The thesis attempts a systematic mapping of the presentation of evil in Spenser's epic, chiefly in a critical dialogue with the categorization proposed by C.S.Lewis. Using material from the first book as a representative sample, its core lies in a descriptive approach which succeeds in tracing the recurrent thematic motifs in Spenser's portrayal of evil. The chapters concerned with selected literary influences and theological background serve more as a complement to the central query, clarifying the genealogy of specific images rather than providing a comprehensive analysis of the literary and conceptual background of Spenser's project (or even its selected aspects).

While such a limitation may be legitimate, its justification is something that is virtually missing in the author's argument. The focus on the English romances (especially the more popular branch) and the Protestant interpretations of the Revelation in preference to the more established epic genealogy may be useful in tracing the more specifically English sources of Spenser's inspiration and his tapping of other than high culture sources; however, the thesis lacks a clearly formulated statement of intent in either way (alternative genealogy/complement to the overview of images). It may thus appear that the focus of the latter two chapters is dictated more by the availability and/or choice of secondary literature rather than the internal logic of the argument. Similar haziness is also characteristic of the conclusion, which is rather too general.

While these reservations would lead me to propose a “very good” mark for the thesis, I regret to say that the final redaction left a number of serious formal deficiencies in the text.
1. Referencing: the primary source is left unreferenced throughout
2. Bibliography: the division of sources into primary and secondary in fact represents “works cited” and “general bibliography” - a terminological confusion which is inexplicable at this stage of the author's studies.

Conclusion: with regard to these significant formal flaws I recommend the thesis for defence with the preliminary mark GOOD to VERY GOOD.

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Helena Znojemská, Ph.D.