**Two week stay at the Fondation Hardt September 2022**

I was delighted to receive a graduate bursary from the Hellenic Society and Foundation to attend the Fondation Hardt for two weeks, which was subsequently arranged for September 2022. The Fondation is a unique place entirely geared to the needs of the scholar: residents literally do not need to worry about anything other than studying. The various libraries are all within one building, along with the study desks, and the quiet (but not oppressively so) atmosphere is conducive to the most productive work. I must confess, it was a difficult to place to find, but once there the welcome was very warm and Sabrina ensured that all new-comers were orientated, knew where the various libraries were, and could make best use of the facilities from the start. The catering, which I had read of in advance, is legendary and it hardly seems possible to add to what has already been said – but equally it is impossible not to mention it at all. The food is varied and, while not a concern to me, I could see that any food allergies or dietary preferences were closely attended to. We were fortunate that the weather was still good enough to allow us to dine on the veranda where the wisteria was putting on a second show late in the season. The mealtimes are also quite special as a time when the 10 or so scholars in residence can discuss projects freely around the table, and find out the state of classics education in their various countries. It is, of course, dependent on all the residents to keep the interchange of ideas both friendly and lively and on the whole everyone played their part. On the middle Sunday, the residents cooked for themselves and again, everyone helped with a will. My own bedroom was in the library building which was perfect for a pre-breakfast warm-up in the study section, and wonderfully peaceful at night.

I was particularly pleased with the library. In my field of research (the soul and the *thumos*), there is an obscure book, printed in 1931 and long since out of print, that almost every author mentions in passing, but no-one quotes from exactly. I had tried and failed to obtain a copy before, but none was available at any price from any seller in the world, or for loan from any university library in the UK. The Fondation Hardt had a copy which was an amazing find. That alone will make my PhD stand out in the crowd and I will forever be indebted to the Fondation Hardt and the Hellenic Society and Foundation for making my visit possible.

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