

## INTRODUCTION

Here is the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletin of the series of EDUCATION STUDIES. The history of its creation, the related difficulties, Comeniological cooperation at the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, and the emerging idea of ENCYCLOPAEDIC LEXICON of JOHN AMOS COMENIUS were all described in the 1<sup>st</sup> volume. The present volume is entitled "JOHN AMOS COMENIUS - HIS EDUCATION SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY". The authors of the papers, teachers at the local university and at other universities, were suggested topics based on Comenius' writings:

*John Amos Comenius' pansophia and axiology; Man's education as an 'art above all arts'; Comenius' concept of school; Comenius as a European teacher; John Amos Comenius as a forerunner of philosophical education science; The presence of John Amos Comenius in electronic repositories; Demonstrative method in education; Human dignity in John Amos Comenius' views; Children's and young people's free time in John Amos Comenius' views; John Amos Comenius' school textbooks; Communication in education according to John Amos Comenius; Special-care children in John Amos Comenius' views; Motivating children, young people and adults to learn ('arousing the eagerness to learn'); Symbolism in John Amos Comenius' writings; John Amos Comenius' 'world in pictures'; The value of books in human life according to John Amos Comenius; The role of books in educating people according to John Amos Comenius; Natural and exact sciences in John Amos Comenius' concept; Mathematical sciences in John Amos Comenius' concept; Educating people in natural and exact sciences according to John Amos Comenius' concept; Teaching foreign languages in John Amos Comenius' concept; Man's safety as a universal value in John Amos Comenius' views; Safety in John Amos Comenius' interdisciplinary depiction; Ways to the knowledge of man; Man's way to self-knowledge; Man's ways of getting to know the world according to John Amos Comenius; Comenius' man as a 'free user of the world'; Comenius as an educationist and philosopher; Comenius' principles and possibilities of building the knowledge of man and the surrounding world; Education as a process of emancipating and building humanity; The influence of Comenius' faith on his education science and philosophy; Comenius' contacts with scientists in Europe; Studies of John Amos Comenius in Germany; John Amos Comenius as a resident of Leszno; Comenius and Kvačala.*

However, there were some difficulties, mainly connected with the authors' lack of time, poor access to the expert literature, language barriers related to Comenius' writings and works about Comenius in Czech and Slovak, as well as problems arising from the analysis and interpretation of Comenius' writings, and finally lack of faith in the possibility of overcoming those difficulties. As a result, only some of the suggested topics were eventually developed and papers published in the present volume. However, the purpose of the edi-

tors was to publish the series yearly. The enterprise is then supposed to be permanent. In fact, the authors are still working on the topics hoping to have their papers published in the following volume, especially the authors of philosophical texts.

Eventually, the volume contains the following papers: *John Amos Comenius as a representative of the modern philosophy of education* by Sławomir Sztobryn; *Comenius' concept of school* by Heliodor Muszyński; *Human dignity in John Amos Comenius' views* by Danuta Szymonik; *Artistic education of the disabled in John Amos Comenius' views* by Leszek Ploch; *Children's and young people's free time in John Amos Comenius' views* by Mariola Jarczyk; *Man's way of getting to know himself according to John Amos Comenius* by Barbara Sitarska; *Man's ways of getting to know the world according to John Amos Comenius* by Waclaw Szymonik; *John Amos Comenius' concept of life-long education perceived by the student* by Karolina Dymek; *Symbols and symbolism in John Amos Comenius' writings* by Andrzej Borkowski; *The value of books in human life according to John Amos Comenius and Mathematical sciences in John Amos Comenius' concept* by Barbara Grzegorzczak; *Natural and exact sciences in John Amos Comenius' concept* by Grażyna Dzida; *John Amos Comenius' foreign contacts (outline)* by Kamila Szymańska; *Studies of John Amos Comenius in Germany* by Adriana Pogoda-Kołodziejak; *John Amos Comenius' concept of life-long education perceived by the student* by Karolina Dymek; *John Amos Comenius as a resident of Leszno* by Adam Podsiadły. For the first time, a text by a first-cycle student has been published. She got interested in John Amos Comenius after a lecture on the bases of teaching methodology.

The volume starts with the paper *John Amos Comenius and the beginnings of comeniology* by Barbara Sitarska, which appeared in the 1<sup>st</sup> volume in Polish only. Volume 2 contains the English and German versions as well. The article is a specific historical 'walk' around John Amos Comenius' life, full of difficult choices and writing. The author also tries to commemorate the cooperation with comeniologists from Poland (mainly from Leszno, Łódź and Warsaw) as well as from other European countries (Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, and Ukraine). The paper quotes fragments of their speeches given at the International Seminars of John Amos Comenius at the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, which were published in the four subsequent volumes of *Studia Comeniana Sedlcensia* edited by Barbara Sitarska and Roman Mnich. The article also presents some quotations coming from the speeches and papers by the academics of the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, mainly of the Department of Education Studies and the Department of Polish Studies and Applied Linguistics. In this way, the author emphasizes the importance of the then university authorities' involvement in the organization of and participation in the Comeniological Seminars, especially Prof. Jerzy Kunikowski's, PhD, the dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Romuald Kalinowski's, PhD, the head of Education Studies Department, and Prof. Kazimierz Żegnałek, PhD, the director of the Institute of Teaching Methodology. These people's active part and support motivated us to

undertake further, still more ambitious tasks, which contributed to Poland - and Europe - wide promotion of the university.

The English and German versions of the paper are supposed to attract foreign comeniologists' interest of the publication and result in their active participation in the project.

Aware of how difficult it was to develop the comeniological topics, the editor of the 2<sup>st</sup> volume of Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletin of the series of EDUCATION STUDIES wishes to express her thanks to all the authors. The editor would also like to thank the dean of the Faculty of Humanities Prof. Stanisław Jaczyński, PhD, for supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume financially, and the reviewers: Prof. Sławomir Sztobryn, PhD, and Prof. Anna Kożuh, PhD, whose valuable remarks gave the finishing touches to the publication. Positive reviews of the volume made us certain of the purposefulness of the project and motivated us to start working on subsequent volumes. We hope that new authors both from Poland and from abroad will join the regular ones.

*Barbara Sitarska*