

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

Another year has passed with numerous paremiological and phraseological conferences having taken place in a number of countries. Their proceedings have appeared in various exciting volumes, and there is no doubt that the international community of proverb scholars has been very busy once again. It is good to see that paremiology is well and alive throughout the world, as can be seen from the two annual bibliographies at the end of this volume. It is amazing to realize that this is the twenty-ninth consecutive volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. It has been a true honor and a great privilege for me to act as the editor for almost three decades by now, and I certainly hope that I will be able to fill this role for a few more years to come.

As some of you will recall, our long-time managing editor Janet Sobieski has retired from the University of Vermont. She and her husband Bill moved to Boise, Idaho, where they are closer to their two children. With Ms. Sobieski's departure the Department of German and Russian had to look for a new administrative assistant, and I am happy to report that Mr. Brian Minier has taken on this important position. He is now also our new managing editor, and I am very excited indeed to have him join our associate editor Prof. Galit Hasan-Rokem, our production editor Ms. Hope Greenberg, and me as founding editor. The four of us are eager to produce future *Proverbium* volumes for proverb scholars everywhere. Brian Minier will be your contact person for your subscription renewals, your payments, your address changes, etc. Manuscripts should be submitted to me as usual. There is no need to provide hard copies of your manuscripts. It is perfectly acceptable to send your manuscripts as an e-mail attachment. Please try to put your articles and book reviews into the format that you know from previous volumes of *Proverbium*. Also, try to remember that your articles should contain an abstract and a list of keywords.

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This brings me to the vexing problem of finances. The production cost of *Proverbium* has pretty much stayed the same during the past few years, but it is the postage that is getting ever more expensive. The many packages that we mail abroad cost close to \$25 each, and as you know, we only charge individuals \$40 and libraries \$45 per volume. You can see that the subscriptions do by no means cover the actual costs of producing the *Proverbium* volume and the two volumes of the supplement series that you receive each year free of charge. So I am constantly raising money from other sources, such as relatives, friends, colleagues, and other philanthropists as well as the bookstore and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont. In addition to the subscription payments, I have to raise about \$12,000 each year. This is no easy task, as you can well imagine. If you were to be in a position to send more than \$40 to help us out, we would very much appreciate your generosity. But do not worry, we will carry on somehow in the hope of satisfying all of you each year with both *Proverbium* and the two traditional volumes from the supplement series.

The present volume with its almost 550 pages once again reflects my commitment to making *Proverbium* a truly international publication. We accept articles from around the world, and we are willing to publish in a number of foreign languages. The articles may be of any length, and we also welcome reports and book reviews. If you wish to submit a review, simply contact me, and I will be glad to let you know whether the book in question is already being reviewed by someone else. If not, we will be delighted to publish your review so that the international community of proverb scholars remains informed of the newest publications.

Let me close these short prefatory remarks by thanking all of you for your continued interest in and support of *Proverbium*. Together with Galit Hasan-Rokem, Brian Minier, Hope Greenberg, and the good people at Queen City Printers I wish you the very best for your paremiological work during the coming year. We look forward to receiving manuscripts from you and other proverb scholars so that exciting proverb scholarship may be distributed throughout the world.

Wolfgang Mieder