

## FROM THE EDITOR

*The aim of education and wisdom is for a man to see  
his own path of life before him, to cautiously walk on  
remembering the past, learn the presence and foresee the future.*

Jan Amos Komeński

We hereby introduce the latest edition of the Polonia Journal. The semiannual with long tradition, aims to present the life and activity of one of the XVII century biggest thinkers Jan Amos Komensky, in Latin Iohannes Amos Comenius, in German Johann Amos Comenius, in Czech Ján Amos Komenský, was born on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1592 in the South-Eastern Moravy and died in Amsterdam on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1670. In 2020 we celebrated 350 anniversary of the death of this distinguished man therefore it is crucial to demonstrate the importance and contribution of his thought for not only of his contemporary society but for the present. Jan Amos Komensky was the last bishop of the Unity of the Czech Brethren and the greatest Czech thinker, philosopher and writer. Hereby volume of the Polonia Journal is devoted to his life and work. Very few academics left such indelible mark in the Czech history. Although he considered Moravy his motherland, he studied and gained research experience in other parts of Europe. He travelled through Herborn, Amsterdam and Heidelberg, to finally return to his motherland.

In 1628 he went for exile to Leszno. In this time Jan Amos Komensky wrote his best works on pedagogy, which resulted in many

invitations for lectures abroad. After the Swedish army invaded Poland, Komensky took the lead of the Unity of Czech Brethren in Leszno, and supported the Swedes by writing an adulation to king Charles Gustav of Sweden, which caused the burning of the town by Polish army in 1656. Komensky lost his library and manuscripts in the fire, being devastated he fled to Amsterdam, where he spent the last days of his life. He died in 1670 and was buried in Calvin church in Naarden

Literary heritage of Jan Amos Komensky, who was forced to emigrate being a non-catholic since 1628, is comprehensive and varied. He wrote encyclopaedic works and his ideal was pansophy, embracing his contemporary knowledge. But he also wrote theological and theosophical works, as well as those of hymnology and hymnography, omniscient deliberations (educational but beyond the frames of didactics). He was the author of the most famous Czech work written in XVII century „The Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart”.

During his life Komensky gained the reputation mainly as a pedagogue, especially as a theoretician and the author of many books from this area. He was the founder of original system of pedagogy, deeply rooted in the philosophy. Komensky was interested in the theory of upbringing, didactics, he created a specific methodology of teaching foreign languages for which he wrote the handbooks himself. During his lifetime two handbooks were especially popular „*Janua linguarum resta*” (Open Doors for Languages) and “*Orbis sensulium pictis*” (World in Pictures). Komensky to this day is considered a founder of modern pedagogy which gained him the name „The Teacher of Nations”

Editors hope that the articles published in this volume will be of interest for the Readers, enabling them to dwell upon the life and works of this exceptional thinker and philosopher.

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