

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

Another year has passed, and it is with much sadness that we lost our esteemed and treasured colleague and friend Arvo Krikmann (1939-2017) from Tartu, Estonia. He certainly was a renowned paremiographer and paremiologist, and his publications will continue to influence proverb studies in his native country and far beyond on the international scene. This thirty-fourth volume of *Proverbium* is appropriately dedicated to the memory of this world-class scholar. I have included a picture of him, and my more detailed obituary is to be found on pages 411-417. Our British colleague and friend Anthony Paul Cowie (1931-2015), well-known phraseologist of the English language, passed away two years ago, and I thank Rosemarie Gläser from Dresden for submitting an obituary. It is difficult to take leave from such important scholars, but they will be fondly remembered and live on by way of their scholarly accomplishments.

It is with considerable excitement that I can report that the present volume includes such languages as Chinese, Creole, Dutch, English, German, Hungarian, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish, with the various authors residing in the following countries: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Spain, and the United States. I am especially pleased to announce that we are for the first time publishing an article in the Dutch language by Marie Dewaegnaere entitled “‘Bij wijze van spreken’: Spreekwoorden in het idiolect van Vladimir Putin als spiegel van zijn beleid.” Those of us who know English and German will be able to understand much of her article, but the author has also included a lengthy English summary at the end. Her article does include numerous Russian texts, and it is thus a considerable linguistic challenge. The old *Proverbium* journal that was edited by

PROVERBIUM 34 (2017)

Matti Kuusi from 1965 to 1975 frequently printed articles in Russian and also sometimes in Dutch, and I definitely want to maintain this polyglot commitment in our *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. In fact, I promised my friend Matti Kuusi to do exactly that when he agreed to have *Proverbium* continue in the United States. Speaking of this famous Finnish colleague, let me draw attention to the fact that this volume contains the correspondence between him and myself. It gives an informative account of the history of *Proverbium* and is also a testimony of our deep friendship that lasted for many years.

The fifteen articles deal with a wide range of topics that show that paremiology concerns itself with anthropology, culture, history, language, literature, religion, political science, psychology, etc. It is of interest to note that two articles deal with the relatively new phenomenon of internet memes. Ewa Koziół-Chrzanowska's "Well-Known Polish Proverbs in Internet Memes" and Luis J. Tosina Fernández' "Proverbs in Present-Day Media: An Analysis of Television Fictions and Internet Memes and Their Contribution to the Spread of Proverbs" show that it behooves paremiologists to study the use and function of proverbs in the multifaceted world of the internet. That does not mean that the study of the origin and dissemination of individual proverbs should not be continued, to wit Charles Clay Doyle's article on the proverb "Keep your eyes on the prize" and the investigation of the internationally disseminated proverb "Time is money" co-authored by Damien Villers and myself. We finally have solid proof that this proverb was not coined by Benjamin Franklin!

In addition to such fascinating articles there are also seven book reviews with some of them amounting to lengthy research reports. I am particularly pleased that the present volume contains this impressive number of reviews. By all means let me know if you would like to write a review of major publications for *Proverbium*. Informing scholars about valuable new publications is of great importance. This is, of course, one of the reasons why I continue to include my two annual bibliographies of proverb collections and scholarship.

I benefit greatly from the help of my friend Peter Unseth from Dallas, Texas, who searches the internet to find obscure publications dealing with proverbial matters. Please keep in mind that both bibliographies include only such publications that I have been able to obtain and add to my International Proverb Archives at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont (USA). Please inform me of your publications or even better, send them to me by surface mail or as e-mail attachments. I am more than happy to print such treasures out or to purchase them from you. It is in all of our interests to make my two bibliographies as inclusive as possible.

This is now the thirty-fourth volume of *Proverbium* that I have edited, and this work in the service of international proverb scholarship continues to be most rewarding. I would like to carry on for many more years or decades, but that is humanly not possible, as I well know. At the age of seventy-three I am happy to report that I do not have to retire from the University of Vermont where I have had the privilege and honor to be a Professor of German and Folklore for forty-five years. If my health remains good, it is my hope that I can last another five years to teach my students, but at the age of seventy-eight I probably should retire before my students do not want to have such an ancient professor teach them. At that time, we obviously will also have to decide about the future of our beloved *Proverbium*. I am committed to continue as editor for the next five years, but we should begin thinking about who might take over the editorship. A major decision must be whether we can continue to publish *Proverbium* as a printed book or whether it is only possible to have it survive as an electronic publication. We all know that this is what is happening to many journals and year-books. The expense of printing *Proverbium* and mailing it internationally is enormous, and it might just not be possible to find the funds. For the next five years there will be no change, as I am willing to edit and publish *Proverbium* in exactly the shape and form as I have done for the past three decades and more. So, there is no need or reason for worry, but let's all put our proverbial thinking caps on and see what

the future of *Proverbium* might look like in 2022. I hope it will survive – if not in print then at least electronically. In any case, we obviously will have to find a young, eager, and energetic new editor. When I look around the new generation of paremiologists, I am thoroughly convinced that there is someone among these impressive young scholars who will take on this task. There is time, but we should plan for the future.

Let me close as usual with a few words of thanks and appreciation. First, many thanks to all of you who so kindly pay for the *Proverbium* volume. That helps a great deal and is very much appreciated. Some of you overpay in true philanthropic spirit, and this generosity means the world to me. Please encourage individuals to pay and try to have your libraries continue their subscriptions. As you know, university libraries are cancelling journal subscriptions, and unfortunately *Proverbium* is not immune to this ill-advised policy. Please help where you can, but do not worry about the survival of our yearbook as a printed book for the next five years. Subscriptions bring in some funds, and I do receive \$1000 from our University Bookstore and \$2000 from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Thanks to Jay Menninger as the manager of the bookstore and Prof. Bill Falls as our supportive Dean for this support. My wife Barbara and I do our share as well. My friends Traudy and Jerry Jacobson from New York City also help, and this is especially true of my former German and Russian student Dr. Douglas Smith and his wife Stephanie from Seattle, Washington. And let me mention here with great pride that Doug has just published his massive biography *Rasputin* (New York: Macmillan, 2016), 817 pp. Can you imagine how proud I am of him as his old professor? I recently finished reading this fascinating book that contains Doug's kind inscription "To Wolfgang, with great admiration, gratitude, and fond memories of UVM. Yours, Doug, 19.XI.16" (UVM stands for the University of Vermont). All of this brings tears to my eyes, and I know that all of us who have been professors take great delight in our students doing good work. For Doug, this is

already the fourth major book, as you can easily discover on the internet!

Many thanks are due, as always, to my dear friend Galit Hasan-Rokem from Jerusalem, who has been the Associate Editor of *Proverbium* right from the beginning and who was instrumental in getting her teacher Matti Kuusi to let it move to the United States. Special thanks to our Managing Editor Brian Minier for whom no task is ever too much. He is the secretary of our Department of German and Russian, and he and his wife Kat Scollins, Associate Professor of Russian, have enriched my life for several years now. And there is faithful and perfect Hope Greenberg, who has served as Production Editor for almost three decades. Without her *Proverbium* would fold, and I hope that she will carry on with her invaluable work for five more years. Galit, Brian, Hope and I are a great team, and together we offer this thirty-fourth volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* to the international community of paremiologists.

Wolfgang Mieder