

Review of: "The Baptism on the Savica – The Slovene National Epic With a Question Mark"

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Article by Professor Marko Juvan is analyzing France Prešeren's 1836 poem *Krst pri Savici* (The Baptism on the Savica) and its status as the Slovene national epic.

As the author of the article indicates, the aim of the article is to situate the poem within the context of European national epics and nation-building in the 19th century.

This is a strong and innovative article, which is no doubt original and significant for literary studies - for Slovene literature studies and beyond.

The research focuses on newly posed questions about the innovative approach of France Prešeren, who strategically adopted epic conventions to endow the nascent Slovene literature with historical gravitas, while also deconstructing the national epic genre through novelistic subjectivity.

The methodology used by the author of the article is sound and up to date, relying on a number of established approaches in literary studies, while retaining some flexibility to address phenomena. Genre theory and the concept of cultural sainthood are appropriately used by the author of the article.

The author rightly observes that Prešeren's canonization contributed to the poem's cultural centrality.

It could be said that the article poses questions of cultural identity and literary heritage of Slovene literature.

Through the (re)interpretation of a literary/cultural period and the exploration of new material, the article outcomes can contribute to further investigations in this field, raising new research on Slovene cultural traditions and developments.

This article is extremely important for literary studies in Slovenia and beyond. It is also significant for Slovenia's own self-definition as a nation that seeks to argue that, although brief and stylistically hybrid, combining classical epic and modern novelistic patterns, *Krst pri Savici* came to occupy the sole "epic slot" in Slovene literature and, at the same time, is a part of European national epics.

The article is very well structured and provides the reader with wide-scale bibliographical information.

