

## The Medieval Studies Program Presents a Lecture

Jeffrey Hamburger, Harvard University, Thursday, 4 October 2007, 4:00PM, Flying A Studios Room, University Center, UCSB

**“Inscribing the Word -- Illuminating the Sequence: Epithets in Honor of John the Evangelist in the Graduals from Paradies bei Soest.”**



Central to the Christian conception of salvation is the act of inscription. According to Revelation 21:12, the dead shall be “judged by those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Works, however, are meaningless unless they are attached to the names of the individuals who performed them, and names occupy an especially important place in liturgical life. Be it in calendars or colophons, litanies or hymns, the invocation and inscribing of names played an indispensable role in the rites of monastic *memoria*. Not by accident do we know the names, or at least the initials, of Elizabeth von Lünen and the nuns with whom she wrote, notated, illuminated and inscribed the liturgical books from Paradies bei Soest, which are among the most elaborately illuminated liturgical manuscripts of the entire Middle Ages. Focused, like the books themselves, on the cult of John the Evangelists, for whom the nuns devised many names, matched in images of extraordinary intricacy and unusual learning, This lecture will explore the interaction of illumination and inscriptions in the unpublished manuscripts from Paradies and consider their potential to revise the received picture of female monasticism in the later Middle Ages.

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