

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Martin Kříž
Název bakalářské práce: London in Crisis: The Representation of the Plague Epidemic and the great Fire of London in the Diaries of Samuel Pepys.
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Renata Janktová, Ph.D.
Oponent bakalářské práce: Christopher E. Koy, Ph.D.

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 2. Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky
- II. Struktura práce: 2. Přiměřená
- III. Práce s literaturou: 3. Průměrná práce s literaturou
- IV. Formální stránka: 3. Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 2. Velmi dobrá
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 3. Střední

Vyjádření oponentního bakalářské práce:

The covering of the 1665-1666 London plague/fire by Samuel Pepys, a Catholic administrator of the British Navy, is scant. What Pepys writes of the plague in his amazing diaries is less in quantity or quality than Defoe. However, Pepys was an important administrator for the Royal Navy, which was of course much more important than the Army for Great Britain. He was an educated and highly industrious man from a significant family, and an excellent writer. The combination of his tasks in the Navy, his dealings with government rivals, his witnessing of the London Plague and Great Fire as well as his recording of the spirit of the times while at war (with the formidable opponent in The Netherlands) yields through the diaries - - which are known for their incredible authenticity and the transparency of his personal affairs - - a rare description of London life of his times. It is therefore disappointing not to read from Mr. Kříž an in-depth interpretation but merely a repetition of what Pepys wrote with comparisons with contemporary (or recent studies) on plague statistics (i.e., the repeated citing of "Bills of Mortality" which Defoe and Pepys both stated were unreliable) tossed in, sometimes agreeing or disagreeing with Pepys's data; this is recorded in this thesis section over merely nine pages - - with improper formatting.

Regarding the Great Fire, Mr. Kříž - - with his oversized font (it appears to be 15 or 16 points instead of the required 12-point font at one and a half spacing) - - only manages to record three and a half pages of Pepys on the fire and his commentary. Were Mr. Kříž to have used the obligatory 12-point font, I honestly doubt it would cover past two and a half pages. This is quite remarkable for the issue that is literally part of the title of the thesis. I believe that if the font were the proper size it might add up to ten pages on the plague and fire combined. What Mr. Kříž designates the "theoretical part" (pp. 9-40) is not historiography or a method of interpreting the data or diary but only brings forth other historians' descriptions of what occurred in London at that time; indeed, Pepys is not mentioned in this section nor is any theory mentioned. While *rattus rattus* (p. 12) is touched on, Mr. Kříž does not indicate if one must be bitten by a black rat or precisely how the plague was spread. It is necessary to explicate what human behavior exacerbated the spread of this disease. Certainly when the author states that a comparison with Covid-19 is forthcoming, the cause of spreading the disease during the plague is essential. While the plague was localized in and around the city of London (and people left for the countryside like Pepys's wife), Covid-19 prevails just fine out in the countryside. Masks or spread of a virus is also not referred to on any page. Thus, there is no comparison of transmission (by rat) or the means of prevention (mask) in this thesis regarding either case, the plague or Covid-19. How did the epidemic spread? "What did people do to prevent the plague from spreading?" as well as "the differences between the recent Covid-19 pandemic and the epidemic of 1665" (p. 7), are among a number of issues with a promise for an answer which never got answered. I feel that the task of this thesis has not been accomplished.

The aforementioned criticism is the basis, I regret to state, for my evaluation of this thesis as good, but not better than good.

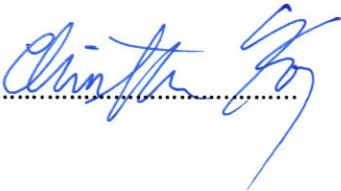
Práce splňuje * základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji* k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: dobře *

Otázky k obhajobě:

1.You state that „these disasters disrupted his daily life, and [put] pressure on the individual's [=Pepys'] mental state“ (pp. 7-8). Give examples, since he did not seem to give up socializing and enjoying himself (top to mid p. 47 and second paragraph p. 49 etc)

2.Why did the people of London suspect that the Dutch were likely involved in the Great Fire?

Podpis oponentního bakalářské práce:.....

Datum: 20. 5. 2022

*nehodící se škrtněte