Woodrow Wilson
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CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS - 1982

To encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all areas of human endeavor.

Faculty Letter of Recommendation

(Please return to "Newcombe Fellowships" at the above address by January 11, 1982.)

Name of applicant  Eric von der Luft

Dissertation topic Hegel’s Philosophy of Religion and its Interpretation by Hermann Hinrichs

Note: Newcombe Dissertation Year Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of the scholarly validity of the proposed study, the candidate’s qualifications for carrying it out, and its significance to ethical or religious inquiry.

I have known the candidate for a period of three years. He has attended my Hegel and my Kant Seminars, and has been my teaching assistant for an entire academic year. My judgment is based upon a close examination of his work, particularly of his written work in the above Seminars and of various substantial portions of his dissertation in progress.

I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to have taught a person who, like Mr. Eric von der Luft, has all the qualifications of a mature and superb scholar specializing in German thought, and in particular in Hegel’s philosophy of religion. Mr. Eric von der Luft’s work for my Seminars has been truly outstanding. Not only does he possess a complete command of the subjects discussed, but has also, and above all, an uncanny ability to read, and interpret, difficult philosophical passages. Mr. Eric von der Luft is perfectly attuned to the kind of thought that Hegel exemplifies, and to the religious and ethical problems that this thought raises.

I have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Eric von der Luft will produce a truly remarkable piece of research, very much above the common run. Not only does he have the talent, but also the will and the patience — two indispensable elements in philosophical research.

I wish to add that the candidate strikes a happy balance between analytic powers and synthetic flair. He never fails to go very deeply into particular passages in the search for an interpretation both accurate and revealing. At the same time, he never forgets the words of his master himself: die Wahrspeichers das Ganze.

Date: November 1, 1981

Printed Name José Ferrater Mora
Bryn Mawr College. Graduate School.