

# Reflection of the work of J. A. Comenius in Croatia

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# The first texts on Comenius in Croatia

- The name of John Amos Comenius begins to appear in Croatian publications in the 1840s and 1850s
- *Danica ilirska* (1840) - published a Croatian translation of a text from the Czech journal *Květy* in which Comenius was mentioned as a “highly commendable educator and renovator of schools in a large part of Europe”, whose pedagogical and educational achievements are “indeed of historical importance for the whole world”

- In the *Neven* journal (1855) - one of the first biographies of Comenius, the “early Slavic teacher”, was published in Croatian language.

**NEVEN.**

**ZABAVNI I POUČNI LIST.**

ČETVRTI TEČAJ.

**1855.**

170559

UREDNIK

**JOS. PRAUS.**



**U ZAGREBU.**

**NARODNA TISKARNICA DRA. LJUDEVITA GAJA.**

## The first translation of a Comenius's work into Croatian language

- A German-Croatian text of a shortened version of *World in Pictures* (*Orbis pictus*) by John Amos Comenius was published in the second edition of *Grammatik der illirischen Sprache* by Ignjat Alojzij Brlić, printed in Zagreb in 1842
- The *World in Pictures* without the pictures may have been better than the “monotonous glossary” from the first edition of the book

## Praktischer Theil.

Die Welt in Bildern, *Srjet u obrazih,*  
von <sup>o d</sup> J. A. Komensky. *Ivana A. Komenskoga.\*)*

### 1. Die Welt.

Am Himmel sind die Sterne.  
Die Wolken hängen in der Luft.  
Die Vögel fliegen unter den  
Wolken.

Die Fische schwimmen im Was-

ser.  
Auf der Erde sind Berge, Wäl-

der, Felser, unvernünftige Thie-  
re und Menschen.  
Die ganze Welt besteht aus  
vier Elementen, welche sind: die  
Luft, das Feuer, das Wasser und  
die Erde.

### Srjet.

Na nebo su zvijezde.  
Oblaci vise u zraku.  
Ptice leté iz pod oblakó-  
vah.

Ribe plivaju u i po vodi.

Na zemlji ima bédrah, sú-  
mah, poljah, divje zvjéradi  
i ljudih.

Srjet je sastavljen od ée-  
tiri iztočála (živalja), kója se  
zovú: zrak, vátra, voda i  
zemlja.

### 2. Der Himmel.

Der Himmel drehet sich und  
umgeht, wie es scheint, die in  
der Mitte stehende Erde:  
aber eigentlich bewegt sich die  
Erde um die Sonne.

Die Sonne, sie mag wo im-  
mer sein, scheint unaufhörlich,  
obschon die Wolken sie uns rau-  
ben,

### Nébo.

Čini se, kano da se nébo  
okrétnje, i u polovini (srjedu)  
stojéću zemlju obihódi:

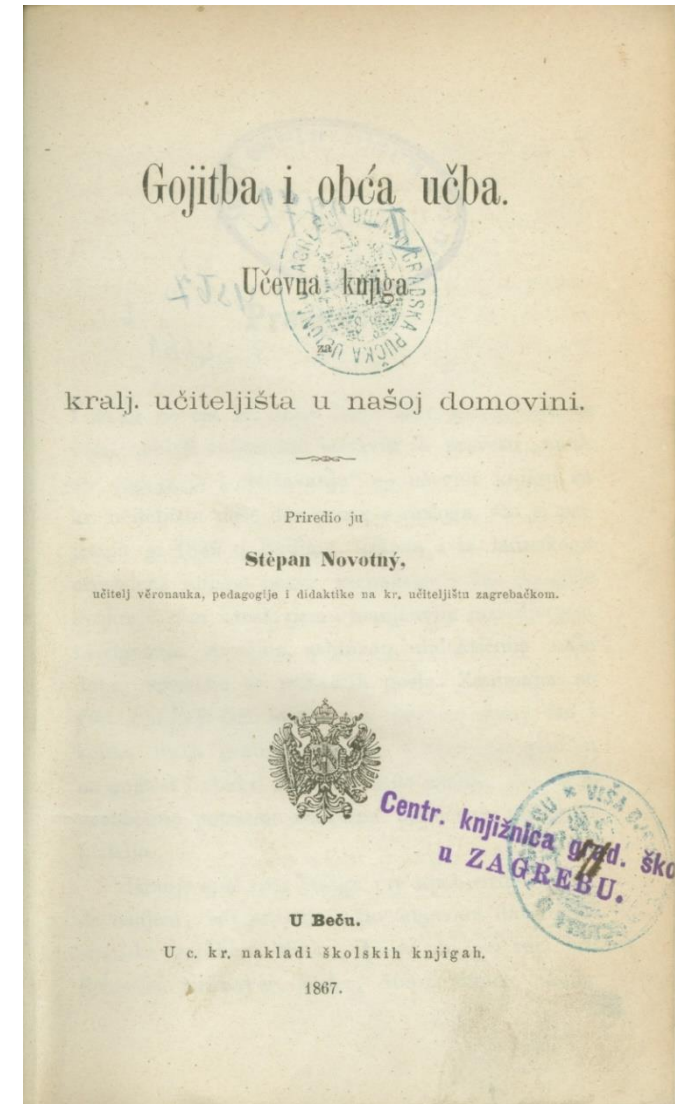
ali se, pravo motréć, zem-  
lja ókolo sunca giblje.

Súnce, bilo ono gdje mu  
drágo, vázda sjá,  
premda ga oblaci kádkad  
sákriju,

\*) Der Verfasser dieses Werkes, gewöhnlich Comenius genannt, war ein hochgelehrter Slawe, der sowohl in der böhmischen Literatur, als auch in der Pädagogik des Mittelalters eine Epoche bildet. Seine „Welt in Bildern“ war das erste brauchbare Lehrbuch des Mittelalters, deshalb wurde es in kurzer Zeit in alle europäische Sprachen übersezt. Im Original, das in böhmischer Sprache geschrieben war, waren dem Texte Abbildungen beigelegt: daher der Titel des Werkes. Komensky gehörte zu der Sekte der böhmischen Brüder, und nach dem er mehrere Lehranstalten, unter andern auch das magyarische Kollegium zu Sáros-Patak organisiert hatte, wurde er — des Landes verwiesen. Er starb in Holland 1670.

# Comenius in the first Croatian pedagogical textbooks

- First printed textbooks on pedagogy in Croatian language were published in Buda in 1849 for the newly-founded teacher school in Zagreb
- The first Croatian textbook on pedagogy that mentions the name of Comenius was *Gojitba i obća učba* (1867) by Stjepan Novotny, a priest and pedagogy teacher at the School for teachers in Zagreb - **Comenius is mentioned as a “man with our roots”, referring to his Slavic origin**



## Comenius's *Didactics* - pure *pium desiderium*

- On 22 November **1859**, *Narodne novine* published the following as an exclusive “literary news”:

*As we have learned, one of our younger authors is translating Comenius's Didactics, that pearl among the texts on Slavic schooling. As we further learn, this excellent book shall be published by Messrs publishers of Napredak pedagogical journal, who shall give it to their annual subscribers as a present.*

- The staff of *Napredak* were hugely surprised ...  
Parts of Comenius's *Didactics* were being translated in order to be published in *Napredak*, but that in no way meant the whole work was going to be printed at their expense and given to the subscribers

**The published news was, they stated, pure *pium desiderium***

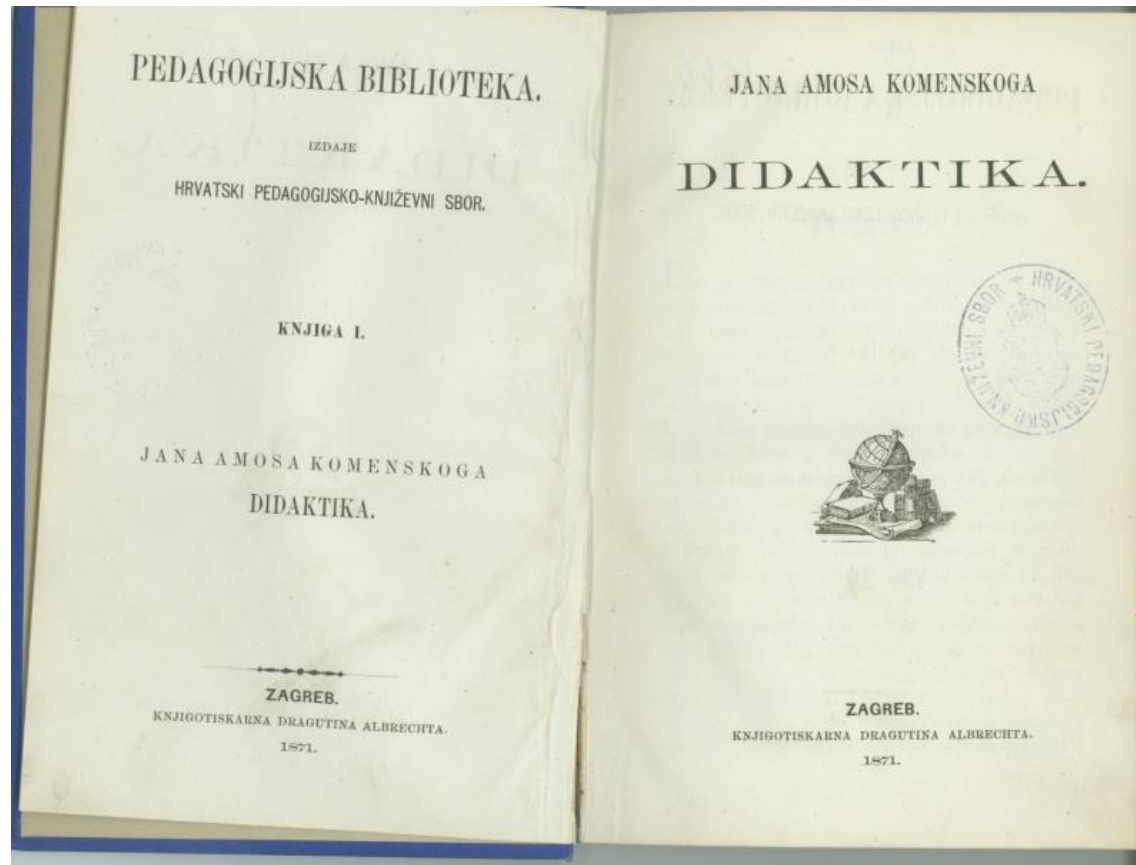
“Oh, if we could only translate this didactics into our beloved language!”

- ... writes Vjenceslav Zabož Mařik, a Croatian teacher of Czech origin, 1859 on the calendar *Narodna knjiga*
- The editor [teacher Ivan Filipović] replies in the footnote:

*“Well, why would we not be able to? It would only take some good will. Why would not you make a good deed and translate for us that literary gem by the great Slavic mind. Indeed, you could not endow a greater gift to our nation but to undertake this work and produce a translation”*

# Didactics by J. A. Comenius in the Croatian language

- Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly, a professional association of progressive Croatian teachers, was established in Zagreb in **1871**
- In the same year they published *Didactics* by John Amos Comenius

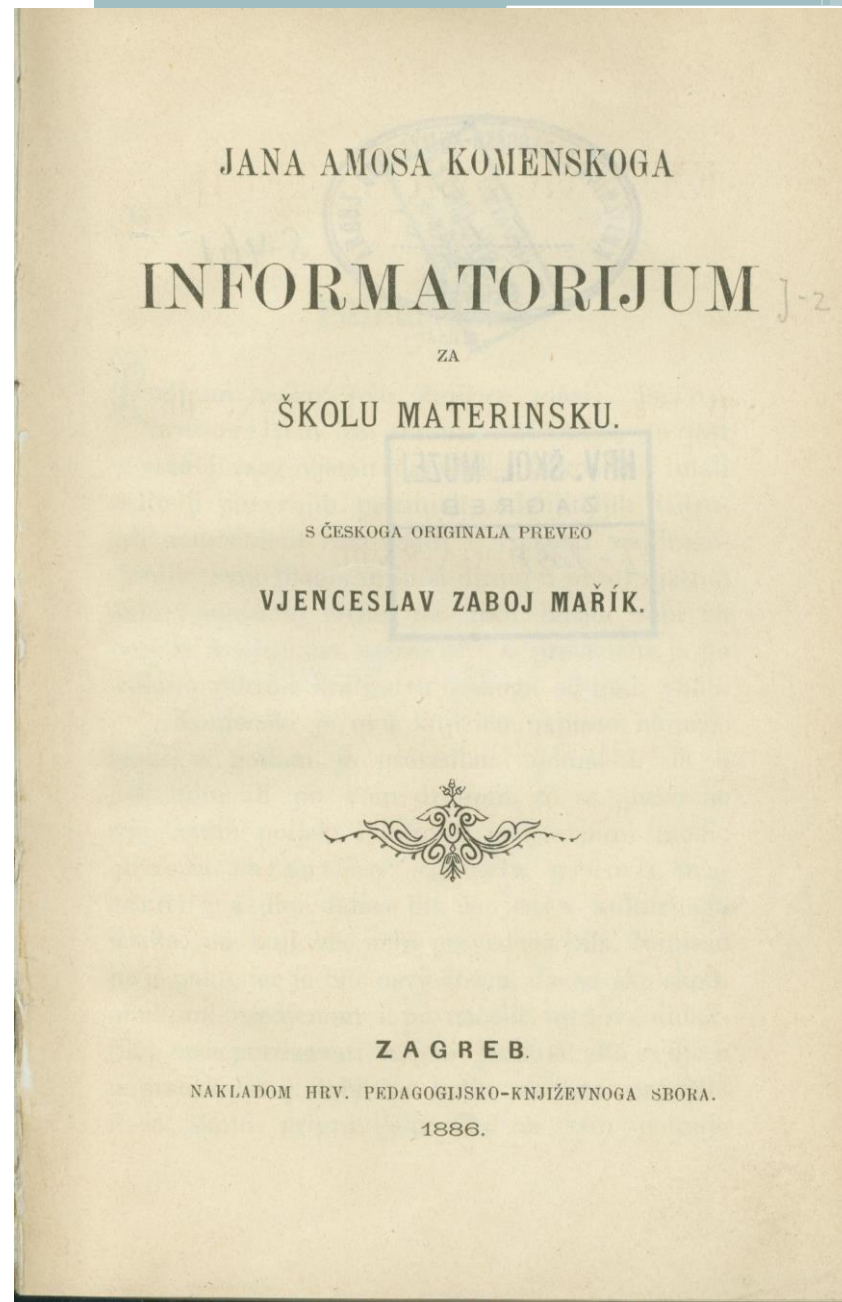


## Founders of the Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly

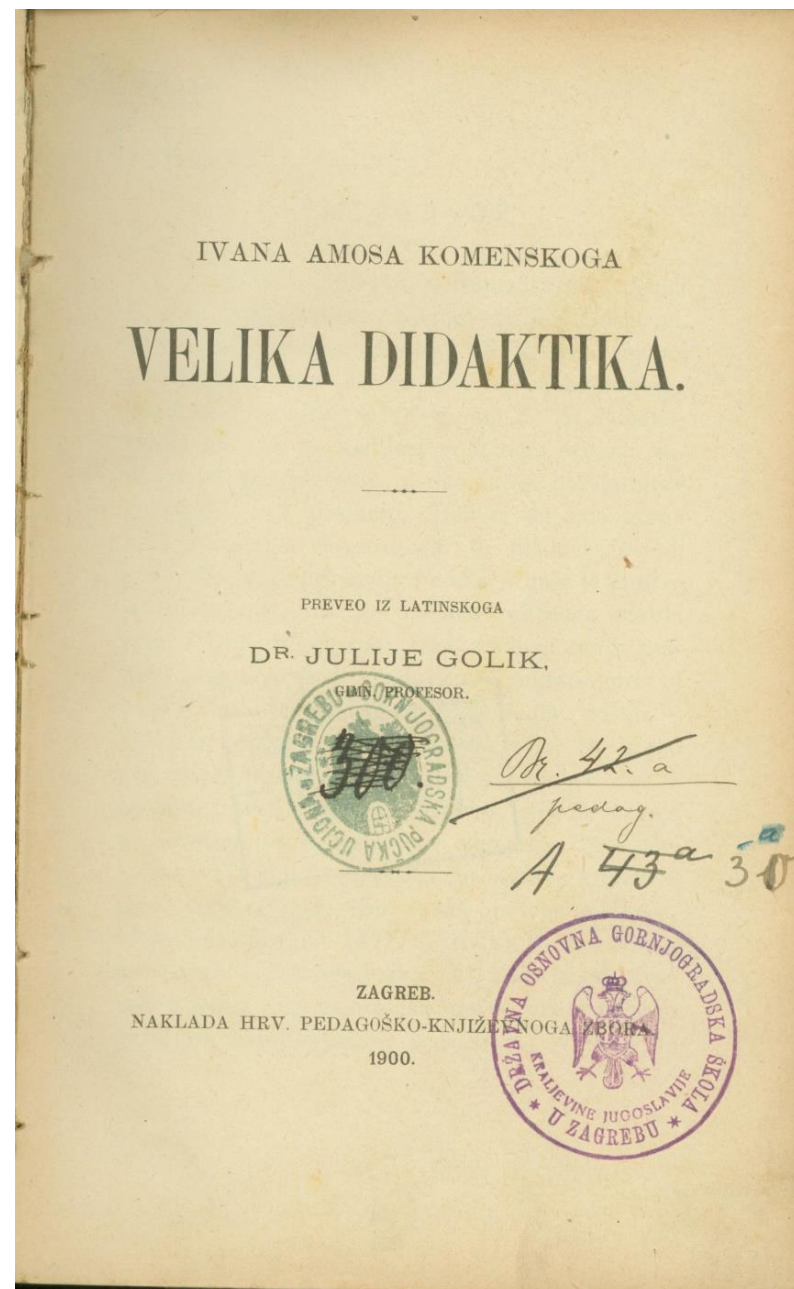


- ... among them four teachers of Czech origin: Vjenceslav Zabož Maršik, Sebald Cihlar, Antun Truhelka and Marija Fabković (Frechova)

- In 1886, the Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly published *Informatorium za školu materinsku*, “translated from the Czech original by Vjenceslav Zabož Mařík“



- The third and so far the last translation and generally the last edition of a work of Comenius in Croatian language – *Velika didaktika* – came out in 1900, also published by the Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly
- The book was translated from Latin by a secondary school teacher Julije Golik on the basis of an edition published in 1894 by Siegismund and Volkening in Leipzig.



## About Comenius in Croatia

- In their discussions published during the nineteenth century in pedagogy journals *Napredak* (1859-), *Školski prijatelj* (1868-1876), *Hrvatski učitelj* (1877-1895), Croatian teachers regularly refer to Comenius
- In 1892, Croatian teachers organised celebrations in tribute to Comenius in their teachers' associations across the country
- The Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly published 1892 two biographical books about Comenius
- The anniversaries of Comenius's birth and death were marked in Croatia in the twentieth century as well

## About Comenius in Croatia

- From mid-nineteenth century until today, Croatian authors have published about 200 shorter or longer texts and scholarly discussions on Comenius
- Ante Vukasović has written several articles on Comenius and a book **Comenius and the Croats** (*Jan Amos Komenský i Hrvati*, 2007), in which a chapter with the same title deals with the reception of Comenius in Croatia



## Conclusion

- The interest of Croatian teachers and pedagogues in Comenius and the implementation of his ideas into the theory and practice of pedagogy can be discerned around the middle of the nineteenth century
- Comenius was an unquestionable pedagogical authority, but also as somebody “with our roots”, as Croatian teachers enthusiastically claimed him due to his Slavic origin.
- Comenius was a connecting thread of Croatian and Czech teachers not only in the field of professional pedagogy but also in the struggle for national identity

# Thank you for attention!



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