

My month at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore was busy, enjoyable, and ultimately very valuable. The opportunity to interact with Johns Hopkins' wonderful resources and research community as part of the *Antiquity and Its Uses* project has enriched both my current research, and given me much needed inspiration and confidence for my future career.

My trip to Johns Hopkins was a wonderful opportunity to meet exciting scholars and to learn from them. I was lucky enough to talk about my research with Sharon Achinstein, Shane Butler, and Earle Havens. These eminent scholars not only offered me advice on my thesis, but also helped me to think about possibilities for post-doctoral research. My conversations with Professor Achinstein provided the basis for the project I proposed in my successful application to Warwick's Institute for Advanced Studies early career fellowship.

One very valuable aspect to my stay at Johns Hopkins was the impressive number of talks, seminars, and symposia that filled every week. Speakers included Mary Nyquist and Piero Boitani. The symposium, *Haunting Antiquity*, which brought together classical reception scholars from the USA and the UK, was a highlight of my trip. The day offered a wide variety of challenging and entertaining papers, on topics as diverse as lemurs and Freud (including Victorian mediums along the way!), which really challenged me to open my mind in my approach to classical reception. Many of the papers prompted me to rethink my own presentation of the authority of Roman literature in my thesis.

A great part of the excitement of visiting Johns Hopkins surely lies in its impressive collection of rare books and manuscripts held in the Sheridan Libraries under the curation of Earle Havens. Between the Sheridan Libraries and the Folger Library, which was a short commuter train away, I was able to make comparisons between a wide array of early modern editions of the works of Horace, and their commentaries. This has been an essential addition to my thesis. The most interesting artefacts I was lucky enough to have a close look at from the Sheridan Libraries included a 1586 copy of Guazzo's *Civile Conversation* (in English translation) that included inscriptions showing that it had been passed down by three generations of women. I was really interested in the implications of this sort of legacy, and I am looking forward to using this as the starting point for more research on women, books, and inheritance, after I finish my thesis. Another real treat in the collection was a manuscript account of the Thomas Overbury affair from 1616. I also enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of visiting the 'book hospital' of the Sheridan Libraries, that is, the lab where book restoration and preservation is carried out and researched.

I am very grateful to Warwick University's Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, and to Johns Hopkins University's Charles Singleton Centre for Pre-Modern Studies for this wonderful opportunity.