



FACULTY OF ARTS  
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
IN PRAGUE



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Report on B. A. Thesis  
REINHOLD NIEBUHR, CHRISTIAN REALISM AND THE POETRY OF W. H. AUDEN  
by Šárka Tůmová

This is an outstanding thesis which draws together a wide range of materials – from mid-century intellectual history to poetry Auden – and shapes them into a convincing and penetrating analysis. On page after the page, the student's considerable powers of research and argumentation are on display, as she tweezes out the positions of two of the most important cultural figures of the American mid-century – the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and the Anglo-American poet W. H. Auden. The relationship between Auden and Niebuhr (and his wife Ursula) is both a story of intellectual engagement and of a friendship; the student bears both these strands in mind, while never taking her eye off the importance of the poetry. As an area of academic analysis, Christianity has been relatively neglected in recent decades; Ms Tůmová's work convinces us of how central it was to the intellectual dynamics of the time, both within the United States and beyond, as the Cold War globalized such debates in a new way. It is rare that one encounters work of this calibre at BA and the student is to be commended for such sterling work. I have no hesitation in recommending the grade of **1 (výborně)**.

doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

10 August 2015