



FACULTY OF ARTS  
Charles University

Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

16 January 2019

Reviewer's Report on B. A. Thesis  
Elizabeth Bishop: The Map of Her Life and Work  
by  
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This bachelor's thesis examines the poetry of the US poet Elizabeth Bishop, as refracted through the two most significant friendships of her literary career – with Marianne Moore and Robert Lowell. The student writes in a clear style, if occasionally somewhat reductive in her characterizations (for instance, in the vicinity of most instances of the word “rigid”). If one objects that this is a well-worn path to Bishop's work, then two responses might be made. First, according to study regulations, a BA thesis that summarizes extant critical debate about a subject is acceptable. Second, the student gives an excellent account of the variety of views and differences between critics on this subject. Since at least David Kalstone's *Becoming a Poet* (1989) the idea that her relationships with Lowell and Moore allow us to grasp the central currents of Bishop's poetry has been widely accepted. Three decades of debate ensued and the student does well in following its ebbs and flows, which helps her provide nuanced critical accounts of several of Bishop's most renowned poems.

And yet these achievements raise expectations. It seems a shame that such an obviously insightful and able student has been happy to merely summarize. I would have like to see such a student push the material further, rather than remain satisfied with present characterizations of Bishop's work. For this reason, I propose a grade of **2 – velmi dobře**.

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