

The abstract of dissertation thesis Jirina Popelova and Modern Czech Comeniological Studies

This dissertation thesis describes the history of Czech and English comeniological studies i.e. the interdisciplinary studies of life, works and legacy of Jan Amos Komensky. The thesis starts with the real beginning of the studies in the 18th century and depicts the history until the Second World War. There is a specific focus on the second half of the 20th century in which the gradual transition to modern comeniological studies takes place - in previous researches Komensky was understood as a great teacher and also as an author of language textbooks. On the other hand, modern comeniological studies interpret him primarily as an original philosopher and theologian whose pedagogical thinking arises from philosophy. Czech-Slovak perspective is consistently applied, and different accents, approaches and also the value of Czech and Slovak comeniological studies are shown in an interesting way. The emphasis is also put on important personalities who were working in the field of comeniological studies e.g. Ján Kvačala, the founder of comeniological studies as a scientific discipline, Josef Hendrich, the most important Czech researcher of the first half of the 20th century, or also on selected personalities detectable in the following period such as J. Polisensky, R. Kalivoda, J. Patočka and others.

Another important theme of the dissertation thesis is the interpretation of the contribution of works which were dedicated to Komensky by prof. dr. Jirina Popelova (1904-1985). Firstly, the personality of Jirina Popelova is compared to other chosen personalities such as J.L.Fischer, L. Svoboda, Z.Nejedly), afterwards, the thesis follows what brought Popelova to her interest in Komensky. Through the analysis of Popelova's comeniological works, which are divided into two periods, the author concludes that J. Popelova could be labelled, beside J. Patočka, as a founder of modern Czech comeniological studies.