

Woodrow Wilson  
National Fellowship Foundation

BOX 642, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540 • 609/924-4666

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 Heidegger 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 dissert-  
ation 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 plan. 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  
~~Das~~ master himself: die Wahrheit ist das Ganze.

Date

November 1, 1981

Printed Name

  
José Ferrater Mora

Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School.

Institution