

DAVIDSON COLLEGE DAVIDSON, NORTH CAROLINA 28036 704/892-2000

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

April 24, 1987

Dear John,

I have delayed this letter too long. I am writing to tell you I have good news for next year. I received a Mellon Faculty Fellowship at Harvard, beginning in July. I feel tremendously fortunate. With the grace of God I'll be able to finish my first book on Carolingian baptismal instructions and the Carolingian reform.

Thank you a million times over for your encouragement this past year, your sympathy, and your letters of recommendation in my behalf. You have been more than a friend in your concern for my health and my future. I hope everything is fairing very well with you? I hope you will tell me. If there is one most valuable thing you've showed me, it is the value of communicating. But I am a slow learner.

My experience at Davidson has been good. My eyes have certainly been opened to the demands of teaching at a small college, and this has been valuable in figuring out where my talents do or don't lie. I know too that I am far from home base without a daily liturgy or a real research library. I will leave here with some regrets and many fine friends, which is also good. Had I left earlier on my own, perhaps I would have snubbed the whole experience and the people here.

So, for the future! Perhaps California will again be my destiny. I trust everyone is doing well among my Caltech companions? Is Joy still in command? A fun coincidence to my going to Harvard is that Barbara Freedman is a Mellon Fellow there this year. We had a great time together when I went up for the interview.

Please give my warmest greetings to Elspeth. I am so glad to hear that Laura seems to be doing well at the school you mentioned. If there is ever anything I can do for you in the Boston area, please let me know. Best wishes and prayers, as always,

*Jean*