

STŘEDA, 5. ZÁŘÍ 2012

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA – FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA

ÚSTAV ANGLOFONNÍCH LITERATUR A KULTUR

Report on Bakalářské Práce(Oponentsky posudek): City as Fictional Character in the Postmodern Novel: *Alexandria Quartet* and *The Moor's Last Sigh*

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City as Fictional Character in the Postmodern Novel: *Alexandria Quartet* and *The Moor's Last Sigh*

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General Remarks:

This thesis is generally well written and conforms to the requirements of academic writing, the text being largely devoid of any serious issues of spelling or grammatical issues which might detract from the impact it makes. The structure of the thesis is clear and simple without being simplistic and allows the student to make her points without obfuscation and to detail her arguments without recourse to the painful trudging iteration and reiteration which is a commonplace of many BA theses.

The student remains focused at all times and the essential thesis of the work being reasonable and clear, it is easy to accept the points made and to move on.

I find the analysis of the city as fictional (female) character intriguing and convincing and a useful addition to studies on Rushdie, Durrell and the 20th century novel.

Overall I find this a balanced and thorough work although in section 5.2.1 and throughout, I find the absence of Edward Said as a point of critical reference in relation to concepts of otherness in relation to non-European ex-imperial nations to be rather odd and recommend that the student considers this commentator urgently. Similarly, I think that reference to other theorists of marginality such as Homi Bhabha may be useful. In terms of the city as character, perhaps a passing consideration of Peter Ackroyd's *London: A Biography* may have afforded the student the opportunity to consider how cities or the orient are depicted in relation to cities of the core, although I acknowledge that this is ancillary and may also be due to size restrictions in the thesis.

Recommendation

I find this thesis to be of substantial merit and recommend it for a pass at a grade of Very Good(2) to Excellent(1).

Colin S Clark MA