

Desiree Arbo

Report on visit to Hopkins (March-April 2016)

In Spring 2016 I spent a month at Johns Hopkins University as a visiting graduate student. On my first day I collected my J-Card and was treated to lunch by a few other PhDs, who made sure I tried the famous Baltimore crab cakes. During my first week I presented a paper at the opening workshop of the project, which was held in the glorious Peabody Library in downtown Baltimore. Following interest in my paper I met with several professors. Some of them gave me as long as two hours of their time over a cup of coffee, helping me think through the final stages of thesis-writing and exploring potential areas for further research. I must here thank in particular Dr. Earle Havens for his enthusiasm and advice. A concrete result of these conversations was that I submitted a panel proposal on Jesuit libraries for the 2017 RSA conference in Chicago, to be sponsored by the Singleton Center as part of the Warwick-Hopkins project.

My J-Card gave me access to the Eisenhower Library and the Special Collections, which are scattered between the main campus, the Peabody Library and other sites. I was able for example to consult and compare several editions of Jacques Vanière's *Praedium Rusticum*. I spent many hours in the libraries or in the PhD workroom, which was a nice place to work because the PhDs who came by would often stop to chat. This was actually invaluable; they often pointed out sources or people that I could consult - as well as good places to eat on campus. This summarises my Hopkins experience: everyone was friendly, showed interest in my work, and was willing to share ideas or sources, which was extremely motivating.