

NEWS IN BRIEF

PROFESSOR KAZYS GRIGAS: 90TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Kazys Grigas was born into a farmers' family in Pagiriai, Kaunas district, on March 1, 1924. He graduated from a gardening and floriculture school in Kaunas, and attended Vilkija Gymnasium. In 1944 he entered Kaunas Theological Seminary to avoid enlisting into the Soviet army. In 1945, after having taken the entrance examinations, he was admitted to the Faculty of History and Philology at Kaunas National Vytautas Magnus University. When ideological cleansing started at the university in 1948, K. Grigas was expelled with an entry in his personal file: "Expelled from Kaunas University for behaviour incompatible with a Soviet student's honour and duties".

Later on, K. Grigas studied at Kaunas Teachers Seminary, took librarianship equivalency examinations, taught at a gymnasium (Lithuanian and Latin languages), and worked at the bookbindery at the library of the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Vilnius. In 1951 he took equivalency examinations and graduated from Vilnius University. In 1954 K. Grigas started working at the Lithuanian Institute of Language and Literature (now Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Institute), where he became engaged in the field of folkloristics. K. Grigas spent the years from 1990 to 1998 teaching: he taught a course in paremiology at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, and later on a comparative folkloristics course at Vilnius University. K. Grigas translated various works of fiction, for instance, L. Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1957) and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass* (1991, in collaboration with J. Lapienytė), R. L. Stevenson's *The Master of Ballantrae* (1959), and R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island. The Master of Ballantrae* (1986) from English, B. Traven's *The Cotton Pickers* (1961) from German, and M. Selimovič's *Death and the Dervish* (1972) from Russian. In 2002 Kazys Grigas was awarded the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas of the fourth class for his achievements for the good of the Lithuanian nation.

Kazys Grigas's most outstanding achievements in his folkloristic work are in the field of paremiology: thanks to his own ceaseless efforts and under his guidance, over 200,000 proverbs and proverbial phrases were systematised, and the fundamental edition of *Lithuanian Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases* was published (Vol. 1 in 2000; Vol. 2 in 2008). The authors were given a Lithuanian Scholar's award for the first volume of the book. It is worth mentioning that while working on the *Lithuanian Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases*, K. Grigas simultaneously closely studied the scientific publication entitled *Eesti vanasõnad* (Estonian Proverbs) (1980–1988) written by Estonian paremiologists led by Arvo Krikmann, as he thought it to be one of the most exemplary national proverbs digests.

K. Grigas was the author of many significant works in comparative paremiology, including books like *Lithuanian Proverbs: Comparative Study* (1976) and *Parallels of Proverbs. Lithuanian Proverbs with Latvian, Belarussian, Russian, Polish, German, English, Latin, French, Spanish Equivalent*s (1987), as well as numerous studies and problem articles in Lithuanian. Many of his writings also appeared in international



From the left: Professor Leonardas Sauka, Minister of Education Algirdas Monkevičius and professor Kazys Grigas at the Department of Folk Narrative, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, on August 5, 2001. Photo from the Archives of the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore.

scholarly publications, such as *Proverbium* (1970–1974, 1998, 2002), *Nordic Yearbook of Folklore* (1995), and *Journal of the Baltic Institute of Folklore* (1996). He examined and published about other short forms of folklore as well, including riddles, onomatopoeias, tongue-twisters, jokes, etc. K. Grigas significantly contributed to Lithuanian folklore historiography, conducting research into the 19th century, especially the works authored by historian and folklorist Simonas Daukantas. K. Grigas was an active folklore collector, a devoted mentor for young folklorists and researchers, editor of various folklore publications, etc. His merits in Lithuanian folklore research and popularisation are truly magnificent.

K. Grigas's theoretical paremiological works and source publications have not only built a base for the research within the field of Lithuanian proverbs and adages, but have also significantly contributed to the international paremiological research in the late 20th century. It is no surprise that K. Grigas and other famous paremiologists from around the world, such as Arvo Krikmann, Wolfgang Mieder, Gyula Paczolay, Elza Kokare, and Alma Ancelāne, shared not just professional interests but also friendship.

After professor Kazys Grigas had passed in 2002, Wolfgang Mieder wrote: “There is no doubt that Kazys Grigas will be remembered in Lithuania by students, colleagues, friends and family members. But he was also known far beyond Lithuania to folklorists and paremiologists throughout the world. His work has influenced scholars in Northern Europe, in the United States and elsewhere. It is with admiration and appreciation that I see his books stand on my shelves, right next to the volumes of his peers Matti Kuusi, Grigorii Lvovich Permiakov, Archer Tylor, Demetrios Loukatos, Barlett Jere Whiting, Lutz Rörich, Gyula Paczolay, Alan Dundes, and many more. Kazys Grigas was one of the true giants in the field of proverbs, and I am thankful that I have been able to stand on his shoulders to do my work for international paremiology” (Mieder 2003: 439).

Leonardas Sauka, Dalia Zaikauskienė
Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

References

Mieder, Wolfgang 2003. Kazys Grigas (1924–2002). In: *Proverbium*, Vol. 20, pp. 439–447.

Some of the most important works and articles by K. Grigas

Lietuvių patarlės: Lyginamasis tyrimas. [Lithuanian Proverbs: Comparative Study.] Vilnius, 1976, 324 pp.

Lietuvių paralelės: Lietuvių patarlės su latvių, baltarusių, rusų lenkų, vokiečių, anglų, lotynų, prancūzų, ispanų atitikmenimis. [Parallels of Proverbs. Lithuanian Proverbs with Latvian, Belorussian, Russian, Polish, German, English, Latin, French, Spanish Equivalents.] Vilnius, 1987, 663 pp.

Litauische Entsprechungen zu germanisch-romanischen Sprichwörtern bei Düringsfeld. In: *Proverbium*, 1970, Vol. 15, pp. 43(459)–45(461); 1971, Vol. 17, pp. 631–641; 1972, Vol. 18, pp. 687–691; 1972, Vol. 20, pp. 760–766. Helsinki.

Der Syntaktische Aspekt bei der Vergleichenden Forschung der Sprichwörter. In: *Proverbium*, Vol. 23, pp. 914–919. Helsinki, 1974.

Fragen der Metodik bei vergleichenden Vorschung von baltischen und slavischen Sprichwörtern. VIII Medunarodni slavistički kongres, Zagreb 3.–9. IX. 1978. Ljubljana: Kniga referata, sažeci I: A–K. Zagreb, 1978, 286 pp.

Tipo problema lyginamajame patarlių tyrinėjime. [The Problem of Type in the Comparative Study of Proverbs.] In: *Lietuvos TSR Mokslų akademijos darbai*, Series A, 1986, Vol. 97, pp. 106–116.

The Motif of the Mote in Someone’s Eye and the Comparative Study of a Proverb. In: *ARV: Nordic Yearbook of Folklore*. Uppsala, 1995, Vol. 51, pp. 155–159.

Problems of the Type in the Comparative Study of Proverbs. In: *Journal of the Baltic Institute of Folklore*, 1996, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 106–127.

- Patarlė “Negirk dienos be vakaro” Europos kultūrų istorijoje. [Proverb “Don’t praise the day until evening comes” in European Cultural History.] In: *Tautosakos darbai*, Vol. VI-VII (XIII–XIV), 1997, pp. 376–383.
- Tarptautinė patarlė “Dievas davė dantis, dievas duos ir duonos”. [International Proverb “God gave you teeth, God will give you bread too”.] In: *Tautosakos darbai*, Vol. VI-VII (XIII–XIV), 1997, pp. 141–148.
- Das Sprichwort “Man soll den Tag nich vor dem Abend loben” in der Geschichte der europäischen Kulturen. In: *Proverbium*, Vol.15, pp. 105–136. Vermont, 1998.
- Šiuolaikinė paremiologija. Problemos ir perspektyvos. [Die Moderne Parömiologie. Die Probleme und Perspektiven.] In: *Tautosakos darbai*, Vol. VIII (XV), 1998, pp. 128–136.
- Einige Probleme der moderne Parömiographie und Parömiologie. In: *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, 2000, Vol. 45, Nos. 3–4, pp. 365–369.
- Lietuvių patarlės ir priežodžiai, t. 1 (A–D), parengė Kazys Grigas, Rasa Kašėtienė, Lilija Kudirkienė, Gediminas Radvilas, Dalia Zaikauskienė. [Lithuanian Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings, Vol. 1 (A–D), Kazys Grigas (editor in chief), Rasa Kašėtienė, Lilija Kudirkienė, Gediminas Radvilas, Dalia Zaikauskienė.] Vilnius, 2000.
- Kai kurios patarlių prasmių mįslės. [Some Semantic Enigmas of Proverb.] In: *Tautosakos darbai*, Vol. XV (XXII), 2001, pp.12–135.
- Vienos patarlės istorinės raidos pėdsakais. [Tracing Historical Changes of One Proverb.] In: *Tautosakos darbai*, Vol. XVIII (XXV), 2003, pp. 88–91.
- Lietuvių patarlės ir priežodžiai, t. 2 (E–J), parengė Giedrė Buftenė, Kazys Grigas, Rasa Kašėtienė, Lilija Kudirkienė, Dalia Zaikauskienė. [Lithuanian Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings, Vol. 2 (E–J)], Vilnius, 2008.

SEMINAR ESTONIAN DIGITAL HUMANITIES ANNO 2013: IT-APPLICATIONS IN HUMANITIES

On October 25, 2013, the first seminar of digital humanities in Estonia took place at the Estonian Literary Museum. It stemmed from the idea that although the disciplinary developments in Estonian humanities were intertwined with the use of digital resources and research methods, no attempt had been made to bring together the humanities scholars who work with digital technologies. Even the term ‘digital humanities’, although widely used in North America and Western Europe, had not been used in Estonian. The number of participants and the extent of eager discussions throughout the day showed the need for experience exchange. The one-day seminar was surprisingly popular: it was filled with 20 papers and, additionally, two poster presentations. The framework was interdisciplinary; in this review, I will give a short overview of the main topics with somewhat longer notes on folkloristic presentations.

Linguists have a long tradition of collaboration with computer scientists. The four papers by linguists (Pille Eslon, Grethe Juhkason, Kadri Muischnek, Kadri Vider)