

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

Another year has passed by quickly, and it is with much pleasure and excitement that I can present the thirty-third volume of *Proverbiu*m to the international community of proverb scholars. As has been the case for many years, this volume once again contains 544 pages of exciting articles, book reviews, and bibliographies that attest to the keen interest in proverbial matters throughout the world. My attempt to keep this *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* as interdisciplinary and multicultural as possible can be seen throughout its many pages. The contributing scholars reside in such different countries as Australia, Croatia, Germany, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, and the United States, with the many proverb examples coming from such varied languages as English, French, German, Malay, Romanian, Slovenian, Spanish, and Yoruba. All of this is a clear indication that paremiology is indeed a global undertaking.

The subject matters of the articles in this volume are truly multifaceted, dealing with such theoretical topics as anti-proverbs, genre definition, and the paremiological optimum. Several articles address literary topics, others deal with the problems of proverb translation and equivalence, and there are also linguocultural studies looking at proverbs from different cultures and languages relating to food and happiness. Of course, the question of the fascinating role that proverbs play in the modern world is also raised, showing the incredible importance of new proverbs in Africa as well as the United States and elsewhere. This leads me to the plea of collecting and publishing new proverbs. Most extant proverb collections pay very little attention to modern proverbs that came into being in the twentieth century and that are created now and spread quickly and widely by way of the media and the internet. This is true for modern proverbs in

individual languages and also for those proverbs that are part of English as the *lingua franca* of the interconnected modern world.

Speaking of modern times, I think we are all aware of the fact that many libraries and scholars as well are reluctant to purchase journals and yearbooks due to the expense, the lack of space, and the fact that ever more scholarly publications are available electronically. Luckily I have received only very few cancellations of *Proverbium* subscriptions. However, there have also not really been any additional standing orders for our yearbook either. Be that as it may, *Proverbium* will continue to be published in print. All volumes are also available online, with the most recent volume being added to the electronic database one year after its original print publication. But it behooves all of us to spread the good word about *Proverbium* so that we have enough subscriptions to pay for the printing and steadily rising postage costs.

In this regard I would like to express my thanks to all individual subscribers and libraries for their loyal support of *Proverbium*. My sincere gratitude also goes to my friends Shirley L. Arora (Point Arena, California), Jerry and Traudi Jacobson (New York, New York) as well as Douglas and Stephanie Smith (Seattle, Washington) for their very generous financial support. I also wish to thank William Falls, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont, and Jay Menninger, Manager of the University of Vermont Bookstore, for once again providing substantial subventions.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the untiring dedication and much-appreciated help of the Associate Editor Galit Hasan-Rokem from the Hebrew University at Jerusalem as well as the Production Editor Hope Greenberg and the Managing Editor Brian Minier who both work with me here at the University of Vermont. We are a great and supportive team, and together we thank all subscribers and readers for letting us produce yet another volume of *Proverbium* in the service of international paremiology.

Wolfgang Mieder