

Amanuensis

by [John RC Potter](#) (January 2025)



St Dunstan at work, from Smaragdus of St Mihiel's *Expositio in Reglam S Benedicti*, England (Canterbury), c. 1170–80

Always present in the background,
more cast in shadow than in light;
praying at the glorious feet,
of one adored but newly found.
Ears listening for scattered knowledge,
with hands busily scribing away;
from the dark to the first light of day,
in the act of serving another.
There is a vision but, alas, no sight,
but see what the artist has created:
fine artwork due to the amanuensis,
illuminating always in the senses.

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John RC Potter is an international educator from Canada, living in Istanbul. He has experienced a revolution (Indonesia), air strikes (Israel), earthquakes (Turkey), boredom (UAE), and blinding snow blizzards (Canada), the last being the subject of his story, "Snowbound in the House of God" (*Memoirist*). Recent prose publications include "Letter from Istanbul" (*The Montreal Review*) & "A Day in May 1965" (*Erato Magazine*); recent poetry publications include "From Vaisler Brothers to Tel Aviv" (*New English Review*) & "Chiaroscuro" (*Strangers and Karma Magazine*). The author's story, "Ruth's World" (Fiction on the Web) was a Pushcart Prize nominee. His children's book, *The First Adventures of Walli and Magoo*, is scheduled for publication.

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