

Germany poses a threat to much of the rest of Europe in 2004 and beyond, it is likely to be only as a junior partner of France in an effort to maintain the self-assigned “leading role” of those two countries in an expanded EU. The second point worth noting is something that remains as true today as it was in 1991 or 1998: the obsessive desire in some Western capitals to revive Humpty Dumpty and prevent the continuation of the dissolution of Yugoslavia. We have seen this in the determination of the EU in recent years to prevent the breakup of Serbia and Montenegro, and in the general hesitancy of the Western powers to face up to reality—again—and recognize the independence of Kosova.

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Jože Faganel with Darko Dolinar, eds., *France Prešeren—kultura—Evropa*. Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, ZRC SAZU, 2002. 391 pp. SIT 3,780 (= \$19.35). ISBN: 961-6358-73-6.

It is to the Scientific Research Center (*Znanstvenoraziskovalni center* or *ZRC*) of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts (*Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti* or *SAZU*) that we owe these two new and quite impressive volumes of literary scholarship. The first of them is composed of papers from an international symposium that the Academy organized on the occasion of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the national poet, France Prešeren, in 2000. In addition to a brief foreword by the former president of the Academy, France Bernik, it contains twenty-two thoughtful and richly annotated presentations by scholars from Slovenia (fifteen in all), Austria, Croatia, Germany (two each), and Bosnia-Herzegovina (one). Each paper is prefaced by an abstract in Slovene and German (in one case Slovene and English) and concluded with a résumé in English, French, German, or Slovene, that is, a language different from that of the presentation itself. Topics range from literary history and literary biography to comparative literature, poetics, issues of translation, and more. Just when one was tempted to say that everything that could be said about Prešeren had been said, thanks not only to the various celebrations of his birth but also to the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of his death, which was memorialized in 1999, this volume demonstrates otherwise. As Bernik notes in his foreword, we read Prešeren today in radically different circumstances, in an independent

Slovenia on the eve of its entry into Europe, in a democratic society that allows for a plurality of readings, and (I would add) in a literary-critical atmosphere that deconstructs and reconstructs as none has done before. So this volume makes a valuable new contribution to “Prešernology,” as they call it in Slovenia, and its editors and contributors should be congratulated on their achievement.

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Editor’s note: The following is a double review of William W. Derbyshire’s *A Learner’s Dictionary of Slovene: With Words in Their Inflected Forms*, with contributions from the perspectives of both a native speaker and a nonnative speaker of Slovene.

William W. Derbyshire, with Marta Pirnat-Greenberg. *A Learner’s Dictionary of Slovene: With Words in Their Inflected Forms*. Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 2002. 228 pp., \$24.95 (paper). ISBN: 0-89357-300-0.

This dictionary will be a welcome reference book to all that are interested in the Slovene language—from non-Slovenes that would like to learn more about the language, to native speakers that would like to present or make this language understandable to others.

The dictionary comprises approximately 5,000 entries. At first glance it does not seem very attractive: it falls into a size range between pocket editions and large glossaries. Huge interspacing between individual entries in the body of the dictionary gives rise to doubts about whether this particular dictionary might offer any especially interesting or exciting fresh perspectives. However, after reading the chapter “Reference Charts and Instructions” (vii–xxiii) users will find themselves quite satisfied. This chapter offers a great amount of information about the workings of the Slovene language.

The main portion of the volume is the body of the dictionary, accompanied by three additional sections: a foreword, abbreviations and reference charts, and instructions on how to use the dictionary. One of the advantages of this dictionary is the fact it is not a reworking or