

WOLFGANG MIEDER

PREFACE

Thirty years ago the first volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* appeared in the United States, and it has been my honor and pleasure to act as the editor ever since. Galit Hasan-Rokem of the Hebrew University has been the Associate Editor right from the start in 1984, with Janet Sobieski and Hope Greenberg serving as the Managing Editor and Production Editor respectively for more than two decades. Recently Brian Minier has taken over the role of Managing Editor following Janet's retirement. And, of course, the good friends of Queen City Printers at Burlington, Vermont, have printed our handsome volumes since 1988. All of this shows an impressive continuity in the service of international paremiology and paremiography, and I wish to express my gratitude to these good friends for their long and dedicated service. I also owe much gratitude to the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Managers of the Bookstore at the University of Vermont for their financial support. We all work together so very well, and the proverb "Many hands make light work" might well describe our small group of engaged workers.

"Tempus fugit", as we all know, especially "when you're having fun" as a popular addition to this classical proverb states. In fact, the expanded American variant "Time flies if you are having fun" has become a proverb in its own right, with its earliest reference stemming from 1939, as can be seen from *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* (2012) edited by Charles Clay Doyle, Wolfgang Mieder, and Fred R. Shapiro. Naturally it has been a lot of work over these thirty years, and I sometimes feel as if a constant Damocles sword hangs over my head as I am editing one volume after another, getting it to the publisher, and then mailing it to libraries and scholars throughout the world. But I count my lucky stars that *Proverbium* is a yearbook and not a journal that appears four times

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a year. So the work has been scholarly fun, and I will forever be thankful that my fellow paremiologists have entrusted me with the publication of *Proverbium*. It is my hope to carry on for a few more years. With such good helpers at my side, I am confident that we can keep the proverbial ship afloat.

It is, of course, important that scholars, students, and libraries maintain their subscriptions. We have had a few cancellations, but in general we are keeping our subscribers. This is not to say that it would not be appreciated if some new subscriptions could be registered. If every subscriber would attempt to bring a new person or library on board, that would make a giant difference. Let's all give it a try by telling ourselves proverbially "Yes We Can!"

As the present volume shows, we have submissions from scholars from all continents. I strongly believe in making *Proverbium* as international and polyglot as possible, and I think this commitment has born excellent fruit. Scholars from many countries and cultures have published their best research in our yearbook, and while its pages are filled with articles by some of the most renowned paremiologists in the world, we have also given young scholars and even students opportunities to publish their scholarly work. In fact, I personally take great delight in including at least one student paper in each volume. This time it is a short illustrated paper by my undergraduate student Brienne Toomey, who was a student in my large lecture course on "Big Fish Eat Little Fish': The Nature and Politics of Proverbs" during the fall semester of 2011. As a young artist, she drew humorous or satirical cartoons based on proverbs for our weekly student paper. She is presenting eleven of them here with explanatory comments added to them. Words can hardly express my joy in having her explicated cartoons in this year's volume. After all, we older proverb scholars must make sure that the younger generation of proverb enthusiasts will carry on our work in the future and take it to new heights.

So let us all wish *Proverbium* a happy thirtieth birthday. *Ad multos annos*, dear friend, and may you continue to prosper and serve proverb scholars everywhere to the best of your ability.

Wolfgang Mieder