In summer 2023, I travelled to Norway to conduct research on the late Norwegian author Tarjei Vesaas. Vesaas is a major 20th century Norwegian author and I am currently translating a collection of his short stories for the American publisher Archipelago Books. The first stop on my research trip was to the archives at the National Library of Norway in Oslo, where I examined Vesaas’s hand- and typewritten manuscripts. This had proven extremely valuable in my translation work. Comparing Vesaas’s drafts with his final published versions enabled me to see more clearly what he chose to emphasize in the final version; armed with this knowledge, I have been able to emphasize those elements in my translation. I plan to write about this unique blend of translation and archival research in my introduction to the translated story collection, as this constitutes a novel method of translation I do not believe has been much explored by previous translators.

As part of my research, I also travelled to the Norwegian Forestry Museum in Elverum. This was important because Vesaas’s fiction contains many references to aspects of the Norwegian logging industry that are historically remote and unfamiliar to a modern reader. I was given a guided tour by the curators there, who were kind enough also to go through some Vesaas stories with me and answer some of the specific questions I had about logging terminology in his works.

In addition to my research on Vesaas, I attended a conference for translators of Norwegian literature conducted by NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad) in Kløfta. This was an excellent opportunity to gain a better understanding of the current state of Norwegian literature in translation, as well as to establish contacts with important publishers, agents, and other
translators. These relationships will help me in my future academic career as well as my translation work.