

# COLLEGLIA & RESIDENTIÆ BOHEMIÆ.

Provincia hæc Societatis IESU, Anno ab In Carnitione DOMINICA, complectebatur Domicilia 43. Ex his Domum Professã. 1. Collegia 27. inter quæ Domum primæ Probationis. 1. alteram tertie Probationis. Residentias 13. Missiones 2. Præterea Conventus. 3. Seminaria. 23. Numerat in longitudine milliaria germanica 47. in latitudine 59. in circuitu 155.

400

ANNIVERSARIUM  
PROVINCIAE BOHEMIAE  
SOCIETATIS JESU

1623 - 1773 - 2023

PRAGAE 21. - 23. IX. 2023

Praxis investigandi locorum distantiam ope tabellæ.  
Scire cupis, quantum Bruna v.g. distet Pragâ, quare ubi recto in angulo convenient hinc numerorum series, quarum una perpendicularis, altera horizontalis, cui adscriptum est Pragâ, reperies 9. 25. atq. tot milliariibus Bruna distat Pragâ. Simili praxi reperies Olomucium distare Pragâ milliariibus. 24. Egram Oppolio. 53.  
A.M.D.G.

## **400 Anniversarium Provinciae Bohemiae Societatis Jesu**

*Prague, from September 21 to September 23, 2023, Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University, Thákurova 676/3*

On September 23, 1623, Mutius Vitelleschi, Superior General of the Order, sent a letter to Prague proclaiming the creation of the Province of Bohemia, dividing the extensive Province of Austria. The territorial extent of the Bohemian Province corresponded to the Lands of the Crown of Bohemia as held at the time by the House of Habsburg in their capacity as Kings of Bohemia. From the confessional point of view, it was comprised of mostly Catholic territories, a significant part of which was to undergo re-Catholicization in the following years. Silesia permanently remained a place of legally sanctioned competition between Catholicism and Lutheranism. The new Province can be ethnically and linguistically characterized as Czech and German with more or less equal share of the two groups. There was also a small number of Polish speaking Jesuits from the Opole part of Silesia as well as several individuals from Lusatia or natives of today's Belgium, the Netherlands, England, and Spain. In 1623, the Province had over 650 priests, lay brothers, scholastics, and novices. Their number doubled over the following hundred years, and continued to grow, making the Province one of the largest in Europe. Its importance can be evidenced by the number of its religious houses, of the students and alumni, of the quantity of preserved literary, religious and scientific works as well as by the magnificent architecture of the churches which, together with the colleges, still dominate squares in many important Bohemian and Moravian towns. The development of the Province was disrupted around the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century due to the War of the Austrian Succession. As the result of the war, Silesia was incorporated into Prussia, which meant that the borders of the Province had to reflect. In 1755, the Province of Silesia was formed with religious houses in Silesia and Kłodzko. This naturally had consequences for the Province of Bohemia. It lost ten houses, one university and more than a quarter of its members. The ethnic composition of the Province changed as well, namely in favor of Czech-speaking members. The 1760s brought an increasing interest with respect to joining the Society or studying in the schools of the Bohemian Province. This development was halted by the dissolution of the Society in 1773. The Congress of Vienna provided space for the renewed Society and Jesuits returned to Prague in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Jesuits in Bohemia started writing a new chapter, significantly different from the preceding one.

The planned conference is dedicated to the development, life and suppression of the Province of Bohemia of the so-called Old Society, that is, to the period from 1623 to 1773 with meaningful overlaps. Its aim is to examine the Province mainly in the context of the development of the Jesuit Order in early modern Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, focusing on the functioning of the Province as a whole and of its individual members, as well as on its distinguishing features compared to other Provinces, especially those that maintained closer ties with the Province of Bohemia (Austria, Germania Superior, Gallo-Belgica, Flandro-Belgica).

The conference will be divided into two main sections:

**A. The functioning of the Society *per se* and in its ecclesiastical, educational, political and social context.** Contributions with the following focus will be especially welcome in this section:

- The Province and its governance: processes leading to the creation of Jesuit Provinces, their territorial definition, and their relation to political, ethnic, and state units; the process of general and provincial visitations
- The Society's personnel policy and its mechanisms: the promotion to the (highest) posts and the selection of assistants
- Internal communication and communication *ad extra*: correspondence, *litterae annuae*, activity reports, historiography
- Economic base: its functioning and presentation
- Jesuits as theorists and practitioners of power: direct and indirect influence of individuals on power structures; theoretical and political treatises
- Jesuits as teachers, and scientists: regional particulars of Jesuit secondary schools; transfer of methods, knowledge and texts between the Provinces, notable figures
- Supporters of the Society among the nobility and bourgeoisie: foundations; support for construction activities; academic foundations; gifts and bequests; ties between the families of Jesuits and the Jesuit Order
- Cooperation or competition: spiritual activities of the Jesuits; the relation between the Jesuits and other religious orders as well as the diocesan clergy; institutional and personal relations

**B. Jesuits as creators, initiators, patrons and consumers of various genres of art**

- Artists within the Jesuit Order: sharing and inspiration between the Provinces as well as with the secular environment
- Reflection of Jesuit spirituality in the visual arts: meditative literature and the visual culture, symbolism
- Multilingualism in the Province of Bohemia: literary multilingualism, Jesuits' relation to "national" literatures, vernacular and neo-Latin literature
- Drama in schools and churches
- Art as part of education and spiritual formation
- Art in the service of the re-Catholicization and missionary work
- Pursuit, study and consummation of art as a noble form of entertainment within the Society

We would like to invite you to take part in this conference and present a 20-minute contribution. Please send us a working title of your paper and a short abstract (10 to 15 lines) by November 15, 2022. The contact e-mail address is: [locus.pietatis@gmail.com](mailto:locus.pietatis@gmail.com), or [valentova@hiu.cas.cz](mailto:valentova@hiu.cas.cz). You will be informed about acceptance by the end of 2022, when you will also receive further information.

For the organizers

Kateřina Bobková-Valentová (Institute of History of the CAs) and Petra Oulíková (Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University)

Conference languages: English, German, possibly Czech

Organized by:

HISTORICKÝ ÚSTAV AV ČR

INSTITUTE OF HISTORY CAS



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL  
FACULTY  
Charles University

In cooperation with:

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Ludwig Boltzmann Institut  
Neulateinische Studien

Under the auspices of the Province of Bohemia of the Society of Jesus.



Česká provincie  
Tovaryšstva Ježíšova