

## Abstract:

The thesis aims to explore the relationship between national identity and the myth. Key to the analysis are the questions of the manner in which a collective identity becomes dependant on literary narrations as well as the particular motives that constitute these narrations. The analysis of the relationship is carried out in reference to particular literary texts. The discussion is based on the critical approach of literary theory and the analyses of relevant socio-political aspects.

The discussion is based on a comparative approach to the chosen literary texts. The comparative method focuses on the socio-political and historical contexts of the literary works, as well as on the different concepts of communal identity portrayed. Key texts to the debate are the collection of poems of James Macpherson, *Poems of Ossian*, Sir Walter Scott's historical novel, *Waverley*, and the Czech *Manuscripts of Dvůr Králové and Zelená Hora*.

This thesis commences the discussion with a theoretical approach to the relationship between myth and history. The discussion aims at the manner in which both the mentioned elements constitute collective identity. The thesis emphasises those aspects which give rise to manipulative statements and conceptions that shape the discourse. To the fore thus comes the question of traditions, conventions and notions of heroic age that the particular collective consciousness relates to. The attention is paid to the socio-historical context in which the afore-mentioned primary texts were produced. The discussion attends to the era of Romanticism and the relation of the romantics to the notions of nature, ballads, and tradition. These conceptions are being perceived through the reality of the arising national revival, and through the manner in which folk literature and the romantic production affected nationalist aspirations. In the concluding part, the thesis aims to synthesise the introductory theoretical approach to the origin and manifestation of myth with the reflection on the primary texts.