

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

It seems almost like yesterday that last year's volume of *Proverbium* appeared in print, and yet, here the time has already once again come for the next issue to see the proverbial light of day. It is with much delight and satisfaction that I can place the twenty-ninth volume of *Proverbium* for the year 2011 in front of proverb scholars, and it is my sincere hope that it will be greeted with the same enthusiasm and appreciation that has been the case for almost three decades. Each year it is a challenge to bring our annual publication out during the month of July, but with the good will and the expertise of several friends and colleagues this daunting task gets done on time. I owe the smooth work on *Proverbium* to our associate editor Galit Hasan-Rokem, our managing editor Janet Sobieski, and our production editor Hope Greenberg. As always, I wish to express my deep appreciation to them, and the same goes for the good colleagues at Queen City Printers who continue to do an excellent job in printing and binding our *Proverbium* volumes.

It has been a busy year for paremiographers and paremiologists, as can be seen from my two international proverb bibliographies listing this year's collections and interpretive publications from all over the world. But speaking of the globe, I am very excited to report that the present volume is once again a truly international publication. We have always been committed to take the second part of the *Proverbium* title – *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* – very seriously. As you will see, there are sixteen articles and six book reviews written by paremiologists from Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Portugal, the

Russian Federation, Spain, and the United States. They deal with the multifaceted aspects of proverbs from a comparative and interdisciplinary point of view and represent some of the finest paremiological scholarship of our time.

Let me stop here so that I can dedicate this volume to my long-time friend Janet Sobieski, who will be moving to the state of Idaho with her husband Bill Doucette so that they can be closer to their family. I honestly can state that *Proverbium* would hardly exist without Janet's untiring efforts as our editorial assistant (1988-1997) and managing editor (1998-2011). She has made all the difference over the years, and many of you will recall various messages from her. It will be difficult to carry on without Janet, who also was my administrative assistant for twenty-five years while I was chairperson of the Department of German and Russian. Many of you will also recall the three books we wrote together: *Proverbs and the Social Sciences: An Annotated International Bibliography* (2003), *"So Many Heads, So Many Wits": An Anthology of English Proverb Poetry* (2005), and *"Gold Nuggets or Fool's Gold?" Magazine and Newspaper Articles on the (Ir)relevance of Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases* (2006). And, of course, it was she who honored me by serving as the editor of *"A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed": A Festschrift for Professor Wolfgang Mieder* (2004). Everybody will understand how sad I am about her departure from the University of Vermont, where she has been an exemplary employee and the heart and soul of the Department of German and Russian. There will be a void in my life, but I am also happy for Janet and Bill with their new home in Boise, Idaho. On behalf of proverb scholars everywhere I would like to state one more time how thankful I am for Janet's loyal, enthusiastic, and dedicated help over so many years. So let us paremiologists from around the world together with my colleagues here in Vermont wish Janet and Bill the very best, knowing that Janet Sobieski's name will forever be associated with *Proverbium*.

Wolfgang Mieder



JANET SOBIESKI