



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA
UNIVERZITY KARLOVY
V PRAZE



Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Supervisor's Report on B.A. Thesis
ISSUES OF TRANSLATION IN MIROSLAV HOLUB'S POETRY
by Markéta Prunarová

At first glance, it might seem strange that a thesis on the Czech poet Miroslav Holub has been submitted for defence at the Dept of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures. Why not at the Dept of Czech Literature? The reason is that Miroslav Holub's poetry lives its fullest life neither in Czech nor English alone, but between the two languages. This situation was in part created by the poet's own affinity for anglophone culture and his engagement with it from the early 1960s onwards, and also by the period of normalization in Czechoslovakia when he could only publish abroad in translation, and not in Czech. As the poet himself implied, the idea of original and translation becomes blurred.

Ms Prunarová has done a sterling job of tracing the wider cultural contexts, as well as the details of the poems' migrations from one language to another and back again. She gives an excellent account of Holub's place in Czech poetry, and also how he impacts upon Anglophone poetry. This required a firm grasp of two very different literary environments, as well as the different critical frameworks that they employ to approach literature. She has also proven herself adept in judging formal and lexical nuances.

It was a pleasure to observe the thesis take shape as she worked on it over the past couple of years. Her diligence and critical acumen, and what they herewith produced, deserve the grade of 1 (**v ý b o r n ě**).

doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.
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