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*The Proclamation of Professor Wolfgang Mieder as Honorary Doctorate by the Department of Literature of the Philosophical School of the University of Athens.* (Ceremony in the Main Hall, December 16, 2014). Ed. by Minas Al. Alexiadis, Marianthi Kaplanoglou, and Aristeides N. Doulaveras. Institute of Popular Culture of Karpathos. Department of Philology of Philosophical School. University of Athens. Series of Independent Publications, No. 8. Athens: Institute of Book, A. Kardamitsa, 2015. Pp. 78, with 8 illustrations (in Greek).

In December 16, 2014, the acclaimed professor Wolfgang Mieder received an honorary doctorate degree from the Department of Greek Literature of Philosophical School of University of Athens, Greece. The ceremony was held at the historic main hall of the first Greek university and was attended by professors, students, and interested people. The ceremonial speeches, photographic documentation, and other related documents to the event have been published in a small publication edited by the professors of the department. This edition is part of the publications of the Institute of Popular Culture of Karpathos of the Department of Philology of Athens University, located on the island of Karpathos. The Institute focuses on issues related to the island Karpathos and the wider area, and publishes books of general folkloric interest. An English translation of this Greek booklet is published in *Proverbium* 32:2015, pages 101-138.

The rector of the university, Professor Fortsakis, opened the ceremony by saying that it is an honor and moral debt of the university to pay tribute to people who try to make our world better and set an example for the younger generation (13). After the rector, Minas Alexiadis, professor of folklore, paid his tribute; he briefly mentioned the impressive biography and the significant corpus of books, edited volumes, journals and articles by this prolific honored scholar. From his numerous works, Alexiadis focused on two books to better demonstrate the significance of

Mieder's scholarship. The first example was Mieder's book *Proverbs are the Best Policy. Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, which shows how historical and contemporary political speech draws upon folklore and popular culture. Alexiadis commemorated Dimitrios Loukatos, the first Greek folklore scholar, who also worked on proverbs and Greek politics. Then Alexiadis mentioned Mieder's contribution to the establishment of the term "anti-proverbs" and to his rich collections of such material. "Anti-proverbs" are the proverbs of our modern time and play a significant role to cultural understanding.

Professor of folklore Marianthi Kaplanoglou referred to the methodological and theoretical frame of Mieder's work. For Mieder proverbs are expressions of worldview and personal communicative strategies. Mieder carefully studies both oral and written variants, and he meticulously compares international with local proverbs. For Kaplanoglou, Mieder's work is exemplary for the centrality of folklore in the humanities (27-29).

Professor Doulaveras from the University of Peloponnese spoke about Mieder's professional caliber, his contribution to international paremiology, and his remarkable publishing record (as of 2012 Mieder has published 205 books and numerous articles!). Also the speaker referred to Mieder's personal charisma, and his engaging teaching. Mieder's students, colleagues and friends showed their appreciation to him by dedicating five festschrifts to him, an unusual honor for a mentor and leader (31-37).

Finally, the evening closed with the ceremonial speech by the honoree. Professor Mieder opened his remarks by honoring his relationships with international and Greek colleagues and attesting "how important such scholarly and personal connections are for the meaningful advancement of knowledge" (41). In his speech with the proverbial title "Different Proverbs for Different Times. Proverbial Discourse at the Crossroad to Modernity" Mieder reflected on the creation and prevalence of new proverbs due to changed living circumstances. Mieder believes that new proverbs may match old ones in terms of structure, but they have different images of modern life (44). His statement that "the creation of new folklore has not come to an abrupt end" bears tremendous significance for folklorists and the future of folklore studies (44). Mieder closed his remarks by mentioning

three of his beloved proverbs: “Different strokes for different folks”, “God can make a way out of no way”, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. These proverbs are for him the best tools to learn and understand human rights, moral and ethical behavior. For Mieder, an excellent and dedicated teacher, these proverbs can help his students navigate through the atrocities and difficulties in life.

The nomination of the distinguished professor Wolfgang Mieder to honorary doctorate of the University of Athens is very important for the Greek academia. Mieder is the first foreign folklorist who received such an honor from a Greek university. Mieder’s paradigmatic scholarship, which embraces folklore wisdom from the whole world as manifested in his impeccable paremiological studies, and his engaging personality can inspire colleagues and students in Greece and beyond.

Kudos to Mieder!

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