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BALAPPA VEERABHADRAPPA HUKKERI

I present to you, Madam, Shri Balappa Veerabhadrappa Hukkeri.
Born in 1911 at Murgod village in the district of Belgaum in Karnataka, Shri Hukkeri received initial training in classical music from Shivalingayya Mallayya Navarmath. In 1930 he joined the national movement and was imprisoned for six months. For a short period he was associated with the Regional Amateur Theatre and extensively toured in Belgaum district propagating prohibition and removal of untouchability. Advised by Prof. S.S. Basavanal a reputed scholar of Kannada literature and saint Shri Mrityunajaya Swamiji of Murugamath, Dharwar, Shri Hukkeri took to the singing of folk ballads in 1941 and since then he has been touring in the rural areas of Karnataka collecting and singing folk songs.
In recognition of his services to folk music, he received an award from the Karnataka State Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1969. He is also recipient of other awards from the State Government.
For his eminence in the field of folk music and his contribution to its enrichment Shri Balappa Veerabhadrappa Hukkeri receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for ballad singing for 1980.

