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= there are however countless errors of spelling and grammar (i.e. agreements, number, tense, form) all of which constitute an irritating distraction from the subject matter and which detract from the impact it makes. This thesis really needs to have been given a thorough proofing before submission.
That said, the structure of the thesis is clear and simple (a little simplistic sadly) and allows the student to make her points without obfuscation and to detail her arguments with simple reference to primary and secondary sources.

I find the analysis of the tradition of the heroine engaging and a useful addition to studies on the topic.

Overall I find this a balanced and thorough work which has identified and investigated an interesting and valid topic with a reasonable degree of assiduousness.

The chief merit is in the discussion of the realities of courtship and marriage in the period and I particularly appreciated the demolition of certain misconceptions concerning female marital opportunities in the period. In addition, the student manages to avoid the potentially discrediting fervor that such texts often inspire: a certain distance is meritorious in that the student is not overwhelmed by the attractions of heritage fandom.

The conclusion is littered with unfortunate errors and the overall conclusion reached is disappointingly vacuous—that there is a change in the character of husbands is obvious and this seems inadequate after such analysis of the tradition i.e. to say that there is a slight variation at the close of the movement is specious.

I would recommend that the student, given the long period of time over which the tradition is considered, also include other form of relationship and power discourses within marriage and social interaction over this period.

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).

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