



Filozofická
fakulta
Faculty
of Philosophy

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: Anglická a americká literatura (jednooborové navazující studium)

Název práce: *The Image of Italy and Italians in the Works by E. M. Forster and Henry James*

Autorka práce: Bc. Silvie Jeřábková

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.

Short characteristics of the thesis

The thesis focuses on the representation of Italy, Italians and Italian culture in the works of E. M. Forster and Henry James. The author first introduces novels dealing with things Italian, individual sections are identified and the "image" of Italy for the English speaking reader identified. The author puts Italian influences in the historical context, including the crucial role played by Italy in the tradition of the Grand Tour. The main part of the thesis concerns comparison of E. M. Forster and Henry James, namely their relation to Italy. This comparison is divided into several sections which are well chosen and provide an interesting perspective from which to look upon the works of these two authors.

Overall assessment

First, it needs to be said that the topic chosen is relevant. Italy has played a major part in shaping the English and American imagination and to this day Italian culture serves as a very important inspiration. Second, the thesis is well written and the problem clearly presented. Silvie no doubt benefits from her background, knowledge of Italian and Italian culture at large. Third, the cases of E. M. Forster and Henry James are particularly interesting since for them Italy was not just a source of inspiration but also a means of escape from the world they felt to be too constricted.

I appreciate the choice of the topic, the presentation and careful treatment of material under study. As for reservations, I have few. First, there are some minor linguistic



glitches: some of the sentences betray their Czech origin, some expressions are awkward and statements often feel insubstantial although the author definitely has something to say.

As for the structure of the work, I would have preferred a thematic approach rather than discussing novels one by one but I do understand that this was perhaps too difficult to do. I have more reservations about the last section, the "analysis" of film versions. I rather doubt that these are analyses and, moreover, the author has much less to say than in discussing the literary works.

Despite these reservations I do think the work meets the requirements for MA thesis and I recommend it for the defence. I propose the evaluation excellent (výborně).

Práci doporučuji/nedoporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: výborně velmi dobře dobře nevyhověl/-a

19 -06- 2015

Datum

Podpis