

ELVYRA USAČIOVAITĖ

## The Symbols in the Writings of Simonas Daukantas

### Summary

In the book “*The Character of the Ancient Lithuanians, Highlanders and Samogitians*”, as well as in the other writings of S. Daukantas, Lithuanian identity is expressed and the unique characteristics of the people in the ancient times is presented.

Searching the signs of Lithuanian identity, Daukantas relied on the written records of his time, also the historical researches, Lithuanian rural customs, folklore, the mentality of educated society, which is based on the Enlightenment culture, and created four vivid symbols: all of them more or less are influenced by the French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau’s ideas.

1. Image of green forest symbolizes the old Lithuanian state and nation identity with administrative, religious and cultural practices as a whole.

2. Simonas Daukantas created unique image of evergreen lingonberry, which symbolised Lithuanian language.

3. Especially is respected Lithuanian mother, which is wise, hard-working. Her symbol is very noble, she is described as a white swan, dressed in her work clothes in linen, with a veil on her head.

4. Ancient castles – which had their ruins until the nineteenth century – is eloquent symbol of freedom, demonstrating victorious battles of ancient Lithuanians for freedom.

**Keywords:** Simonas Daukantas, the forest, the lingonberry, Lithuanian women, the castles, Jean Jacques Rousseau, the character of nation, the customs.

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