

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

This is the thirty-fifth volume of *Proverbiium* after our *Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* had its start in 1984 under my founding editorship. Having reached this “round” number, I feel that we have every reason to celebrate this scholarly accomplishment. It is not easy in the modern world to maintain the publication of yearbooks and journals, but with the help of scholars from around the world and individual subscribers as well as standing orders from libraries it has been possible to keep *Proverbiium* alive and well. I cannot thank everybody enough for the helpful and much-appreciated support, and it is my sincere hope that I can continue to edit our yearbook for a few more years. And yet, there is no doubt that my editorial work will have to come to an end in several years due to my advancing age. It is, therefore, slowly but surely time to think about the future of *Proverbiium*. Will it be possible to continue publishing it in print or will it have to move to an online publication because of high printing and mailing costs? Who will be interested and able to take on the editorship, and where will the editorial office be located eventually? These are questions that need not be answered at this moment, but there is no harm to think about the plans for the future.

Above all we want to make certain that *Proverbiium* remains a truly international publication. It has always been my commitment to give scholars from as many languages and cultures as possible a voice in *Proverbiium*. This year’s volume is a fine example for that with articles and book reviews from such countries as Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, and the United States. Regrettably we have no essays from Asia and Africa this time, but we certainly have had contributions from these major

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continents, and we shall be glad to accept papers from those areas in the future. We will also keep our promise of publishing articles in languages other than English, notably in French, German, and Spanish. There is no doubt that scholarship at its very best is interdisciplinary, interculturally, and internationally oriented, and it behooves paremiologists to be in touch with each other globally.

It is my sad duty to report that our dear colleague and friend Elisabeth Piirainen from Germany passed away in December of 2017. She was well known to most of us because of her superb scholarship on what she called “widespread idioms”, to wit among many other books and articles her magisterial two volumes of *Widespread Idioms in Europe and Beyond* (New York: Peter Lang, 2012 and 2016). For an appreciation and review of her impressive scholarship see Roumyana Petrova’s heartfelt tribute in this present volume.

But I must keep my preface a bit on the shorter side this time since every page is already filled with significant research results. So, let me simply thank all of you, individuals and libraries, for your continued interest in and support of *Proverbium* by way of your manuscripts, subscriptions, and donations. Special thanks go, as always, to my associate editor Galit Hasan-Rokem, my managing editor Brian Minier, and my production editor Hope Greenberg. The *Proverbium* volumes would never see the light of day without their steadfast commitment and dedicated help. Also, of course, many thanks to the friends and colleagues at Queen City Printers of Burlington, Vermont, for producing such a professional and attractive publication each year. Thanks are also due Dean William Falls of the College of Arts and Sciences and our bookstore manager Jay Menninger at the University of Vermont as well as to my former German and Russian student Dr. Douglas Smith and his wife Stephanie from Seattle, Washington, for their generous support. My favorite Latin proverb “Bis dat, qui cito dat” holds true for the philanthropy of all of you.

Wolfgang Mieder