A wilful Unitarian minister – an innovative collector of folklore
The written legacy of Sándor Ürmösi (1815–1872)

Edited by Anna Szakál

This book presents the life and folklore collections of a Unitarian minister, Sándor Ürmösi (Corund, 1815– Tărcești, 1872) and contributes to an understanding of the almost completely unknown history of folklore collections in Transylvania in the 1840s. Sándor Ürmösi joined the folklore collecting network initiated and organized by János Kriza (Unitarian minister then bishop) very early. The outcome of this decade-long collection entitled *Briar Roses: Collection of Székely folk poetry* was published under the name of Kriza in 1863. It was the first comprehensive collection of Hungarian folk poetry in a given region.

This book presents the Unitarian minister and the folklore collector with cross-references of the two types of sources. Educational and ecclesiastical sources mirror a conflict generating minister with an inappropriate interpretation of profession and calling. He becomes a contradictory figure whose character refuses easy interpretation if his folklore collection and the related documents are read together with documents of his ecclesiastical career. These two types of sources reveal very different aspects of his character. The scrutiny of his ecclesiastical career discloses the complicated inner relations of minister and community, dean and minister, bishop and minister. The investigation of his folklore collection reveals an experimenting, pioneer, innovative collector of folklore. From the aspect of the history of Transylvanian folklore collections this is also a unique corpus, since a number of texts recorded by Ürmösi are among the earliest ones, since he recorded the majority of the texts between 1841 and 1843.

The book contains all texts by or related to Sándor Ürmösi in a verbatim transcription arranged in a (deduced) chronological order. The visual design of the book aims to make it visible what written legacy a 19th-century minister had. The texts are arranged in a chronological (and not thematic) manner indicating gaps and hiatus of the currently known corpus.