

ČTVRTEK 29. SRPNA 2019

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE – USTAV ANGLOFONNICH LITERATUR A
KULTUR

Report on BA Thesis (Oponentsky posudek): Colin Steele Clark MA

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr.Zdenek Beran PhD

Oponent: Colin S. Clark MA

Zpracoval : Aneta Chaloupecka

Theme of Memory in Julian Barnes' Later Works

General Remarks:

This thesis is generally well executed with few significant failings in the application of MLA protocols. The expectations of academic writing are generally respected throughout and the methodological approach is convincing. That said, there are numerous spelling errors, flawed grammar constructions and erratic sentence constructions that detract a little from the otherwise polished presentation of the work.

The Bibliography represents a useful primer in Barnes scholarship and there is little to quibble with.

Detailed Report:

The analysis of Barnes' later novels contained herein is enlightening and replete with useful gobbits of information on his application of theories of memory in the context of history, social and personal, as described by Bartlett, Nora and Boxall et al and usefully paraphrased by Chaloupecka.

The conclusion of the work concisely summarises the views of the student on Barnes' treatment of memory but, one cannot help but feel by this time a considerable weariness, not merely at the ineffable workings of memory but also of the circularity of the work whereby it relentlessly repeats the same material within the structural mould of the trio of novels selected. Barnes appears to represent a form of qualified historical magical realism (à la Rushdie et al) although it is slightly disappointing that while the work considers meditations on dying and grief, it doesn't expand this to consider more concrete links with Trauma discourse and the present concerns of the novel with memory as personal and cultural identity (Stephenson and Smyth for example).

Recommendation:

I find this thesis to have clear merit, carefully argued and well presented and one which prosecutes its thesis coherently.

I have no hesitation in recommending a pass at a grade of Velmi Dobre (2)

Colin S Clark MA