

copy
(on Harvard letter-head)

November 19, 1987

Professor Eleanor Searle
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California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125

Dear Eleanor,

Greetings! It is hard to believe I have now been here at Harvard for almost three months. The days whiz past me, and I cannot begin to describe the joys I have had in working with so many attractive people. What a renewal it is to be around other medievalists who are struggling with my very same problems and ideas!

Looking ahead very practically, I probably will not be able to get my book finished by June. I would like to extend my stay here if a tenure-track job offer doesn't come through, and so I'm applying for a one year Research Associate position in the Women's Studies in Religion Program at the Harvard Divinity School. Would you be willing to write me a letter of recommendation? I could have no more impressive backing than a letter from you, and I hope you do not mind me taking advantage of your generosity. I went ahead and enclosed the form and a copy of my proposal to them. If you can do it, I have to apologize for sending it to you so soon before the deadline. They want it by Dec. 1, if possible.

I hope everything is going well for you in your work and at Caltech. Did you survive the earthquake intact? Please give my best to John. I hope he is doing alright? Will you be east for any conferences? I have met many people here who speak so highly of you and your work. I have met Tom Bisson, Robin Fleming, and Fred Paxton from Berkeley, and Jim Hankins, Virginia Brown's new husband (what a lovely person) among many others.

Thanks a million for letting me ask you for the recommendation.

Fondest regards,