

of a MediaWiki-based Eastern European jokelore database that contains jokes of three nations. MediaWiki combines the encyclopaedia format with the opportunities for collaboration, being a good tool for international projects.

The seminar ended with a discussion in which most of the participants expressed their hopes for a further collaboration and a common board for discussion. Most of the digital humanities projects in Estonia have been connected with the digitalisation of materials and creation of infrastructure – this is what most of the papers represented. But already now digital material could be used for answering different kinds of research questions and these were present in the papers as well. There are also projects that use open data and crowdsourcing, and in this vein applications could be created on the basis of very many digital collections. Digital humanities will therefore help to bring the humanities – among others, the usage of folklore materials and research conducted by folklorists – closer to the general public.

Kaisa Kulasalu

PAREMIOLOGISTS AT THE 7TH INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM ON PROVERBS IN TAVIRA, PORTUGAL

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs is an annual conference organised by the Associação Internacional de Paremiologia¹ (International Association of Paremiology – AIP–IAP). The conference is an important international event in the field of paremiology both for academics and people interested in proverbs. The home town of the colloquium as well as for the association is Tavira, a small town in southern Portugal. In 2013, the 7th colloquium took place from November 3rd to 10th. Once again Tavira welcomed the conference with various paremiological presentations. The conference does not have any special theme for each year. Yet, every year there is a person to be honoured at the conference; in 2013 it was Finnish paremiologist Outi Lauhakangas.

The programme consisted of plenary sessions, papers, book exhibitions, presentations of some projects and poster presentations. As is usual, the participants come from various academic and non-academic backgrounds, and their papers feature a wide range of perspectives. The motivation of papers might be based on research, practical activities focusing on proverbs, or purely interest in proverbs. The year 2013 was not an exception. The key themes at colloquiums have been and are the teaching of proverbs, educational functions of proverb usage, collections, dictionaries and databases of proverbs, and material from the media, including also novel sources like the Internet. The latter has been of special interest for Estonian and Finnish researchers.

The main speaker at the opening session was the regional director of the Culture of Algarve, Dália Paulo, who spoke about intangible heritage and its importance. The support of the cultural and regional office is important for the work of the association in Portugal. Tavira has named itself “the world capital of proverbs”.



Participants of the colloquium on an excursion. Photo by Liisa Granbom-Herranen 2013.

The invited speakers at the 7th colloquium in the order of appearance were the following: Ana Mineiro (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal) talked about the Portuguese nautical language, Ana Margarida Ramos (University of Aveiro, Portugal) presented publications of proverbs aimed at children, and changes in them from the time of Franco to nowadays, and Sandra Cazelote (Clinica de Fonoaudiologia, Brazil) focused on aphasic people and their ability to understand proverbs. Karel Kucera (Charles University, Czech Republic) talked about Jan Ámos Komenský, better known as John Amos Comenius, and his educational targets containing proverbs. Idalete Dias (University of Minho, Portugal) concentrated on linguistic handling of proverbs as metaphors, metonymy and synecdoche. Luís M Araújo (University of Lisboa, Portugal) presented his ideas of proverbs used in ancient Egypt. Valery Mokienko (St. Petersburg University, Russian

Federation) talked about the problems of constructing a paremiological thesaurus. These papers give quite a substantial overview of the topics handled at this colloquium, both from folkloristic and linguistic points of view: proverbs, teaching of proverbs, use of proverbs for some special tasks, as well as collecting and translating of proverbs. As some of the invited speakers were young researchers, the colloquium was also a possibility to have a glance at the future doctoral theses as well as to learn something about the contemporary interests of researchers. The programme of the colloquium can be found online at <http://www.colloquium-proverbs.org/icp/en/program>.

The variation of languages in which proverbs were tackled by researchers also tells something about the interest. Even if the official languages used in presentations are Portuguese and English, this year proverbs were heard in Afrikaans, Arabic, Czech, Chinese, Dari, English, Finnish, Italian, Latin, Russian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish as well as Mozambican Tsonga and Macua-Lomwe languages. Of course in the presentations we heard proverbs mainly as translated into English or Portuguese. During the breaks and free time, conversations in the groups of participants were held in various languages. Once again it was nice to notice that in a positive atmosphere the most important thing is to understand and to be understood. It does not matter what language you use and how good your knowledge of grammar is. Both papers, plenary sessions and breaks are fruitful components of a colloquium, and all of them are needed.

On the last day of the conference we received sad news. Bo Almqvist, a Swedish folklorist who had studied Irish folklore, had left the land of the living. He had participated in some former Tavira colloquiums and is remembered, in addition to his praiseworthy academic work, as a gentleman with a good sense of humour. During the excursion following the colloquium we visited an area with graves from ancient times; there, in the beautiful surroundings, Fionnuala Carson Williams gave a small speech to commemorate him.

The Portuguese organisers, especially Rui and Marinela Soares, as well as the active Tavira citizens had once again done everything for the participants to feel comfortable. The participants were treated to small surprises and given an opportunity to become acquainted with Portuguese history and folklore. This social intercourse is quite important both as a networking and entertaining function. All the cultural events and surprises were organised in concert with the organisers of the colloquium, the town officials, the regional cultural office of Algarve, and the sponsors and residents of Tavira. The next colloquium – the 8th Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs – will take place in Tavira on November 2–9, 2014.

Liisa Granbom-Herranen

Note

¹ About the International Association of Paremiology see <http://www.aip-iap.org/>.