Opponent’s Report on B.A. Thesis by

Johana Labanczová

COPY, IMITATION, FORGERY AS AN ARTISTIC PRINCIPLE IN THE NOVEL
CHATTERTON BY PETER ACKROYD

This thesis formalizes the subject of repetition (i.e., copy, imitation and forgery) as an aesthetic device and practice in Peter Ackroyd’s novel text Chatterton.

Ms. Labanczová gives a nice survey view of her topic including a look at the etymology of “origin”, which helped to give this assessor some conceptual foothold or agency for her overall thesis concerns. Another subject broached is that of intertextuality and concomitantly the candidate even goes back to Harold Bloom’s text, The Anxiety of Influence, as a way to highlight certain contours in her presentation.

The candidate’s attention to textual detail in her chosen novel work, and her ability to engage the text analytically, with multiple interpretive models and influences, enhances the readability and terrain of her form of argumentation. The bibliography to the work is unusually rich, which attests to the wide ranging sensibility of the thesis writer.

All in all, the thesis is well written, well presented and well argued, and I have no objection to the candidate earning the mark of 1 (výborné) for her thesis work.

Erik S. Roraback, D.Phil. (Oxon.)

5 September 2010