

## Fondation Hardt report

I am pleased to report that my stay at the Fondation Hardt this summer was immensely productive and enjoyable. Of the many advantages afforded by the Fondation's impeccable hospitality, I was particularly grateful for the serenity of an environment in which every need seemed to be anticipated and provided for — this allowed me to attend to my work with a single-mindedness that is rare or impossible to find in the outside world. In my two weeks there I was able to complete a full chapter of my dissertation, compose the text and handout for a talk I will give at the SCS meeting in January, and draft an article which I intend to submit for publication. The depth of focus and sustained effort required for that kind of output was facilitated at every turn by the scholarly and convivial environment in which I found myself.

The Fondation's library is a marvellous resource. I had almost everything necessary for my research, and the staff were extremely responsive to requests on the rare occasions when I needed an additional book from elsewhere. I was also struck by the scrupulousness of Mr Ducrey, Mr Vachicouras, and Ms Burdet, all of whom went out of their way to make sure that each guest was well looked after. Of course Heidi's culinary skills are famous enough to barely need mentioning, which is just as well as they are utterly beyond my powers of description. I am profoundly glad to have experienced the benefits of this invaluable institution, to which I very much hope to return as I finish my thesis. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the Hellenic Society for making possible the privilege of this fruitful trip to the Fondation.

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