

### **3RD INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM ON PROVERBS IN TAVIRA**

The third international meeting of paremiologists, “Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs”, was organised in Tavira in the Algarve region in southern Portugal, from November 8 to 15, 2009. The aim of such a unique scientific event, organised by the International Association of Paremiology, AIP-IAP, was to convene the proverb researchers from different places of the world. The fact that the number of participants has been increasing on a yearly basis (2007 – 57, 2008 – 76, 2009 – 94) evidences the significance of the event (see <http://www.colloquium-proverbs.org/index.php?lang=en>).

The AIP-IAP was initiated by Rui Soares and Outi Lauhakangas. Mr. R. Soares, being a local person and the initiator of Tavira conventions, has completed a substantial and resultant work. The keynote speakers at annual conferences are the top researchers in the field. The number of participant countries (25) has expanded during the three years – most of the researchers come from Portugal, Spain, Finland, Nigeria, Germany, Brazil, Hungary, Japan, Libya, Romania, Israel and Poland. Representatives of Estonia were this time Arvo Krikmann and the undersigned. Spanish and Portuguese presentations are intrinsically prevalent during the colloquium, as the working languages are English and Portuguese, thus giving the local researchers an opportunity to present their outcomes in an international setting and become more aware of what is done elsewhere.

This year, the keynote speakers were Galit Hasan-Rokem from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; František Čermak from the Institute of the Czech National Corpus, Charles University in Prague; Hisashi Matsumura from Otsuma University, Japan; Bhuvaneswar Chilukuri from University of Sebha, India and Stanisław Prędoła from the University of Wrocław, Poland. The main subject matters of the conference were diverse, with special focus on the sources (e.g. juxtaposition of proverbs in two languages), the use of proverbs in fiction and problems related to the translation of proverbs as many of the presenters were foreign philologists and come across translation issues in their everyday work. Likewise, there are diverse ways for researching proverbs – from cognitive, lexical-semantic, pragmatic, gender-related, pedagogical and other aspects. Particular attention was paid to corpus and database research of proverbs and proverbial phrases. Discussions were instilled by the digitalisation of proverbs, headed by Outi Lauhakangas and Pavel Kats. Hanno Biber provided an overview of the AAC project, i.e. the Austrian academic corpus, Pavel Kats (Israel) talked about the pilot project of Wikiproverbs as an online-encyclopaedia, Julia Sevilla Muñoz focused on English proverbs in a multilingual paremiological database, Khadija Attaher Ali introduced the corpus of Arab proverbs, Peter Gryzbek dealt with the presentation of proverbs in a database, proceeding from the aspect of legibility. The use of proverbs was observed in different contextual surroundings, for example, in banking advertisements, bearing in mind the current economic crisis (Sabine Fiedler, Marinela Soares), as significant phenomena or symbols in different cultures, e.g., in Japan (Yumi Matsumura), and in female attire of an African tribe (Maria Joao Coutinho).

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.

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## **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