

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

Svend Erik Larsen¹

¹ Aarhus University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

On Marko Juvan's paper:

This is clearly a comparatist with knowledge and experience who gives the canonical Slovenian epic poem a fresh reading. I have comments on the larger perspective within the European cultural and literary space, just a few things that could be considered/added:

1. As clearly stated in the article, national epic literature – versified or in prose – abounds in contemporary literature. However, it would be worthwhile reflecting on differences between a) national poetry in locations like Slovenia, which were not nation states (like also Norway, e.g., or many parts of German-speaking areas), b) countries that became nation states (like Belgium), or c) countries that were independent but changed status by being diminished (like Denmark) or expanding (like Prussia).
2. I would suggest discussing the historical imagination/construction of a past in relation to Svetlana Boym's idea of nostalgia in the form of restaurative nostalgia or reflective nostalgia in *The Future of Nostalgia*.
3. Another suggestion is to use Hobsbawm and Ranger's notion of 'invention of tradition' from their volume of the same name.
4. The reference to Byron is great. There is a brief reference to irony, but maybe more could be said of different perspectives on irony, of which there is not much in the poem.

Svend Erik Larsen