

Oddělení pro studium a edici díla J. A. Komenského,
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si Vás dovoluje pozvat na přednášku

Comenius's Hungarian connections and Hungarian-related publications in England,

kterou prosloví

George Gömöri (London).

Přednáška se koná v pondělí **21. 3. 2011 od 14:30**
v **Ústavu dějin umění AV ČR, v.v.i., Husova 4, Praha 1,**
v **zasedacím sále (1. patro).**

George Gömöri (nar. 1934) je maďarský historik, básník a překladatel, žijící od roku 1956 ve Velké Británii. V letech 1969–2001 přednášel o polské a maďarské literatuře na University of Cambridge, kde byl členem Darwin College. Jeho publikace zahrnují řadu knih a studií v angličtině a maďarštině. Jeho nejnovější práce *Kultúránk követei a régi Európában* (Vyslanci naší kultury ve staré Evropě, Editio Princeps, 2009) se zabývá především anglo-uherskými vztahy a kulturní výměnou v 16. a 17. století. Za své zásluhy o překládání a propagaci polské literatury byl jmenován členem krakovské akademie Polska Akademia Umiejętności.

Přednáška bude proslovena v angličtině.

Těšíme se na Vaši návštěvu.

Anotace:

While it can be documented that Comenius took little interest in the Hungarian language and his first remarks on it (in *Novissima linguarum methodus*, 1648) are by and large negative, during the 1650s he became interested in the Hungarian political and educational system, trying to fit the latter in with his wider view for reforming language teaching in Europe.

It is well known that the time Comenius spent at the school of the Rákóczi family of Sárospatak was one of the most productive periods of his life. While there, he wrote *Schola ludus* as well as a number of tracts about the correct way of teaching Latin at various levels. So if his political hopes (based on the Drábík prophecies) concerning the Rákóczis were disappointed, (as Levente Nagy rightly points out in his *Acta Comeniana* essay of 2004), his didactic or scholarly projects were not. It may be significant that *Opera didactica omnia* was published in Amsterdam in 1657, the year of György Rákóczi II's botched invasion of Poland in quest of the Polish crown. It is as if Comenius wanted to compensate for the frustration of his own hopes attached to the success of the Rákóczis by a major publication of all his didactic works.

During the 17th century, no other foreigner coming to England was accorded the exceptional reception given to Comenius. As early as 1633 his name was known and

respected among the intellectual elite. (As for the average Englishman's knowledge of foreigners, I shall recount a Hollar anecdote). Interest in Comenius continued during the Commonwealth thanks to the Hartlib circle who promoted his work and also throughout the Restoration as the booksellers promoted the great Moravian's educational publications. Two books published in England after 1657, *Schola ludus* and *Ars oratoria*, both written whilst at Sárospatak, are peppered with Hungarian names and dedications which appear without editorial explanations or footnotes. How well informed was the reading public about these matters?

After discussing *Ars oratoria* in some detail I will be devoting the rest of my talk to Comenius Hungarian connections. These were numerous, from the Bihari-Csaholci translation of *Janua linguarum* to János Dali Tolnai who had been the one to invite Comenius to Sárospatak and who sent a letter about Comenius's activities there to Hartlib in 1651. I shall also be referring to a number of Hungarian students who visited Comenius in Amsterdam (from 1656 to his death) as it is likely that some of these students who continued on to England contributed to the popularization of Comenius's work there. Lastly I shall be talking about the London-based language teacher Hungarian Paul P. Jászberényi, who in the 1660s popularised Comenius's work in England, by emulating his teaching methods.