

PREFACE

It is with my usual excitement and pleasure that I present yet another volume of *Proverbium* to the international community of proverb scholars. It is my sincere hope that this thirty-second *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* will once again be received positively. It represents an engaged effort of communicating significant articles, reviews, and bibliographies from around the world, and as a glance at the table of contents will reveal, this new book includes truly exciting material. I am also particularly pleased that the contributors stem from Botswana, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Spain, Tanzania, and the United States, thus attesting to the commitment of serving paremiologists worldwide.

As my two annual bibliographies indicate, the past year has seen an incredible amount of superb publications in the form of collections, monographs, essay volumes, and articles. There can be no doubt that paremiology is flourishing everywhere with special interest being shown in how proverbs, proverbial expressions, and other phraseologisms are employed in the modern age and how new proverbs are becoming part of today's communication. The topics regarding proverbs are limitless, and it is important to note that scholars from a multitude of disciplines are engaged in serious paremiological work. Anthropologists, cultural and literary historians, folklorists, linguists, and philologists have traditionally occupied themselves with proverbial matters. But proverbs have also become of great interest to scholars and students of the mass media, the internet, and all modes of modern communication. Above all, social and medical scholars are looking at proverbs to see how the brain processes proverbial metaphors and how proverbs can be used in studying various brain dysfunctions. There is no doubt that psycholinguists and neuroscientists are making important use of proverbs as they study such matters as Aphasia and Alzheimer's as well as the cognitive function of the brain in general. The articles in this volume of *Proverbium* certainly reflect the wide range of topics

treated by paremiologists who are fascinated by the important role that proverbs play in all modes of communication.

As proverb scholarship advances and gains ever more importance in cognitive and other studies by scholars who have not previously occupied themselves with proverbs, it becomes ever more important that some of the older paremiological scholarship is not forgotten. It so happens that this year is Archer Taylor's (1890-1973) 125th birthday (see my short article in this volume), and that certainly should remind all of us of his invaluable book *The Proverb* (1931). It still represents the best general treatise on proverbs and it should be read by anybody interested in proverbs. Of course, this is also true for the publications by such famous deceased paremiologists as Démétrios Loukatos, Matti Kuusi, Grigorii L'vovich Permiakov, Lutz Röhrich, and many others. We must never forget how indebted we are to them and that it is a privilege and honor to stand on their broad shoulders. Their work is by no means outdated, but I can well imagine their excitement if they could see the brand-new treatise on the entire field of paremiology and paremiography that has just reached me, namely Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga (eds.), *Introduction to Paremiology. A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014). Here is an abbreviated table of contents with the authors and titles of the 15 chapters:

- Neal R. Norrick: Subject Area, Terminology, Proverb Definitions, Proverb Features
- Wolfgang Mieder: Origin of Proverbs
- Outi Lauhakangas: Categorization of Proverbs
- Peter Grzybek: Semiotic and Semantic Aspects of the Proverb
- Marcas Mac Coinnigh: Structural Aspects of Proverbs
- Vida Jesenšek: Pragmatic and Stylistic Aspects of Proverbs
- Anna Lewandowska and Gerd Antos: Cognitive Aspects of Proverbs
- Peter Ďurčo: Empirical Research and Paremiological Minimum
- Kathrin Steyer: Proverbs from a Corpus Linguistic Point of View

Tamás Kispál: Paremiography: Proverb Collections
 Roumyana Petrova: Contrastive Study of Proverbs
 Charles Clay Doyle: Proverbs in Literature
 Anna Konstantinova: Proverbs in Mass Media
 Sabine Fiedler: Proverbs and Foreign Language Teaching
 Anna T. Litovkina: Anti-proverbs

The valuable book with its 368 pages also includes an introduction by the two editors, a glossary of key terms, a list of tables, a list of figures, and an index.

On a more personal note, let me in all humility mention that I received the unexpected and special honor of receiving a “doctor honoris causa” on December 16, 2014, from the prestigious University of Athens in Greece. My dear wife Barbara and I traveled to Athens where the proclamation festivity took place in the main building of the university at Athens with many administrators, professors, and students in attendance for the special celebration. It was an event that we both shall never forget and for which we shall always be thankful. It was the wish of the colleagues and friends at the University of Athens that the various speeches of the evening would be published in *Proverbium* as a sign of the high regard of not only my contributions to international folkloristics in general and international paremiology in particular but also as a tribute to proverb scholars throughout the world. Wishing to honor this request, I am including the speeches and some illustrations in this volume. I do so with deep humility and appreciation and hope that this will not be considered as self-aggrandizement.

As always, I wish to express my appreciation at the end of this short preface to all the support I have received during this year as I have worked to bring this thirty-second volume of *Proverbium* to publication. First of all, let me thank the individuals and libraries that continue to subscribe to our *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*. Their continued interest and support by way of subscriptions make it possible to publish *Proverbium* as a printed book, even though the postage for the packages to many countries is truly prohibitive. Luckily, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont and the Manager of the University of Vermont Book-

store provide us with a much-appreciated subvention, and there are a number of colleagues and friends who have made contributions towards the considerable costs of publishing *Proverbium*. To all of these kind and generous people I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation.

Finally, I wish to thank three very special friends without whom *Proverbium* would certainly not exist. Galit Hasan-Rokem from the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, Israel, has been my treasured Associate Editor right from the beginning, Hope Greenberg from the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Vermont has been the invaluable Production Editor for about twenty-five years, and Brian Minier, the administrative assistant of our Department of German and Russian here at the University of Vermont, has been the Managing Editor for the past three years. It is such a pleasure and joy to work with these three colleagues and friends, and together as a great team we present this new volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* to the paremiological community. May it bring scholarly delight to scholars and students dedicated to and interested in the fascinating world of proverbs.

Wolfgang Mieder