HOW I BECAME A MEDIEVALIST

JEFFREY F. HAMBURGER, HILDEGARD KELLER, and ARNE WILLÉE talk about a scholar’s path

Monday, 8 February, 4–6 pm, Lilly Library

How does one chose a course of study, let alone a profession? What does it mean to have a sense of calling in contemporary academia? How much do we owe to our teachers, how much to ourselves, how much to serendipity, fate, destiny or whatever one might want to call such a predetermining power? What role might chance encounters or elective affinities have played? And not least, what does it mean (or might it mean) to be a medievalist in the modern world and to be a teacher and scholar at an American university in a period of profound changes in and pressures on the educational system in general and the Humanities in particular?

JEFFREY F. HAMBURGER is Kuno Francke Professor of German Art & Culture at the Department of History of Art & Architecture at Harvard University.

HILDEGARD ELISABETH KELLER is Professor of Medieval and Early-Modern Literature at the Department of Germanic Studies at Indiana University, and a literary critic and filmmaker.

ARNE WILLÉE is Associate Instructor in German and a doctoral student in the Department of Germanic Studies at Indiana University.