Jeffrey Fish
Completing “On the Good King According to Homer”
(Classics / Arts and Sciences)

I am in the final stages of a project that has occupied my attention for many years, a complete edition and translation of Philodemus' On the Good King According to Homer, a 1st century B.C. philosophical treatise on leadership which is preserved only in a carbonized scroll recovered from the Villa of the Papyri in Herculaneum. This treatise has proved to be important for understanding kingship in the Aeneid, an epic poem written by Philodemus' friend and student, Vergil, and it also casts light on what it meant to be a statesman in Rome in the Late Roman Republic. The Loeb Foundation has awarded me a grant ($30,000) in order to give me sabbatical time to finish this book. Recently, Dirk Obbink, a leading scholar on the Herculaneum scrolls, has offered to spend time with me in Oxford going over my book in detail, and allowing me the use of archive materials there in the libraries. This time with Professor Obbink would be a vast help both for my book and for my scholarly career in general. Professor Obbink's expertise is highly sought after, but very hard to come by given his busy schedule. Apart from the help of his direction and advice, I would benefit greatly from having access to all of the important books and manuscripts, many of which have neither been scanned nor are available by ILL.