

WOLFGANG MIEDER

INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW AND  
REPRINTED PROVERB COLLECTIONS

For Xesús Ferro Ruibal

It is with much excitement that I can report that 83 paremiographical publications could be added to my International Proverb Archives at the University of Vermont during this past year. As usual, these collections vary widely in length and scope. Some of them are small regional collections, and yet, they are often of great value, to wit several African collections of 100 proverbs collected by way of field research from languages that are spoken by only small numbers of people. It remains my hope that all of the African proverb collections will one day be brought under one paremiographical roof by way of an electronic database, enabling scholars to look at the rich tradition of African proverbs from a comparative point of view. We know much about the proverbs that are commonly known throughout Europe or Asia, but what are the common proverbs that have been disseminated over large areas of Africa? It would indeed be a worthwhile and welcome project to work on a comprehensive database of major African proverbs.

One of the major accomplishments this year is without doubt the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of John Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations. A Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature*, ed. by Geoffrey O'Brien (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2012). The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this massive reference work appeared in 1855, and this new edition can serve as a model for other such books in various languages. Many such volumes are outdated, and it is high time to update them with modern quotations, proverbs, slogans, mottoes, etc. This leads me to the announcement that *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs*, ed. by Charles Clay Doyle, Wolfgang Mieder, and Fred R. Shapiro (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University

Press, 2012) has now been published, and this volume could also serve as a model for collections of truly new proverbs from other languages. Let me also mention that the first volume of the *Handbuch der Sentenzen und Sprichwörter im höfischen Roman des 12. und 13. Jahrhunderts*, ed. by Manfred Eikelmann and Tomas Tomasek (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2012) has now been published. The second volume had, somewhat peculiarly, already appeared in 2009, but the two massive volumes together are a major accomplishment regarding the proverbial language of medieval epics.

Obviously I could single out other collections, but space does not allow further comments. Suffice it to mention one more voluminous collection, namely Pedro Benavente Jareño and Xesús Ferro Ruibal's *O libro da vaca. Monografía etnolingüística do gando vacún* (Santiago de Compostela: Xunta de Galicia, 2010) with its 1637 large pages! I do wish to thank Xesús Ferro Ruibal for having sent me proverb collections from Galicia over the years, and I am also most happy for the exchange that we have set up between his *Cadernos de Fraseoloxía Galega* and my *Proverbium*. It is then with sincere appreciation, respect and admiration that I dedicate this year's "International Bibliography of New and Reprinted Proverb Collections" to my Galician friend Xesús Ferro Ruibal.

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