

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

It is always a special occasion to dedicate a new volume of *Proverbium* to a master paremiologist and paremiographer. This year, on July 21, 2014, we are celebrating the seventy-fifth birthday of the renowned Estonian folklorist and proverb scholar Arvo Krikmann, who is well known to the international scholarly community for numerous seminal publications (see my laudatio following these comments). It is utterly amazing what he has been able to accomplish at Tartu in the fields of folklore, humor, linguistics, paremiology, philology, semantics, and semiotics. His many studies on jokes and riddles are legendary, and he has also made innovative use of the computer to map the geographical distribution of texts together with an analysis of the density with which variants have been recorded. As far as paremiography is concerned, it was Arvo Krikmann and Ingrid Sarv who assembled the Estonian national treasure of proverbs in their monumental Estonian proverb collection *Eesti vanasõnad* (1980-1988) in five massive volumes. He was also a member of the international team of paremiologists who, under the direction of Matti Kuusi at Helsinki, published the unsurpassed comparative proverb collection *Proverbia septentrionalia. 900 Balto-Finnic Proverb Types with Russian, Baltic, German and Scandinavian Parallels* (1985). Of course, he is also known as a leading theoretical paremiologist, to wit the monograph *On Denotative Indefiniteness of Proverbs* (1974) and its sequel *Some Additional Aspects of Semantic Indefiniteness of Proverbs* (1974) which were reprinted in *Proverbium* in 1984 and 1985. Some of his major subsequent paremiological contributions have been reprinted in his book *Proverb Semantics. Studies in Structure, Logic, and Metaphor* (2009). It was published five years ago at the University of Vermont in celebration of Arvo Krikmann's seventieth birthday. This book belongs into the hands of anybody seri-

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here at the University of Vermont for all of their much-appreciated help and support. Thanks are also due the College of Arts and Sciences and the Bookstore at the University of Vermont for their generous financial support during the past three decades. Finally, I thank my colleagues and friends at Queen City Printers Inc. for their superb work in printing our attractive books. It all amounts to a serious and dedicated team effort, and as such, it is indeed a pleasure and honor to present the international community of paremiologists with yet another volume of *Proverbium*.

Wolfgang Mieder

