

Several speakers dissected proverb parodies, or anti-proverbs, focusing primarily on the reasoning and need for differentiating them from traditional proverbs. The popularity of such anti-proverb sayings in the language of today's youth is a clear sign of the viability of this genre. Pursuant to the aim of this year's colloquium – to motivate young people to preserve their native culture and acknowledge the potential of the proverbs – the use of proverbs was dealt with as a didactic measure, underlying the need to switch the proverbs (non-understandable to young people today) in the study process in schools. Rui Soares, the organiser of the conference, proposed an idea to intensify the use of proverbs by, for instance, SMS communication.

The organisers and a number of presenters emphasised the need to enhance and extend worldwide cooperation in the field of paremiology. Last year's colloquium was special due to the celebration of the 70th birthday of Arvo Krikmann, an Estonian paremiologist and academician. In connection with this, the organisers had issued a selection of Estonian proverbs with Portuguese-English equivalents – *Proverbios Europeus/ European Proverbs/ Euroopa vanasõnad* – presented at the reception given by the mayor of Tavira. This is the first publication introducing Estonian proverbs in Portuguese. Plans have been made in Portugal to distribute this booklet primarily to university libraries so as to promote the proverbs in different European languages and demonstrate the common elements therein.

Anneli Baran

THE 2ND ALL-RUSSIAN CONFERENCE OF FOLKLORISTS IN MOSCOW

The State Republican Centre of Russian Folklore organised the 2nd All-Russian conference of folklorists in Moscow, February 1–5, 2010. The Centre, founded in 1990 (Anatoli Kargin as the director), operates under the Ministry of Culture and focuses on scientific research, folklore-related collection and preservation, teaching, promotion and publication, and issues elaborate publications, anthologies, article collections, and also scientific and popular science periodicals, including one of the oldest Russian folklore journals, *Zhivaia Starina*, earlier released in St. Petersburg.

The first conference organised by the Folklore Centre, which took place exactly four years ago (at the beginning of February 2006), was of significant importance in promoting folklore-related research in Russia, according to the participants. Conference presentations were issued in four voluminous collections of articles, two of them prior to the meeting in 2005 and 2006, and the 3rd and 4th volume after the conference, in 2006 and 2007, respectively. The articles of conference participants were also published in different journals, *Zhivaia Starina*, *Narodnoe Tvorchestvo*, etc.

Apart from the delegates from nearly all the regions of Russia, the conference in 2010 was attended by participants from other CIS countries: Byelorussia, Kazakhstan

and Azerbaijan, and representatives from Ukraine, Poland, Bulgaria, Serbia, Mongolia, Lithuania, Italy, France and Canada. Estonian participants comprised Risto Järv, Anu Korb and Aado Lintrop from the Estonian Folklore Archives, and Jonathan Roper from the University of Tartu.

Due to the large amount of presentations and last-minute budget cuts, the conference sessions had to take place within three days (from February 2 to 4), instead of the initially planned four working days, and it was quite complicated to organise the work of several sections and roundtables. Presentations were delivered in the morning and in the afternoon, distributed between 13 sections, 14 roundtables and two discussion clubs. Simultaneous work process also pre-necessitated many conference premises, and the smaller rooms were unfortunately overcrowded. The subject matters focused on complex textology and folklore theory, research history, folklore and ethnography, folklore and culture in written tradition, folkloric language, folklore and folk religion, modern folklore. Likewise, the themes also dealt with the presentation of folklore and popular choreography; problems regarding the teaching of folklore, and, intrinsically of Russia, the programme involved a section on how to teach applied art and popular handicraft.

Nearly half of the roundtables concentrated on different genres of folklore: fairytales, epic, games, incantations-soothsaying, ethnobotany, short forms of folklore, lamentations, and also Internet folklore, folklore (folk songs) as the method for interdisciplinary research, and inter-ethnicity issues.

Conference participants were also familiarised with different folklore-related periodicals and books published during the recent years. The majority of scientific journals are published exclusively in the Russian language, however, one issue of the three-volume journal published in St. Petersburg, *Antropologicheskii Forum*, is now released in English.

Anu Korb

PRESIDENT'S FOLKLORE AWARDS 2009

This year, the President's Folklore Awards were presented on the 25th of February by Urmas Kruuse, the mayor of Tartu. The event, organised in the period between the Estonian Day of Independence (24th of February) and the Day of Finnish Culture (28th of February) was to recognise and acknowledge the best contributors to the Estonian Folklore Archives and those writing for the contest "The Finland of My Memories". The speakers at the festive occasion comprised the mayor of Tartu, representatives of the Estonian Folklore Archives; Rutt Hinrikus, the head of the Estonian Life Stories Association, and Arja Korhonen, the press official to the Embassy of Finland. Musical interludes were performed by Mari Kalkun.