

## Opponent's Report

Ms Eliška Mečířová

BA thesis: 'Dylan Thomas as a Love Poet'

Ms Mečířová's thesis is well written and structured to take into consideration the full span of Thomas's career as a poet. Her arguments are cogent and credible and her use of secondary sources judicious.

The term 'love' in the title of the thesis is employed according to its various meanings, and while this term is one of the most indeterminate in English—with regards to its definability (and ultimately its practicality as a critical paradigm)—this is not allowed to distract from the overall attempt to situate Thomas's work within a genealogy of 'love poetry,' from Petrarch to MacNeice.

The two questions that present themselves to this reader have to do firstly with the idea of 'love' as it has been philosophised e.g. in the work of Roland Barthes, and how the idea of a specifically linguistic/poetic articulation of 'love' might be identified in the rhythms and textures of Thomas's work; and secondly, whether or not Ms Mečířová might see Thomas's work as having larger consequences for how we think about language/poetry today.

These questions notwithstanding, I have found Mečířová's thesis to be excellent. It points to an analytical and scholarly competence that is unusual at this level of study and strongly indicates that Ms Mečířová has the ability to produce original research of quality were she to continue to a higher degree. It is my view that Ms Mečířová would be rewarded by directing her future MA research towards publishable outcomes, as the quality of her writing indicates that this is within her range.

It is my recommendation therefore that this thesis be awarded a grade of excellent.

Dr Louis Armand

Prague, 13 September 2009

