



MORAVSKÁ NÁRODNÍ OBEC o. s.

Založeno roku 1985

Comenius Museum
Kloosterstraat 33
1411 RS Naarden
North Holland
Netherland

Dear friends,

On behalf of the *MORAVSKÁ NÁRODNÍ OBEC* (Moravian National Community), a free association of Moravia's residents, we would like to present you with the historical Moravian banner. The chequered eagle that is placed in its centre is the national emblem of Moravia – the homeland of the *TEACHER OF NATIONS*, educationalist and theologian, John Amos Comenius.

A formally unrecognised eastern region of the Czech Republic as of today, Moravia is a millennium-old traditional country (a margraviate for most of its history) in the heart of Europe that traces its origins back to the early 9th century AD. It has culturally and spiritually co-formed central and eastern Europe, beginning in 863, when Prince Rastislav, the then ruler of the Great Moravian Empire (as it was called by historical sources), requested a Christian mission from the Byzantine Emperor in order to convert the Slavic population of the early mediaeval state. This mission, led by two brothers, Constantine the Philosopher (later called Cyril) and Methodius, used the Slavonic tongue as the medium of liturgy and has become the torch of learning for all Slavic nations since then. The success and cultural heritage of this historic event has continued to be the essential source of Christian faith to this day, notably for Eastern and Southern Slavs, and Cyril and Methodius are also patron saints of the whole of Europe.

On the threshold of the Modern Age, Moravia became once again the cradle of learning, humanism and Christianity. The Moravian Brethren began spreading faith, hope and love in the remotest corners of the world – and the historical significance of the Moravian nation seems to be deeply rooted in such friendly and tolerant missions: Moravians today form the bond between Czechs (Bohemians) and Slovaks, as well as other European nations. The legacy of our ancestors, above all J. A. Comenius, himself a missionary of learning and education, obliges us to promote their humanistic ideas in the community of European nations ever more.

The Moravian National Community is a non-political civic association founded in 1985. The focus of its activity is to promote the study of the history and cultural traditions of Moravia. It organises seminars, lectures and film projections, and publishes collections of articles on the topic. It also organises public events such as excursions, patriotic marches, and exhibitions of the lively and varied Moravian folk culture. Importantly also, the association has succeeded in the rehabilitation of the public display of the Moravian flag (primarily on 5th July, the Cyril and Methodius Day), the same flag as the one we are honoured to present you with. The birthplace of J. A. Comenius, the town of Uherský Brod, is included in the list of localities where the banner will be proudly flown on the town hall from this year on.

We value very highly the friendly relations that our country maintains with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and in particular we treasure the Naarden – Uherský Brod town twinning which exists thanks to the extraordinary personality of J. A. Comenius. Therefore we believe that the flag of Moravia will be a fitting addition and complement of your museum's exhibits. If so, we would greatly appreciate your hanging it out on suitable occasions, for instance next year – the year of the 420th anniversary of J. A. Comenius' birth. Reciprocally, we will be delighted to raise the colours of your province, North Holland (incidentally the same as ours), here in Moravia.

It would be a great pleasure to us if you accept the gift and our best wishes that go with it. We are grateful to God and fate that the Walloon Chapel in Naarden is the final resting place of J. A. Comenius – the greatest Moravian that his native country has given to the world.

Cordially,


Jan Studeník
Executive Member




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President

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