

## University of Groningen

### Comenius Medal for PhDr. Markéta Pánková in Naarden

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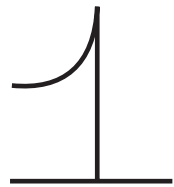
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pro dějiny výchovy a vzdělání

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for History of Education

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a knihovna J. A. Komenského

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# Věnování

## *Dedication*

Toto číslo je s úctou věnováno prof. Tomáši Kasperovi, šéfredaktovi časopisu *Historia scholastica*, k jeho životnímu jubileu.

*Redakce časopisu Historia scholastica*

This issue is respectfully dedicated to Prof. Tomáš Kasper, editor-in-chief of *Historia scholastica* Journal, on the occasion of his jubilee.

*The editors of Historia scholastica*



# Comenius Medal for PhDr. Markéta Pánková in Naarden

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The Mausoleum in Naarden, where Komenský is buried, is a symbolic place associated with John Amos Comenius (Jan Amos Komenský). The awarding of the Comenius Medal to a personality at this place is always a powerful moment.

On Comenius Day 2024, which took place on Saturday, April 6th in Naarden, Dr. Markéta Pánková, the former director of The National Pedagogical Museum and Library of J. A. Comenius in Prague, received the Comenius Medal.<sup>1</sup>

She was awarded this honor during the private morning program held at the Comenius Mausoleum, attended by various dignitaries from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the Netherlands. Among the attendees were the Czech and Slovak ambassadors to the Netherlands, as well as the Slovak Minister of Education Dr. Tomáš Drucker, Dr. Miroslav Vaškových, director of the Muzeum of Jan Amos Komenský in Uherský Brod was also present, together with his colleagues. The commemorate at the grave of Comenius were organized by the Chairman of the Stichting Comenius Museum Dr. John Exalto, the Secretary Mgr. Helena Verhoef, the Director of the Comenius Museum Dr. Eva M. Moraal and others. The event was also attended by guests such as the Mayor of Uherský Brod Dr. Miroslava Poláková and her counterpart Mayor Gooise

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1 The Information about this event was also published in the scientific magazine *Comenius. Journal of Euro-American civilization*, 1/2024 (New York). The author of the article is Prof. Tomáš Kasper. The report was also published on the website of the National Pedagogical Museum and Library of J. A. Comenius in Prague and on the website of the Comenius Museum in Naarden.

Meren H. M. W. ter Heegde and former Mayor J. P. Rewinkel, the Vice-Rector of Comenius University in Bratislava Eva Viglašová, the Director of the Czech Centre in Rotterdam Dr. Hana Schenková.

Celebrating Comenius' birthday in Naarden marks a deeply rooted and esteemed tradition. Its inception dates back to 1892 when annual commemorations were held outdoors at the Comenius monument. In 1935, the tradition moved to the Comenius Mausoleum, inaugurated with the active involvement of Czechoslovakia's first president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850–1937). Since then, the commemoration has taken place annually.

After a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the birth of Comenius and his legacy and a musical intermezzo, the Comenius Medal was presented to Markéta Pánková by Dr. John Exalto, president of the board of the *Stichting Comenius Museum*, and Dr. Eva Moraal, director of the *Comenius Museum and Mausoleum* in Naarden.

The Comenius Medal is established by the Stichting Comenius Museum as a token of appreciation for individuals who have made exceptional efforts in promoting the ideas of Jan Amos Comenius in all its aspects. As Markéta Pánková bids farewell as the director of the National Pedagogical Museum in Prague, it seems fitting for the board to honor her with the Comenius Medal. The Comenius Medal features a portrait of Comenius designed by Jaroslav Benda, which has been placed in the Mausoleum in 1937 on one of the seven glass panels depicting scenes from Comenius' life.

Markéta Pánková has been the director of the Museum in Prague since 2005.<sup>2</sup> She has made a significant contribution to the international visibility of Comenius and has sought cooperation with numerous partners. She has also published extensively in the field of Comenius studies. She served on numerous government committees and was appointed chair of the international conference committee *The Legacy of Jan Amos Comenius in the Culture of Education* in 2006, commemorating the 350th anniversary of Comenius' *Opera Didactica Omnia*. This

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2 1. 9. 2005 – 30. 9. 2023.



was a milestone in Comenius studies. From 2020 to 2022, Markéta Pánková coordinated the National Celebration of the 350th anniversary of Comenius' death and the 430th anniversary of his birth. This initiative involved numerous Czech museums, but also included the Dutch Comenius Museum.

Markéta Pánková has collaborated closely with our former director, Hans van der Linde (1957–2020), and also with his successors. Hans van der Linde also received the Medal of J. A. Comenius (in Mausoleum in Naarden from the director Markéta Pánková in 2013 together with the former chairman of the Stichting Comenius Museum Mr. Hans van Oostveen and the President Advisory Board Mrs. Maud Arkesteijn-van Willigen).

In the opinion of the board of the Stichting Comenius Museum, Markéta Pánková deserves the Comenius Medal for her long-standing contribution to the dissemination of Comenius' ideas, the excellent collaboration between our museums, and her friendship to the people in Naarden. The board and the director of the Stichting Comenius Museum look forward to continuing the warm relationships and strengthening the cooperation, both with Markéta personally and with the National Pedagogical Museum and Library of John Amos Comenius in Prague.

