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Univerzita Karlova – Filozofická fakulta

Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Posudek Bakalrské Práce(Vedoucky Report): “The Relationship of Religion and Fantasy:The Influence of Christianity on the Fictional Religion in The Fantasy Genre ”
Report on Bachelor’s Thesis (Supervisor's Report): “The Relationship of Religion and Fantasy:The Influence of Christianity on the Fictional Religion in The Fantasy Genre”

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Oponent: Zdenek Beran PhD

Zpracoval : Marcela Vrbatova

General Remarks:

From the outset the scope and ambition of this thesis is clear and while the sample field is clearly problematic(the sheer size of the texts in question as multi-volume sagas is intimidating to all but the most dedicated reader or fan) Vrbatova has made a valid and impressive attempt to marshal the salient facts of a huge canon of work into a manageable work.

The work of Colin Manlove should have been the treated as a distinct and independently valuable resource rather than as an offshoot of other anthologies and critical surveys and some form of explanation of this is perhaps due in the text. Positive credit needs to be given to Vrbatova for managing to corral the topic of christianity as a mythopoeic resource for Tolkien, Donaldson and Martin and especially as treated via Hein and his text.Myth as histoire is a very useful topic and much more could perhaps be written on the topic as an extension of this thesis into MA.While Tolkien’s work is often unquestioningly treated as *groundbreaking* it is heartening to see that this is not the case here as it is rendered merely *canonical* not beyond analysis. Vrbatova’s treatment of Shippey’s assertions of Donaldson and Tolkien’s oppositional treatment of corruption and healing as central concerns of the genre is well done and compelling.

On the downside,it is regrettable that the text has not been submitted to a more assiduous proofing as the number and variety of simple grammatical and typographic errors is somewhat gruelling at times.That said, it does not sufficiently distract from the reading of an otherwise interesting work which shows evidence of clear research provenance and dogged determination in despite of a daunting volume of major texts requiring dismantling and dissection.

Recommendation

Bearing in mind the foregoing comments, I would recommend that this work should be passed at a grade of 2 (Velme Dobre) and I commend it for consideration at that level.

Colin S Clark MA

