speak in their journals with warm affection. »

In the introduction to his book (p. XIX) Capⁿ Musters says that Schmid's studies had already been published; the wording is as follows :

« Our missionaries also have not left the Patagonians without some efforts to instruct and evangelise them ; and although these efforts have been necessarily limited to the coast, yet the fruits of Mr. Schmid's sojourn with the Tehuelches remain both in their friendly feelings and in the lasting record of the vocabulary of the Tsoneca language published by him ».

From the later accounts in the *South American Missionary Magazine* we learn that Schmid in 1867 had been removed from Patagonia to Fray Bentos, but already in the next year he had passed on to Salto del Uruguay. In the year 1874 he returned to England owing to ill health. The form of his name and his knowledge of languages seem to prove that he was at least of German descent. The following paragraphs reproduced from the S. A. M. Magazine make him out to have been a man very well liked, and give us a detailed account of his life after leaving Patagonia :

1869, p. 24, note : « Sandy Point, South Patagonia, Straits of Magellan, was occupied for a short time as one of the Society's stations by the Rev. T. Schmid. »

1867, p. 44 : « The Indian Casimiro, with whom Mr. Schmid and Mr. Hunziker travelled, was in Patagones a short time ago. He came to church, and brought some others with him. He was

accompanied by his daughter, and was about to journey to the south of Patagonia, purposing to call at Chuput. »

1867, p. 174 : « Through Mr. Adams's exertions funds were raised for a house and three-fourths of the salary of the Rev. J. Shiells, now our active itinerating Chaplain for Paysandú. This appointment was followed by Mr. Adams securing a place of usefulness for Rev. T. Schmid, as minister and schoolmaster at Fray Bentos, where his knowledge of German and Spanish would be of great service. »

1868, p. VIII (Report for the year 1867) : « Fray Bentos, on the River Uruguay. — The Rev. Theo. Schmid is engaged both as Minister and Schoolmaster to the English and German families settled here, chiefly in connexion with Liebig's Extract of Meat Company. Native children also will come under Mr. Schmid's influence. »

1868, p. XXXII (Report for the year 1867) : « Fray Bentos, Uruguay. — The Rev. T. and Mrs. Schmid did not arrive here till about the end of last April. It is satisfactory that Mr. Schmid is able to make known the riches of Divine grace in English, German, and Spanish to those who understand any of these languages, and reside at or near Fray Bentos. »

1868, p. 136 : « The Rev. T. Schmid has hitherto resided in Fray Bentos, situated on the river Uruguay, while the Rev. J. Shiells has itinerated through the extensive camp of Paysandú. About sixty leagues from Fray Bentos, on the same river, is Salto, a large and flourishing town, where the Protestants have for some time desired the services of a clergyman who understood the English, German, and Spanish languages, and could combine the office of a schoolmaster with that of the pastor; but such a person was not easily found.

The Rev. Samuel Adams of Monte Video, was therefore consulted, and, after a visit to Salto, strongly recommended to the Committee that the Rev. Theophilus Schmid, being both a

German and Spanish scholar, should take up his residence in that town, where, out of a population of 10.000, the majority of the foreign Protestant population were Germans; and that the Rev. J. Shiells should remove from the estancia be occupied in Paysandú to the town of Fray Bentos, where it was probable a house schoolroom, and perhaps a Church would be built. Mr. Shiells himself strongly recommended this course of action... Mr. Schmid was also ready to carry out the plan.»

1868, p. 139 : «The Rev. T. F. Schmid writes as follows : Fray Bentos, May 23, 4868.

« Ere this reaches you an interesting letter will have been received by you from Mr. Adams informing you, not only of the general progress of the Society's work in this republic, but also of fresh attempts to extend its operations to places hitherto unoccupied.

« You will have learned, perhaps with much surprise, from Mr. Adam's letter that I am about to remove to Salto. Of course Mr. Adams will have explained every thing, and set before you the expediency and desirableness of the intended change, and I am sure you will, after knowing the object, fully concur in the new arrangements.

« Having heard from Mr. Shiells that the Protestants at Salto were in want of a resident clergyman who would also establish a school, I wrote to Mr. Adams telling him my intention of paying a visit to that town for the purpose of making inquiries, as well as to see and judge for myself as to the opening for usefulness. As the matter of finding a suitable man, who could teach in English, German, Spanish (and, if necessary, also in French), and, as occasion required, officiate in these languages in baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc., had been placed in Mr. Adams's hands, Mr. Adams offered to go up to Salto to arrange, if possible, for me. Accompanied by Mr. Schmid, who went for change of air, I joined Mr. Adams

on the 21st ult. in the steamer, and we reached Salto, which is sixty leagues higher up the Uruguay, next day at 2,30 p. m. The same evening, at 7, a meeting was held for the purpose of coming to a definite understanding as to the practicability of a minister taking up his residence in Salto, and supplying the spiritual wants of the community.

.....
« On Tuesday the 28th we left Salto highly pleased with our visit and reception, and, after a most beautiful run, rendered enjoyable by the fine weather and the comfort and cleanliness of the steamer *Rio Uruguay*, arrived in safety at our humble cottage in Fray Bentos, thankful to God for his goodness and mercy. Salto is a nice town, with several streets paved and lighted. It lies high, and is, I believe, very healthy.

« I propose removing as soon as arrangements are made for Mr. Shiells to come here.

« With my best wishes for increasing success in your labours for the Society's objects... — *Theophilus F. Schmid.* »

1869, p. 24 : « Salto, Banda Oriental. — The Rev. T. Schmid arrived at this town on the river Uruguay on the 6th September. An English settler Mr. Williams, has generously bought a piece of ground with a building thereon. This building has been removed, and an edifice is being erected for Divine worship and school, in fact a schoolchurch, while a dwelling-house is to be put up adjoining for the pastor and teacher, Mr. Schmid... »

(1870, p. 45; 1871, p. 20; 1871, p. 92, letters of Mr. Schmid, from december 15, 1869; september 22, 1870; and april 10, 1871.)

1872, p. 70 : « The Rev. T. Schmid continues steadily to pursue his labours at Salto, amidst much that is disheartening in the spiritual condition of those foreigners who might thankfully avail themselves of his ministrations. His letter is instructive... »

1872, p. 164 : « The opening of the new line of railway from Salto to the Brazilian frontier, 110 miles in length, has imparted new life to the neighbourhood where the Rev. T. Schmid is labouring... »

1873, p. 97 : « The Rev. T. Schmid continues to report an increase in his congregation at Salto, but appears somewhat disheartened at the want of success he has experienced hitherto in securing a well-attended school... »

1874, p. 6 : « Uruguay. — The Bishop has informed the Committee of his desire to obtain three earnest, faithful clergymen, of good physical vigour, to supply three chaplaincies. After labouring with zeal and devotion for eighteen years in South America, the Rev. T. Schmid has expressed a desire, on account of his health, to retire from Salto and return with his family to England. A successor to the Rev. J. Shiells is required at Fray Bentos; and the third appointment is to divide the work of the Rev. W. T. Coombe in his vast district, by the appointment of a chaplain for the Santa Fe camp... »

1874, p. 124 : « The Rev. T. F. Schmid, after a faithful service of eighteen years in connection with the Society, has returned to England, on account of ill health, with Mrs. Schmid. Mr. Schmid possesses the esteem both of his Bishop and the Society. Negotiations are in progress for the appointment of a successor to Salto. »

Schmid's linguistic work consists of :

1st a small printed book, and ; 2^d a work in MS.

The book is entitled :

Vocabulary | and | Rudiments of Grammar | of the | Tsoneca Language. | By Theophilus Schmid. | Catechist of the Patagonian Missionary Society. | Bristol : | T. E. Chilcott, Steam and general Printer, | Clare Street. | — | 1860. — 12°. (iv + 47 pp.)

Musters, as we have seen, was the first to mention this book,

but he omitted to give it a name (see l. c., p. XIX). We find it catalogued by name, but not valued, in *Trübner's Catalogue of Dictionaries and Grammars of the principal Languages and Dialects of the World*, 2^d ed. London, 1882, p. 159.

After the most diligent search I am obliged to confess that I have not been able to discover a single copy of this publication, and I very much doubt if any of reader of mine has ever been fortunate enough to meet with it.

As to this same book I have full knowledge that two manuscript copies exist.

The first of these was transcribed by the late bibliophile, Dr. Julius Platzmann of Leipzig, himself and it is a marvellous specimen of caligraphic reproduction: each leaf and every single letter is of exactly the same size as the original, with which the divisions of the text and the number of pages exactly correspond; Dr. Platzmann himself assured me of it. This facsimile had bound in half morocco with gilt edges. Dr. Platzmann mentions this small volume as «*handschriftlich facsimilirt*» at p. 38 of his «*Verzeichnis einer Auswahl amerikanischer Grammatiken, Wörterbücher, Katechismen u. s. w. gesammelt von Julius Platzmann, Leipzig, 1876.*»

When I visited Platzmann in the autumn of 1900 at Leipzig, he showed me with pride, in his splendid library, this small volume. The most curious fact connected with all this happens to be that he could not for the life of him remember where he had copied it all out, or who was the owner of the original. I advised him most urgently to have it reprinted, but he had his scruples as to author's or editor's rights. No further information was obtained regarding Schmid personally, but it was discovered that the business of Chilcott, the printer, no longer existed; but all this was insufficient to overcome Platzmann's scruples' and he only consented to reedit the linguistic material differently arranged; thus was produced his work: *Platzmann, Der*

Sprachstoff der patagonischen Grammatik des Theophilus Schmid. Mit einer Karte des südlichen Amerika, Leipzig, 1903, 130 pp.

In this arrangement Platzmann was any thing but successful; in place of Schmid's able summary, the subject matter is split up into two parts, one in Patagon-German-Latin, and the other in German-Spanish-English-Patagon, both in alphabetical order, without any reference to the original which had been so altered in its form.

Platzmann died the 6th of September 1902, but it was only towards the end of 1903 that the work «*Sprachstoff*» was offered on sale. Between the 10th and the 13th of June 1903 his library was put up to auction by the firm of Oswald Weigel in Leipzig. The catalogue of this auction is a valuable bibliographical contribution. Strange to say the «*Sprachstoff*» is not mentioned at all therein, but as N^o 1218 it includes Dr. Platzmann's facsimile of Schmid's «*Vocabulary and Rudiments of Grammar of the Tsoneca Language*». I was fortunate enough to secure it for 60 marcs, and actually it has a place in my collection. I have had it reprinted in the earlier portion of this publication, but without tying myself down to the paging of the original. By means of this new edition Schmid's work is made generally available.

The other MS. copy of this author's work was purchased by Mr. Karl von den Steinen of Berlin, out of the collection left by the late linguist Friedrich Müller of Vienna. Von den Steinen was minded to offer this copy to the XVIIth International Congress of Americanists, to be by them published, and so wrote to me as Secretary General of this Congress to be held in Buenos Ayres from the 16th to the 21st of May. The letter happened to come to hand just when the linguistic part of this edition had already been printed, and I was preparing the present introduction to it. Müllers copy is in his own handwriting on 76 pages of a common note-book, with 20 lines in each

page. Also in the same handwriting we find the following :

« Copiert Mai 1877 nach einem dem Londoner Buchhändler N. Trübner gehörenden Exemplare, das damals (im British Museum nicht vorhanden) für ein Unicum in England galt und unter 10 £ nicht feil war. »

Through Karl von den Steinen's letter we learn that Müller made use of Schmid's notes for his Sketch of the Tsoneka language published in the *Grundriss der Sprachwissenschaft* (Vienna, 1882, chap. 36, vol. II, section I).

It is not at all impossible that Trübner's copy may likewise have served as a model for the facsimile mentioned above.

The second treatise on the Patagonian language written by Theophilus F. Schmid was never printed by him. When the late Missionary Thomas Bridges of Harberton, Tierra del Fuego, visited Buenos Ayres for the last time, in June 1898, I called on him, and he then lent me a Tehuelche grammar in manuscript beautifully written on 40 pages of thin letter paper wanting the title and name of author. Bridges confirmed my surmise that the author must have been T. F. Schmid. In accordance with the instructions I received from Mr. Bridges I handed over the MS. to the late General Mitre. The year 1900 I could not say that I was fully acquainted with Schmid's linguistic works, and in a bibliography of this language published by me ⁽¹⁾ I made some guesses which turned out to be not quite correct.

General Mitre was deeply interested in the contents of this M S., and so to facilitate its study he had a Spanish version prepared for his use, after which he proceeded to prepare a critical analysis of the grammar, and collected together all the loose words in the form of a Tehuelche-Spanish Vocabulary.

(1) LEHMANN-NITSCHKE, *Verzeichnis der Wörterbücher der patagonischen Sprache. Anhang B des Aufsatzes: Zur Vorgeschichte der Entdeckung von Grypotherium bei Ultima Esperanza. Naturwissenschaftliche Wochenschrift XV, 1900, S. 428 = Naturwissenschaftliche Abhandlungen, Heft 29, Berlin 1901, p. 45-47.*

After the General's demise his house with all it contained was purchased by the Argentine Government and turned into a museum under the name of « *Museo Mitre* ». The general catalogue of this library was published in 1907 ; and so later on towards the end of 1909, also the so-called « *Catálogo Razonado de la Sección Lenguas Americanas* », written by Mitre himself, with an introduction by Luis Maria Torres. From pages 199 to 211 we find Mitre's analysis of the MS. grammar, from p. 218 to 258 the Spanish version of the same, containing several errors ; from p. 259 to 297 is contained the English original ; from p. 298 to 310 the lists of words out of the grammar, collected by Mitre as mentioned above.

It is now years since I meant to publish the two linguistic works of T. F. Schmid in the original text, free from any foreign interference. The Directive Committee of the American Scientific International Congress seconded my wishes and helped to carry them out. Don Alejandro Rosa, Director of the Mitre Museum, not only kindly permitted the reprint of the English original, but also the use of all the set up type available, which had served to print from p. 259 to 297 of the « *Catálogo Razonado* » ; for all which favours I must express my best thanks.

As it seems, Theophilus Schmid was never able to publish his grammar in a final form, so as to amplify the original « *Rudiments* » ; however both these works are quite sufficient to enable students to acquire a very sufficient knowledge of this family of languages, destined as they are soon to disappear.

La Plata, Museum, April 1910.

ROBERT LEHMANN-NITSCHKE.