Ovid the Clairevoyant

The Augustan Age in Rome could rightly be called a renaissance long before the Renaissance. In the middle of it the poet Virgil composed his Aeneid; at the very end of that period another great poet, Ovid, most famous for his Metamorphoses, wrote a series of literary epistles from Tomis, a small town on the Black Sea. In comparison with Virgil’s more optimistic tone, the tenor of Ovid’s letters is cheerless and harks back to better days that poets like Virgil and Ovid had enjoyed in Rome.

I am finishing up a project on an a possible acrostic with what could be interesting, possibly major historical implications on Ovid’s exile poetry (Ex Ponto 3.3). If I am right about this acrostic, then Ovid may be hinting that the empress Livia really was a poisoner of her own family members and, possibly, even the emperor Augustus himself. To bring this project to the point at which that could be accepted for publication, I would like to hire student workers to help me 1) look for further acrostics 2) ascertain that this has not been suggested elsewhere and, 3) check and double check the accuracy of my reporting. When finished, I hope to submit this paper to a leading scholarly journal.