

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE  
BRYN MAWR, PA. 19010

October 25, 1986

William P. Alston  
Chair, Sutton Search Committee  
Department of Philosophy  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY 13244-1170

Dear Professor Alston:

I have known Eric von der Luft for ten years. He attended two of my regular seminars at the Graduate School of Bryn Mawr College, and also, after I retired, participated in a series of weekly philosophical meetings involving both students and professors on a variety of topics. From the very first moment Eric impressed me as a person whose philosophic knowledge and sharp mind put him clearly in a class apart from the usual run of students. Thus, I came to consider him as a truly professional person on a par with the members of the faculty who attended my seminars and philosophical meetings.

Among Eric's outstanding qualities I should like to mention the following: (1) A truly scholarly attitude, never content with less than an exhaustive perusal of all the literature related to the topic under discussion; (2) An analytical and critical mind, superb in textual reading and interpretation (no matter how "speculative" a topic may be, Eric's approach is always critical and analytical); (3) An original approach, capable of probing deeply into the subject chosen. Eric's remarkable abilities were put to use in a vast number of topics, both systematic and historical, and gave results well worth publishing in the areas of his choice: philosophy of religion, metaphysics, and German philosophy, notably German idealism.

Eric took over some of my introductory classes and was the assistant reader of students' papers for several semesters. I have only praise for his work in both respects. The critical (and extensive) remarks he wrote on each of the student's papers were always extremely clear and pertinent. He was invariably reliable and punctual; a model teacher of philosophy.

Eric excels in the two areas most desirable for a philosophy professor: teaching and research. I cannot recommend him more highly for the Allan and Anita Sutton Distinguished Faculty Fellowship.

Cordially yours,

*J. Ferrater Mora*  
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Emeritus Professor of Philosophy

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