Call for papers

The three Comenius Museums in the Netherlands and the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Deutsche Comenius-Gesellschaft organize an international conference in Naarden focusing on

**Keys to the thoughts of Jan Amos Comenius in our time**

*Thursday, October 3rd to Sunday, October 6th, 2013.*

In many ways the world Comenius lived in is comparable to our world today. The conference participants are invited to focus on the description and evaluation of present-day keys to the life and work of Comenius: How can we explain the motives of Comenius to live his life as he did? In which ways can we compare his 17th century views to modern self concepts and world views? Which of his key ideas about family, school, church and state are applicable to contemporary issues in education, science, society, politics and philosophy?

Religious conflicts, new knowledge brought by research and scientific discoveries, national versus international focus in politics, economic crises with a growing gap between the wealthy and the poor: All these problems were familiar to Comenius. He devoted his life to his church, to his fellow countrymen and – being a refugee for most of his life - to his fatherland. He established a culture of contact with theologians, scientists and statesmen, and this on an international basis. He tried in his way to make the world a better place.

There will be keynote speeches, papers and workshops on Comenius and present-day theology, education, politics and science.

The Organising Committee: Drs. H. van der Linde and V. Hobrlant, Naarden, Prof Dr. M. A. Meyer, Hamburg, Dr. M. Pánková, Prague, Dr. P. Zemek, Uherský Brod, Prof Dr. H. Woldring and Prof Dr W. Goris, Amsterdam.

Interested parties are invited to submit proposals for papers and workshops in English or German on the conference theme as described above.
Deadline for the submission of proposals for papers and workshops:

**May 1st, 2013:**

Proposals may be sent in electronic form to one of the four recipients:

**Deutsche Comenius Gesellschaft**
Prof. Andreas Fritsch
Wundtstr. 46, 14057 Berlin
(e-mail: classics@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

**Muzeum Jana Amose Komenského**
Dr. Petr Zemek
Přemysla Otakara II., č. 37
688 12
Uherský Brod
Czech Republic
(e-mail: zemek@mjakub.cz)

**National Pedagogical Museum and Library of J. A. Comenius, Prague**
Dr. Markéta Pánková
Valdštejnská 20,
CZ-11000 Praha 1,
Czech Republic
(e-mail: pankova@npmk.cz)

**Comenius Museum,**
Drs. Hans van der Linde
Kloosterstraat 33
1411 RS Naarden
The Netherlands
(e-mail: hansvanderlinde@comeniusmuseum.nl)

The format of the proposals for papers and workshops should be as follows:

- Name, position, e-mail address and postal address of the presenter (or: the presenters)
- Title of the proposed paper or workshop
- Description of the programme (abstract) including information on methodology and references
- Maximum length: 2,500 signs.

The presentations of papers should not last longer than 20 minutes; there will be time for discussion of the papers after the presentations. Workshops will last one and a half hours. They combine a number of short statements with respect to a common question and give enough room for discussion.

The reviewing of the paper-proposals will be done by a workgroup whose members are Prof. Dr. H. Woldring, Prof Dr. W. Goris, Prof. Dr. M. A. Meyer, Dr M Pánková, Dr. P. Zemek and Drs. H. van der Linde. Reviewing criteria are: clarity and understandability, originality, significance for Comenius research and present-day research, international relevance, research methodology.

Information of the authors of the accepted and not accepted proposals for papers and workshops:

**June 1st, 2013.**

Conference registration will start April 1st, 2013. The conference flyer will be available by then.
The organizers hope to publish a conference documentation with a selection of the papers presented. Invitations to participate in the publication will be given after the conference.

There will be a number of invited keynotes (preliminary titles):

- **Dr. Nadezda Pelcova**, Pedagogical Faculty of the Carolus University Prague: The legacy of Comenius to the present day (philosophical interpretations)
- **Meinert A. Meyer**, Professor emeritus for School Pedagogy and Didactics, Hamburg University: Present-day school pedagogy and didactics and the educational programme of Jan Amos Comenius
- **Wouter Goris**, Professor for Ancient, Patristic and Mediaeval Philosophy, VU Amsterdam: Truth, beauty and goodness - the metaphysics of Comenius
- **Hans van der Linde**, Director of the Comenius-Museum, Naarden: The relationship between school, church and state in the works of Jan Amos Comenius
- **Uwe Voigt**, Professor for Analytic Philosophy and Theory of Science, Augsburg University: Cultura Universalis in Comenius - a Challenge for the 21st Century?
- **Dr. Vladimir Urbánek**, Research Fellow of the Institute of Philosophy, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague: J. A. Comenius and the Practice of Correspondence Networking: Between the Office of Address and the Collegium Lucis.

In addition to the keynote speeches, paper presentations and workshops a visit of the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica and the Huis met de Hoofden in Amsterdam will be arranged, with two further keynotes:

- **Leendert Groenendijk**, Professor emeritus of Education, Free University Amsterdam: Comenius pro and contra; perceptions in the Netherlands, 17th – 20th century
- **Esther Oosterwijk-Ritman**, Director of the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, Amsterdam: Comenius from the perspective of the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica.

On behalf of the organizing team:

Drs. Hans van der Linde  
Comenius Museum Naarden  

Prof. Dr. Meinert A. Meyer  
Hamburg University

This conference will be organised with the support of

[Images of logos for partner institutions]