

The Academic Fund has been helpful in enabling me to complete my third-year dissertation. I have written a 10,000 word thesis on the text of Cicero's *Brutus*, as part of which I have collated sections of 30 Latin manuscripts of the fifteenth century. The majority of these had not been studied to any serious extent before. By comparing the errors present in the different manuscripts, I was able to place the manuscripts into different families, and to draw conclusions concerning their relative importance for the textual criticism of the *Brutus*.

Many of the manuscripts I was studying were available online, but for several of them, photographs have not yet been published on the Internet. Thanks to the Academic Fund, I was able to make two trips to London to study six manuscripts in the British Library. I was given permission to photograph some of these manuscripts while I was there, and I included some of these photographs in my dissertation. I was also able to order photographic reproductions of a significant manuscript currently housed in the Vatican Library. Studying the text of this early manuscript was especially useful in enabling me to determine the relationship of the later copies to the archetype of the tradition.

As well as being of direct use for my thesis, the money provided by the Academic Fund has enabled me to gain valuable hands-on experience with Renaissance manuscripts. This will be very useful in the future, as I hope to go on to further study in this area.

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