

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE 10TH COLLOQUIUM ON PROVERBS

On November 6–13, 2016, the 10th Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs (ICP16) was celebrated as the colloquium jubilee in Tavira, Portugal. Ten years ago nobody would have guessed that this could be possible. However, the colloquium has proved the need for this kind of common conference that brings together paremiologists, paremiographers, and other people.

This 10th colloquium took place under the heading “In honorem Arvo Krikmann”. We are advantaged to have had him with us in these colloquiums. His papers were always worth listening and many of his articles published in the proceedings during these past ten years were published for the first time in English. He also introduced some issues that had not yet been known to other paremiologists before. So it was self-evident for the participants of the colloquium and members of the association behind it that it was time to honour him and his role in the colloquiums during the first ten years. Nobody could have guessed it was also the last possibility to do so, as Arvo Krikmann passed away on February 27, 2017.

During this decade not only the colloquium has changed and established its position among conferences. Something has also happened to the participants. Today many of the participants who come to Tavira year after year have become friends. I prefer to call them friends instead of family as a Finnish proverb says *Ystävät voi valita, sukulaisiaan ei* (‘One can choose one’s friends but not relatives’). We have learnt to follow the northern European concept of time during the conference and we have learnt to eat often, much, and late in the evenings in the southern European way. We have also learnt to hold discussions with each other; most often the subjects are related to proverbs and paremiology. It is not an exaggeration to talk about “our Tavira community memories” as Outi Lauhakangas and Rui J.B. Soares write in the introduction to the booklet of abstracts. We have even learnt to make lists in alphabetical order using first names! However, the most important impact on the lives of the participants is the professional one: for each of us the papers presented at the colloquiums have given new perspectives to proverbs, possibilities to exchange ideas and ask questions, possibilities to evolve into a more widely recognised paremiologist by sharing the results of the research we have carried out.

Wolfgang Mieder from the University of Vermont (USA) started the scientific programme with proverbs from Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*, a subject that every now and then is present at colloquiums. Next morning the first speaker was Mieder’s former student Elene Carter from the Institute of International Relations (Russia). She gave a paper discussing the use of English proverbs in foreign-language pedagogical practices. Databases were the subject in José Enrique Gargallo Gil’s (Spain) presentation. This year many of the first-in-the-morning presentations given by invited lecturers focused on literature, pedagogy, and databases. Altogether we heard about 60 presentations with many various starting points.



Visiting the fortress of Sagres which, according to our guide, is situated in the centre of the world. Photograph by Erkki Herranen.

Every year the organisers of the colloquium offer the participants a possibility to go on excursions, exhibitions, and concerts. For this we are grateful to the municipality of Tavira and other municipalities in Algarve region, the people of Tavira, entrepreneurs in Tavira and Algarve, different institutions, etc. Without their support we would not be able to immerse ourselves in our papers and conversations on proverbs and research thereof.

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ORAL AND WRITTEN IN CULTURE: CONNECTIONS AND COLLISIONS

On December 12 and 13, 2016, the annual conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies (CEES) and the 60th Kreutzwald Days conference were held at the Estonian Literary Museum. The event focused on the relationship between oral and written information in the Baltic cultures both historically and in the present time, when literary culture seems to be completely dominant. This was the third CEES gen-