

studies and European content fieldworks. The need for mailing list, electronic directory of research centers and researchers in ethnobiology, library collections and joint grant proposals, as well as next workshop stressing comparative methods was outlined and tasks assigned to ones responsible for each step. As a step for popularizing ethnobiology as science, several concrete books were proposed: one on children toys, one about plant mythology, barely covered so far, a book on the ethnobotany in Eastern-Europe and the encyclopedia on European folk medicine.

The participants of the workshop made a short visit to Padise monastery, contrasting with the next day fieldtrip to the Open Air Museum (guided by the researchers Anneli Banner and Maret Tamjärv). Although the weather was quite cold, the participants had a chance to taste some late berries in the forest on their way to Padise monastery and to make a short stay at the wooden meadow that happened to be on our way from Padise to Tallinn.

Abstracts and presentations of the lectures held at the meeting, as well as photos of the workshop are available online: <http://www.folklore.ee/~renata/workshop/default.htm>. The workshop was supported by the Cultural Endowment of Estonia. Great thanks to Matt Herman for the design of the web page and to Andres Kuperjanov for taking care of the presentation equipment.

The second ISE regional Eastern-European workshop was held in Királyrét, Hungary, October 14–17, 2011. The overview of the workshop by Anna Varga and Zsolt Molnár is available at <http://ethnobiology.net/conference-and-workshop-reports-2/#EEE2>.

Renata Sõukand

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PAREMIOLOGY IN PARIS**

The international conference of paremiology “All Roads lead to Paris Diderot” / Colloque Parémiologie “Tous les chemins mènent à Paris Diderot” took place this summer from the 29th of June until the 2nd of July 2011 in Paris in Diderot University. The event was organised by the language faculty (UFR d’Études Interculturelles de Langues Appliquées) of Diderot University represented by Jean-Philippe Zouogbo in cooperation with the phraseology researchers’ association Europhras.

It can be stated that this was the first grandiose and extensive conference of phraseology researchers. There were 120 participants from all Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. (More details can be found on the homepage <http://www.eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr/recherche/clillac/paremiologie2011/index.>)



*The organisers of the paremiology conference in Diderot University: Jean-Philippe Zouogbo, Natalie Kübler, Jean-Michel Benayoun, Ann-Marie Kilgallon.  
Photo by Joanna Szerszunowicz 2011.*

The main purpose of this conference was to bring together the more experienced and already recognised researchers and the young postgraduates or scientists newly obtained the degree.

In addition to 87 speeches, plenary speeches were held. Five basic speakers were already recognised scientists: Chilukuri Bhuvaneswar “Proverbial Linguistics: Theory and Practice in the Karmik Linguistic Paradigm” (University of Sebha, Libya), Wolfgang Mieder ““Think Outside The Box”. Origin, Nature, and Meaning of Modern Anglo-American Proverbs” (University of Vermont, United States of America), and Georges Kleiber “Pour une classification sémantique des proverbes”, Jean-René Ladmiral “Sagesse proverbiale et vérités parémiologiques”, Jean-Claude Anscombre “Pour une classification linguistique des formes sentencieuses” (France). The most important aspects in the research of proverbs from the past to the present-day were discussed. Herewith I would emphasise W. Mieder who focused on the proverb parodies but stressed that even such texts are a part of tradition and thus, the proverbs are nothing remaining in the past but are also in active use nowadays.

Most of the speeches held in English, German, French and Spanish were devoted to the nature of proverbs as folkloric expressions and their use primarily in a comparative manner, i.e. based on the folkloric matter in two or more languages (e.g. English-Russian, German-Russian, English-Spanish, French-Romanian, German-Arab, etc.). Among other things, the research material originates greatly from the literature and press, i.e. written language. A review of the development of the large-scale cooperation

project *SprichWort* was given. This project concentrates the proverbial matter in five historically related languages – German, Slovenian, Slovakian, Czech and Hungarian – into one databank as a corpus and its main purpose is the use of such databank in language studies.

One of the dominant topics was the theoretic framework of proverb research, i.e. research methods that would be optimal to treat the proverbial expressions in a modified cultural environment. It also became evident that the term *proverb* may be treated considerably wider than commonly accustomed. For example, no big difference is made between the proverbs and proverbial bywords and rather the use situations of such sayings are focused on. Functions of proverbs have always been an interesting research topic and nowadays the topic is researched on the basis of the examples from the internet. According to the researchers of databases, the proverbial nature of the texts is the most problematic case. The problem is whether the text represents a variant of a well-known proverb or language game or casual construction. This provided a basis for a critical opinion that the press texts are not an enough reliable material for the proverb researches on the basis of language corpuses because such texts represent a creative approach of one person, i.e. journalist, and no tradition. The multilingual databases raised a question about matches. The matches there tend to be the texts that are actually no matches but rather variants of proverbial sayings.

As the researchers represent very different specialities such as linguistics, folkloristics, literature science, history, psychology and pedagogy, such large-scale events allow to bring forth the different approaches and to find out the issues under discussion and to find solutions to them.

The conference in Paris confirmed again that the proverb research is popular, and not merely for the specialists of one area but a lot wider. Although the proverbs may be taken for obsolete wisdoms because of the short wording, they contain something that keeps them in use. Thus, there may again be a reason to gather to discuss the proverb as a research object. The next paremiology conference will take place in two years also in Diderot University.

Anneli Baran

## **INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR HUMOUR RESEARCH (ISS11) AT THE ESTONIAN LITERARY MUSEUM, ESTONIA**

Back in 2001, Professor Willibald Ruch organised the first humour summer school at the Queen's University of Belfast, and since then every year another country has been given the honour of hosting the long-standing and increasingly popular academic event. The *11th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications* (ISS11) was held in Tartu, Estonia, from August 15–20, 2011 (see: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/11/> for details). It was achieved by a joint effort of the Estonian Literary Museum and the University of Zurich.