

Leah Lazar - Oxford University

SPHS Fondation Hardt Scholarship Report

I had a peaceful and productive stay at the Fondation Hardt. I am coming to the end of my doctoral thesis, entitled 'Athenian Power in the Fifth Century BC', so I am very grateful to have had two weeks there. My time at the Fondation kickstarted my writing and editing process. The library is beautiful and I was able to find intense focus. It was a luxury to have my own desk and to leave all my books there. In my first week, I completed a draft of my final chapter, which examines the presentation of fifth-century BC Athenian power in Old Comedy. The collection of the Fondation included all the books I needed for this. In my second week, I wrote a first draft of my thesis introduction. By the end of my stay, my whole thesis existed in some form, apart from the conclusion – this happened a lot faster than it would have done in Oxford!

I also really enjoyed the social experience of meeting other scholars at various career stages. I had many interesting conversations and learned a lot. I have made a number of friends of other nationalities, with completely different research interests, who I hope to remain in contact with. The staff at the Fondation were all very kind and welcoming, and I enjoyed daily walks or runs with views of the lake and the Alps. I would really like to return at some point in the future.

I would like to thank the SPHS for its generosity in supporting my stay at the Fondation.