

Dominic E. Delarue
Viri Dei: Visions, Apparitions and Miracles in the Late Medieval Painted Cycles
of Saints Judoc, Anthony and Benedict

The *Viri Dei* and the *Famula Dei* are prototypes of a medieval saint. Different from the early Christian saints, their life is all too seldom crowned with martyrdom, but nevertheless they are able to work wonders, fight successfully against devils and demons, have divine apparitions and remain trustworthy helpers of their venerators even beyond death. The power of these saints originates from their ascetic life in faith in God. Two key figures for understanding the concept of the *Vir Dei* are the hermit Anthony and the founder of European monasticism, Saint Benedict. Their lives are exemplary for regional saints, like the Picardian saint Judoc, whose vita has allusions to the life of Anthony and Benedict. The paper discusses a manuscript preserved in the Royal library of Belgium (MS 10958), made for the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good, in about 1449, in contrast to two late medieval monastic painted cycles illustrating the lives of Saint Anthony (Valetta, The National Library of Malta, cod. 1) and Saint Benedict (Würzburg, UB, M. p. th. q. 8). The paper analyses how different forms of apparitions and visions are narratologically embedded in the plots and work together to demonstrate the power of the saints. Therefore, attention is paid to the crucial question "Who is entitled to see?", the interplay of miniatures and viewers as well as the functioning of the three manuscripts in their differing social contexts.