Supervisor’s Report on B.A. Thesis by

Kristýna Seidlová

ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN DESIRE OF CAPOTE’S BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S & OF STEINBECK’S EAST OF EDEN

Ms. Kristýna Seidlová critically aims in her thesis to portray the key contours and facets of the problematic of human desire in the American writer Truman Capote’s 1958 novella work Breakfast at Tiffany’s and of the American author John Steinbeck’s 1952 novel text East of Eden, as well as in filmic versions of these prose texts directed in 1961 by Blake Edwards (Breakfast at Tiffany’s) and directed in 1955 by Elia Kazin (East of Eden) respectively. The thesis contains ix + 44 pp. across some preliminary matter, five chapters, and a bibliography. As for the prose style, it reads cleanly and displays good compositional ability, and a capacity too to retain her own critical voice amidst the criticism that she does engage.

More exactly, this reader appreciated the rigorous use of close reading of the target cultural works, a critical strategy outfitted by a band of useful critical texts, a parade of works that could have been of an even more wide scale for critical attention, and yet for the present BA project the research program for this reader contains adequate cultural-critical matter.

As far as the topical phenomenon of human desire goes that cuts into and forms the principal object of focus for the present thesis investigations, I would ask the candidate,

1) to articulate in a nutshell sort of way how her principal thesis and argumentation provoke unanswered questions that her thesis would give us to think about, given that her chosen cultural works attempt to give eloquent voice to “the outrageous state of our society in which material values often overweigh the abstract, emotional ones” (40).

Put otherwise,

2) What precisely are some of the crucially important, and perhaps unanswerable questions that her concrete analysis of her chosen artworks produce?

3) Do these artworks suggest ways to get out of these deadlocks and impasses that traverse, subtend and shoot through the lifeworld and the context of these artistic texts?

4) Under this critical provision, would not to locate such queries (i.e., questions) be objectively necessary to discover the objective truth of these films and novel texts?

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of 2 (velmi dobře) for the thesis work.

Erik S. Roraback, D.Phil. (Oxon.),
14 June 2013.