

KARL MAY IN THE BOHEMIAN FOREST,
A BANDIT IN A SKIRT, AND THE HANKA CODE

Adaptations of Romanticism in Czech and Slovak Comics

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This contribution analyses two Czech and one Slovak comic that playfully engage with canonical works and topics of cultural history, like the oeuvre of Czech author Božena Němcová, the fate of the Slovak bandit chief Juraj Jánošík, and manuscript forgeries from the nineteenth century. Ostensibly, their purpose is that of entertaining appropriation, but behind this superficial exterior they constitute mystifications inspired by postmodernism and pop culture. The study examines how these comics make use of profound knowledge and often extensive presuppositions to create tension with their own contemporary world, subverting or travestyng original messages and their historical processing and reworking in very specific ways.