



INTRODUCTION

The present volume 5 of Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins, Pedagogy Series, is dedicated to all the readers who are interested in John Amos Comenius, his life, universal activity and writings. As a magazine, it has been indexed in the international data base INDEX COPERNICUS INTERNATIONAL. This year it has been identified as a magazine, which has been successfully evaluated here, and Volume 4 (2017) has been given ICV 75,37. It has appeared in the international magazine list ICI Journals Master List / ICI World of Journals. In October 2018 it took part in a competition held by the Ministry: **Support for scientific magazines and became its beneficiary.**

I wrote about my interests of John Amos Comenius and my scientific, research and organizational activity in the field of comeniology in volume 1 entitled *John Amos Comenius and his views of education*. I summarized the comeniological activity up to now in the text *Instead of Introduction*. Perception of John Amos Comenius by myself and by the authors of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins, Pedagogy series* in Vol. 4 entitled *Modern perceptions of John Amos Comenius* (2017). I presented the process of “gaining knowledge of Comenius, where emotional involvement and motivation determine all actions, as well as are a source of motivation for others”¹. In Volume 2 entitled *John Amos Comenius – his education science and philosophy*, in the text “*John Amos Comenius and the beginnings of comeniology*” (in Polish, English and German) I included a historical “walk” through

¹ B. Sitarska, *Zamiast „Wprowadzenia” . O recepcji własnej Jana Amosa Komeńskiego i autorów Siedleckich Zeszytów Komeniologicznych*, seria Pedagogika / *Instead of Introduction*. Perception of John Amos Comenius by myself and by the authors of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins, Pedagogy series*, in: Barbara Sitarska (ed.), *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins, Pedagogy series, Współczesne recepcje Jana Amosa Komeńskiego/ Contemporary perceptions of John Amos Comenius*, vol. 4, University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, Siedlce 2017, pp. 13-39 (Polish version) and pp. 41-53 (English version).

John Amos Comenius' life, full of difficult choices and creative work². In volume 3, entitled *John Amos Comenius – modern interpretations and reinterpretations of his writings*, in "Introduction" I emphasized the great variety of modern interpretations and reinterpretations of John Amos Comenius' writings, as well as the controversies and contradictions in his writings and around them. The contents and values of individual volumes are best reflected by the reviewers in their overall reviews. Here are some of their parts:

"Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins" are an example of the original and valuable idea of researching some more detailed issues discussed in Comenius' extremely rich writings and make them available to the modern reader in the form of broad (encyclopedic) entries, where the reader will not only find a historical picture of the 17th century science and culture, but also a reflection of the problems of modern education³.

The periodical is devoted to John Amos Comenius' output and his meaning in the European educational culture. (...) The international character of the publication makes it especially valuable. It contains papers by scholars representing different scientific centres in Poland, as well as papers by foreign scholars (...). The original and universal character of Comenius' ideas is a strong motivation for reforming the modern education system and for a critical look at the existing achievements of education sciences. (...) The interest in Comenius' output is pan-European, and the interpretations of his thoughts by individual nations have both individual and common universal features⁴.

The Moravian's controversial approach still arouses vigorous reactions and various evaluations. The unity of thought, word and act, already postulated in the antique times, is also an integral element of Comenius' writings, however, the expression of the idea in the scholar's life remains arguable. Reinterpretations of Comenius' writings (in Volume 3) contribute to the search for filiations that combine the modern education with the solu-

² B. Sitarska, *O Janie Amosie Komeńskim i początkach komeniologii*, in: B. Sitarska (ed.) *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins*, Pedagogy series, Jan Amos Komeński – jego pedagogika i filozofia / John Amos Comenius- his Education science and Philosophy/ Johann Amos Comenius - seinePädagogikundPhilosophie, vol. 2, University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, Siedlce 2015, pp. 23-90.

³ From the review of Volume 2 of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins*, Pedagogy series by Prof. S. Sztobryn.

⁴ From the review of Volume 4 of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins*, Pedagogy series by Prof. Sławomir Sztobryn.

tion he suggested. However, the point is not to simply apply the over 300-year-old solutions, but it is to look for the origins and conditions of our modern thinking, which referred to the whole European tradition either protagonistically or antagonistically. Comenius is doubtlessly one of the more important links of this modern-day tradition, but the disputes will continue which elements of this doctrine prepared the next generations' solutions and to which extent⁵.

The publication might (...) enter the reading list for students of faculties of education science, philosophy and humanities. It is also an interesting source of reflections addressed to academic teachers who educate and improve pedagogues at universities and other institutions of science and culture. The publication will also certainly arouse the interest of primary, secondary and special education school teachers, who will be able to learn how universal John Amos Comenius' views are and how many of his precious reflections concerning education accompany every ambitious teacher nowadays.

This publication (...) can successfully serve all the readers who are interested in enriching their knowledge of the history of education science and its strong connections with the modern times, and first of all of the humanistically-oriented figure of John Amos Comenius, his achievements and the universal character of his views. (...) A presentation of this precious and ambitious work (...) has been undertaken by the employees of the General Didactics Unit, the Early School Education Unit and the Pre-school Education Unit of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce⁶.

After the Polish and European perceptions of Comenius we studied in Volume 4, this time we wish to concentrate on "deciphering" the interpretations of this controversial figure and his rich output in the contemporary period. We are aware of their great variety. Our scientific interest is focused on the continuation of the great educationist's ideas in the particular stages of the contemporary period, but also on a critical interpretation of him and his writings. It is worth quoting J. Piaget's reflections of Comenius:

⁵ From the review of Volume 3 of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins* by Prof. Sławomir Sztobryn.

⁶ From the review of Volume 1 of *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins* by Prof. Anna Kożuh.

As far as Comenius' ideas are concerned, they are difficult to extract from the entirety developed by the author of "Great Didactics", which is full of ambiguities, and even contradictions. How can you explain, then, the fact that a theologian, a lover of metaphysics deals with education and creates an "art of teaching" with "pansophia" as its core. There are more examples of similar ambiguities, but it is not them that determine Comenius' unique scientific achievements?

The following volume (vol. 5) of **Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins, Pedagogy series** is devoted to critical interpretations of John Amos Comenius and his ideas/ concepts, and their continuation in the contemporary period, divided into three stages: the age of New Education – the turn of the 19th to the 20th century; the pedagogy between the two crises (1945-1989); the pedagogy of the turn of the 20th to the 21st century (from 1989 on). Hence the final title of the volume: *John Amos Comenius in the contemporary period – interpretations – continuations – critique*, which appeared after the analysis of the submitted texts by the editors and the Scientific Council. The volume consists of four major parts. **Part one** contains texts by Polish authors.

The submitted texts reflect the emphasized periods of the epoch. The meaning and presence of John Amos Comenius' pedagogical thought in the trends and directions of the New Education pedagogy has been analyzed by **Sławomir Sztobryn**. **Janina Florczykiewicz** has devoted her article to John Amos Comenius' pedagogical thought and the assumptions of the NEW EDUCATION. Floristic symbolism in John Amos Comenius' writings has been analyzed and interpreted by **Andrzej Borkowski**. **Ewa Jagiełło**, working on the *Program of wise pre-school children education*, has analyzed and interpreted the kindergarten's cooperation with the children's parents in the perception of modern kindergarten teachers (basing on her own research). **Barbara Sitarska** has attempted to interpret and continue John Amos Comenius' ideas in the third millennium.

Part **two** contains texts by foreign authors: **Manfred Richter** from Berlin (The German Comeniological Society) has presented the interpretations and continuation of John Amos Comenius' ideas after 1989 (in German). **Alexander Kobernyk**, **Inna Osadchenko** and **Larysa Tkachuk**

⁷ J. Piaget, *Dokąd zmierza edukacja*, Warsaw 1948, p. 439.

of Uman State Pedagogical University (Ukraine) have presented modern interpretations of J.A. Comenius' psychodidactic ideas (in English). **Jelena Maksimović, Jelena Osmanović, and Alexandra Milanović** of the University of Niš, Serbia, analyzed John Amos Comenius' contribution to the development of the didactic methodology (in Serbian and English). **Bernhard Josef Stalla** of the University of Munich, Germany, has presented John Amos Comenius' educational ideas in Europe today (in German). **Lubomír Hampl** (the Czech Republic) has interpreted John Amos Comenius' prophecy about the Czech nation coming true at present (in Czech).

For the first time, in the structure of the periodical **part three** has appeared, which presents the figures of contemporary European comeniologists and their contribution to the development of the national and European comeniology. **Manfred Richter** presents the figure of **dr Werner Korthaase** (Berlin), a late comeniologist, a co-founder and the first honorary chairman of the German Comeniological Society, and **Barbara Sitarska** presents a comeniological portrait of **Alojzy Konior, PhD** (Leszno)⁸ and his contribution to the development of Polish and European comeniology.

Part four, like in every volume, contains the authors' biographical notes. *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins*, *PEDAGOGY* series, a scientific magazine/ multi-author monograph were originally mainly meant for educationists, nevertheless they are also popular with specialists of many other related branches. In the following volumes we publish texts of a profiled subject matter, but of an interdisciplinary character.

Finally, I wish to thank the authors of the texts (both Polish and foreign), thanks to whom this volume exists (despite its late announcement). Among them there are authors of the previous volumes, but new foreign authors have appeared as well, which is a good prognosis for the future. I would also like to thank the authorities of the University, The Faculty of Humanities and the Institute of Education for all their support while the volume was being prepared. I also wish to thank my colleagues, who keep supporting my difficult project, first and foremost for their faith in the significance of what I am doing and for promoting *Siedlce Comeniological Research Bulletins*, *Pedagogy* series in Poland and Europe. I am also grateful to the main reviewers of the volume: Ass. Prof. Sławomir

⁸ The text about the comeniologist Alojzy Konior, PhD, from Leszno has not been completed due to his bad health and a visit to hospital.

Sztobryn, PhD and Ass. Prof. Anna Kožuh, PhD, as well as the foreign reviewers who are co-operating with the magazine, for their precious remarks, which have given the finishing touches to the publication.

Last but not least, I want to express my thanks to the Editorial Board of the magazine for their systematic and effective co-operation, especially to the editor of English Izolda Lisowska-Popoiyik, MA, and the technical editor Piotr Świtalski, PhD.

Editor-in-chief
Barbara Sitarska