



Sinti

Milena Hübschmannová

Autonymum: *Sinti*.

Appellation: *Sinti*, *Ňemcika Roma*.

The number of *Sinti* is very low. *Sinti* in the Czech and Moravian territory suffered the same fate as *Czech Roma* under the Nazi occupation

Today most of the *Sinti* live in the Czech Republic and some also in Slovakia. Many *Sinti* families are related to *Sinti* in Germany from where they came to the Czech territory.

The *Sinti* language is still a marker of their group-identity, but rather as a symbol than as a means of communication. Older people still have active competence in *Sinti*, though they do not use it much. Younger people know it passively or not at all. The necessity of knowing at least some *Sinti* is probably caused by kinship- and other relations with the *Sinti* in Germany.

In contrast to the *Slovak Roma*, *Vlachi*, or *Ungrika Roma*, who do not mind to welcome a *gadžo* who is interested in their language and culture, the *Sinti* are very reluctant to receive a "foreigner" into the privacy of their language and culture.

Like the *Czech Roma*, the *Sinti* strictly observe the traditional rules of ritual purity.

Though in the past, endogamy was also observed strictly, nowadays there are intermarriages between *Sinti* and *Vlach Roma*, *Sinti* and *Czech Roma*. The reason may be similar as in the group of *Czech Roma*: not enough partners among *Sinti*.