

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: **bc. Vojtěch Michal**
Název diplomové práce: ***Stoker's Horror Novels: Neglected Fiction of Revulsion***

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **PhDr. Christopher Erwin Koy, M.A., Ph.D.**
Oponent diplomové práce: **Ph.Dr. Kamila Vránková, Ph.D.**

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
- II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- III. Práce s literaturou: 1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu, přesná práce s citacemi, kritická analýza zdrojů
- IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat: 2. Velmi dobrá prezentace dat, úspěšný pokus o jejich interpretaci
- V. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 1. Výborná
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 2. Vysoká
- VIII. Přínosy práce: 1. Originální zpracování a názory, předkládá nová zjištění

Vyjádření vedoucího diplomové práce/oponenta diplomové práce*:

Bram Stoker's *The Jewel of the Seven Stars* (1903) and *The Lady of the Shroud* (1909) are the novels which the author focuses on in this very long diploma work topic of indisputable originality. Countless diploma works have covered the most famous vampire fiction ever written, so it is refreshing to read an analysis of his other neglected works and acknowledge Stoker as authoring other novels of horror besides *Dracula* (1897). When we read this diploma work, it is revealed by Mr. Michal that Stoker was a no mere one-time sensationally successful novelist but rather his status as a serious political thinker and a sustained student of historical colonialism becomes terrifically clear. The two novels, set in Egypt and the Balkans respectively, incorporate warfare, cultural domination, economic servitude, religious mysticism as well as ignorance and misunderstanding leading to intolerance and all

culminating into horror which was real but formulated by Bram Stoker (again) into fantastic plots and characters which bedazzle the reader.

A huge strength of this thesis is the convincing argument that colonialism in Egypt (by Persians, Greeks, Romans, and later Muslim Arabs and more recently by French and English) and in the Balkans (by Turks and Serbs and more recently by Austrians) was not only a "horror" but that, as Mr. Michal aptly demonstrates, is a distinct echo of the Irish condition of Stoker's own lifetime. These echoes include specifically religion, cultural and linguistic otherness and race. Egypt also is shown to have a historical advancement over the European colonial powers regarding science (which is in fact not common with the Irish condition). A mild weakness is Mr. Michal's extensive elaboration on details of the history of these two sites of oppression, much of the particulars of which do not appear reflected in the two fascinating novels under investigation. Some 50 pages longer than the standard length, this master thesis would do well with a little pruning of historical data Stoker seemed unconcerned with in these novels.

Finally, I would have appreciated an interpretation of Stoker's developing literary maturity as well as his literary decline. *The Snake's Pass* (1890), the first novel by Stoker referred to near the end of the thesis, came out seven years before *Dracula* and is set in Ireland. Can we undertake an investigation, tracing the ripening of Stoker's maturing literary talents? Could his constant exposure to Shakespeare and the finest dramatic plays and performances have exerted some positive effect, and might there be evidence of this effect in his horror fiction? The title suggests a literary rather than the historical look at his neglected novel. However, all said, this is a thorough, original and excellent treatment of Stoker's later output, and I commend Vojtěch Michal for excellent analyses which impressively includes Edward Said's theory of colonialism.

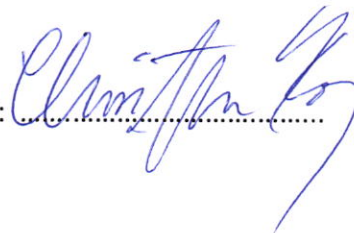
Práce splňuje/nesplňuje* základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji/nedoporučuji* k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. Since cultural colonialism continues to exist in Europe and throughout the world, which of the many novels by Stoker would you most prefer to teach with, if you could pick only one, and thereby link HORROR with COLONIALISM?
2. The decline of "Egyptomania" in Europe has resulted in *The Jewel of the Seven Stars* hardly being read anymore today. Since it appears to be Stoker's second strongest novel, might you please speak of its initial reception? (How well did it sell, what did critics say in initial reviews etc)

Podpis vedoucího diplomové práce/opponenta diplomové práce*:



Datum: 27. 12. 2019

*nehodící se škrtněte