



NÁRODNÍ PEDAGOGICKÉ
MUZEUM A KNIHOVNA
J. A. KOMENSKÉHO

The Czech Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and
The National Pedagogical Museum and Library of J. A. Comenius
announce the X. Biennale of the Czech Society for 18th Century Studies
to be held in Prague on 6 to 7 November 2025

***The Introduction of Universal Schooling and School Reform
at the End of the 18th Century in the Habsburg Monarchy
and other Central European Regions***



Precisely 250 years ago, in 1775, Ignaz Felbiger's Book of Methods (*Methodenbuch*) was published in the Habsburg Monarchy, the first concrete step resulting from the Education Law issued in December 1774. On the basis of Felbiger's School Law, the organizational School Code for Hungary, *Ratio educationis totiusque rei literariae per regnum Hungariae et provincias eidem adnexas* (System of Education and Schooling in the Kingdom of Hungary and its provinces), was also adopted on 2 August 1777.

Concurrently, other major developments in the sphere of elementary education in Central Europe were initiated, which invite a comparative perspective.

In 1774, the *Philantropinum* educational institute was founded in Dessau, and in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, on the initiative of King Stanisław August Poniatowski, the Commission of National Education was established in 1773 – the first central institution for education in the world to take over the staff and buildings of the suppressed Jesuit schools. Two years later, the Society for Elementary Books was founded in Warsaw to produce textbooks.

The aim of the X. Biennial Conference of the Czech Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is to map and compare the new educational and teaching models that were then taking shape in various countries of the Habsburg Monarchy, but also in other, especially in the German- and Polish-speaking, regions of Central Europe.

Contributions may cover the following general areas:

- Establishment of the school network, organisational and financial conditions and obstacles.
- Organisation of state supervision of education.
- Scholarisation and alphabetisation of common subjects; limits of schooling.
- School as an instrument of disciplining and civic loyalty.
- The role of secondary schools, their relation to the traditional grammar schools (Latin/ordinary schools).
- School buildings and their equipment.
- School everyday life, teaching and teachers.
- The role of the teachers in society.
- Teaching methods and textbook production.
- Training of teachers and their material conditions.
- The development of Protestant and Jewish education.
- Home education and its control.
- The upbringing and education of children.
- Intellectuals and their role in educational reform
- University reforms after the suppression of the Jesuit order - Faculties of philosophy and theology.

Venue TBA

Selected papers will be published in the *Cornova* journal of the Czech Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Erih+, SCOPUS, DOAJ).

Those interested in participating should send an English abstract of their paper between ½ page and 1 page (appr. 400 to 700 words) to

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by 15 June 2025.

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