

BOOK REVIEWS

Marko Terseglav, *Ljudsko pesništvo* [*Literarni leksikon. Študije 32*]. Ljubljana: Državna založba Slovenije, 1987. Pp. 171.

Marko Terseglav has performed an admirable task in presenting such a compact, yet thoroughly informative, treatment of folk poetry. He begins by discussing the concept of folk verse itself (as opposed to literary productions), and its history from the earliest recorded examples, not only of Slovene but of European folk poetry in general. Following examination of the relationship between the people's folklore and folkloristics (the study of the genres), the second chapter treats formal features such as linguistic formulae and devices (parallelism, simile, antithesis, epithets, gradation, and personification). The third chapter is devoted to epic poetry (with an excursus on the Serbo-Croatian tradition), ballads and romances, and purely lyric poetry (love songs, ritual chants to accompany dances, religious lyrics, and humorous verse). The final chapter gives a historical overview of the origins, collection, and study of folk poetry in Slovenia.

The work may be intended for the general public, but it is one which can be profitably used by university students, and by others who need a succinct presentation of the various phenomena of "folk poetry." Terseglav does not limit his horizon to specifically Slovene folk songs, but includes reference to other European traditions from the Middle Ages on. He refers to English, French, German, Russian and other folk verse as well. Of course, he does not slight either early or very recent Slovene collectors and theorists; there are frequent references to historical trends and recently established theories in Slovene treatments of folk poetry. That he was able to do so in such a slim volume is commendable.

The text is very readable, and if there is a criticism to be made, it would be the relative paucity of folk poems/songs themselves as examples; this reader, at least, would like more, especially to illustrate the formal poetics of folk verse.

The bibliography (pp. 151-55) reflects the professional scope of this study; it includes, in addition to the standard Slovene sources, works by Bausinger, Ben-Amos, Bošković-Stulli, Bowra, Čistov, Herder, Isačenko, Jakobson, Lord, Lotman, Putilov, Schmaus, Archer Taylor, and several score others. There are indices for subjects and for names, plus a two-page (and readable) summary in English. In short, this is a volume which is not only informative and useful, but of considerable scholarly value; given its succinctness, it is a good candidate for translation into English, where it would find a much wider audience (e.g., students of European literatures) who would benefit not only by exposure to the folk poetry of Slovenia, but from the literate discussion of the origin and development of folk verse in general.

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Pesmi in šege moje dežele. Zamisel in osnutek: Dušica Kunaver. Priprava pesmi in strokovni uvodi: Zmaga Kumer. Prikaz šeg: Helena Ložar-Podlogar. Ljubljana: Državna založba Slovenije, 1987. Pp. 292.

This collection of songs and commentary is most welcome. Although it is intended as a popular treatment, the authors' scholarly but not overwhelming commentaries have made it a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in Slovene folk traditions and culture. It began as a replacement for Kunaver's earlier collection (*Slovenska pesem v*