

Abstract: The Eyes Have It: Blindness and Vision in Matthew Paris's *Estoire de seint Aedward le rei**

The manuscript of *La Estoire de seint Aedward le rei* (The History of Saint Edward the King) has been widely studied by art historians who recognize it as one of the most skillfully and abundantly illustrated of the thirteenth century. They, however, have not examined the thematization within the text itself of vision and the bodily organs that permit it. This is what I undertake here. While considering the visual program of the manuscript, I focus on the role ordinary human vision and the eyes play in constructing both political and literary authority in the *Estoire* to reveal how it functions as an authorizing and foundational text for the Angevin monarchy and St. Albans monastery while augmenting the prestige and influence of its author, Matthew Paris.

Nicole Leapley, PhD
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures,
Saint Anselm College.
nleapley[at]Anselm.Edu

* The article is dedicated to the memory of my brother, Lance Leapley.