

FALL
NEWSLETTER
2016

ILLUMINATIONS

HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



Illuminations

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ON THE COVER:

The new HMML Reading Room already features more than 6,000 complete manuscripts in thirty languages, including this 15th Century illuminated Gospel book from the Armenian Church, Berioy T'emi Azgayin Arajnordaran, in Aleppo, Syria. Photography and cover art direction by Wayne Torborg. HMML Project Number AODA 00044

LEFT:

Manuscript from the Al-Budeiry Library collection, page 8, detailing 'Abd al-Mu' min al-Sbarishī on the Maqāmāt. The original work was known as an example of linguistic skill, using rare words and expressions in a poetic style, and the commentary was therefore highly valued. HMML Project Number ABLJ 00631.

Illuminations is a publication of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library and is published for scholars and friends of HMML twice a year.

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Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) is a global organization that advances manuscript research and scholarly inquiry by digitally preserving, providing access to and interpreting manuscript collections from around the world. HMML places a special priority on manuscripts from regions endangered by war, political instability or other threats.

HMML is currently preserving manuscript collections at sites in Croatia, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Mali, Malta and Yemen. With more than 540 partner libraries worldwide, HMML holds the world's largest collection of resources for the study of manuscript cultures both east and west. These manuscripts are available through the new HMML Reading Room at vhmml.org.

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Dear Friends,

In mid-August when vHMML Reading Room went live, I was at an international conference of Syriac and Christian Arabic scholars. Word spread quickly about the instant availability of many of our recently-digitized manuscripts from the Middle East, and I was asked to do a spontaneous live demonstration at a plenary session on the final day. The aesthetics of the site, the range of resources, and the quality of the images actually caused gasps around the room. With vHMML Reading Room, the full import of what we have been working on since 2003 finally came home to one of our key scholarly audiences.



I joined my HMML colleague Dr. Anton Pritula, lead cataloger of Eastern Christian manuscripts, at the Symposium Syriacum in Rome in August. Read more about the conference in the News section on page 13. Photo courtesy of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome.

The vision for HMML's new online future was born in 2011, at a time

when the study of manuscript skills was under threat in universities around the world even as scholars had growing expectations of immediate access to the materials they needed for their research. We had little idea at the beginning how steep the learning curve would be and how much the project would demand in time and talent. There were moments along the way when we wondered if we could pull it off. Thanks to the support of many friends around the world, we brought it home. When we began work on vHMML five years ago, Syria was at peace and the Christian and Yazidi residents of northern Iraq were still living in their ancient cities and villages. We knew then that our work was important; we could not possibly have known how crucial it would prove to be for the preservation of unique manuscripts now lost forever or out of reach for many years to come. When you visit vHMML Reading Room, think of the present-day peoples descended from those who wrote and treasured those manuscripts, and pray for peace.

Sincerely,

Columba Stewart OSB
Executive Director

“Virtual” HMML Reading Room Goes Live

By Elizabeth Reisinger

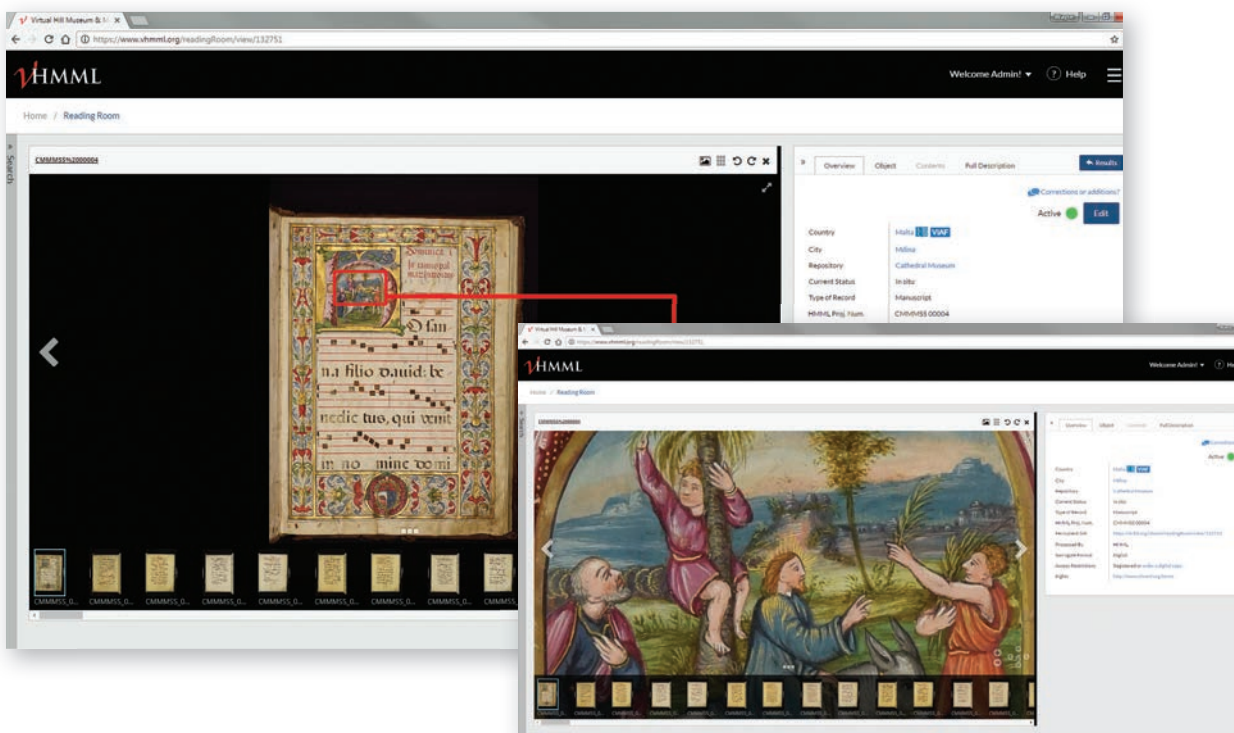
Since 1965, HMML has worked with scholars, librarians, teachers, curators, religious leaders and government officials around the world to ensure that written documents from endangered cultural communities will not be lost. During HMML’s five decades, photography changed from microfilm to digital, while finding aids evolved from card catalogs to printed catalogs, then to CD-ROM disks and finally OLIVER, the database that first brought HMML online in the late 1990s.

As technology has changed, so have the needs of researchers. HMML needed to go further with its online research tools and make its vast manuscript collection more readily accessible to scholars. In October 2015, HMML launched a new and comprehensive resource for manuscript

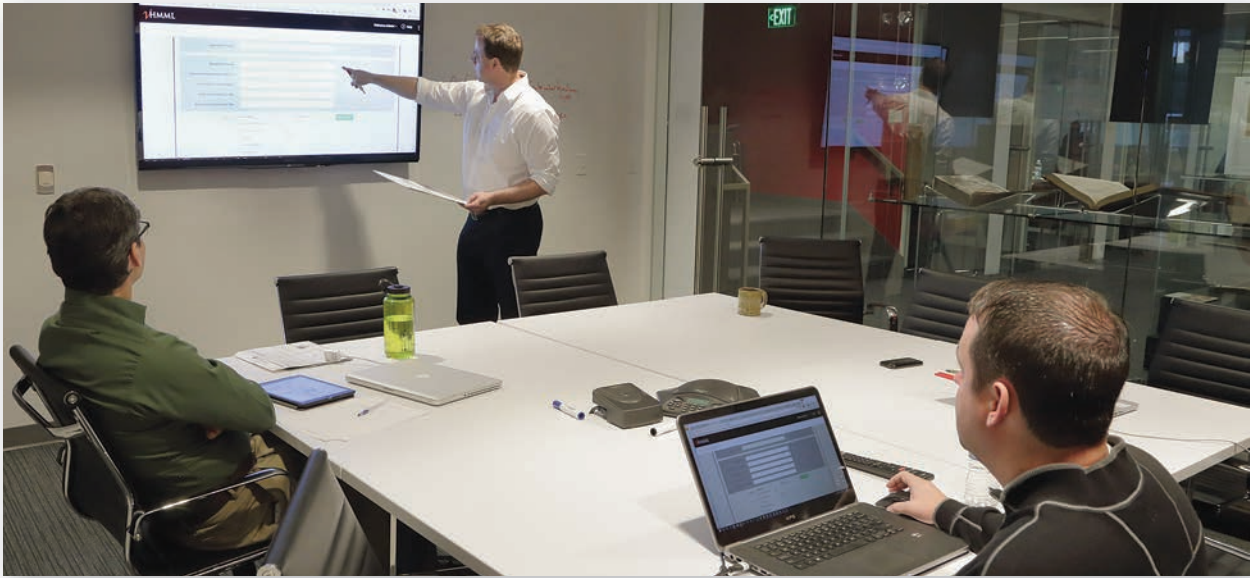
studies, *v*HMML or “Virtual HMML.” A crucial extension of *v*HMML, *v*HMML Reading Room, went live at the end of this summer.

*v*HMML Reading Room gives registered users access to HMML’s photographic manuscript archives from around the world. The initial collections available in *v*HMML Reading Room include representative samples of HMML’s diverse microfilm and digital resources, including images from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and India. Highlights include manuscripts from Iraq and the famed Timbuktu manuscripts of Mali.

Over 6,000 complete manuscripts in thirty languages are now in *v*HMML Reading Room, with collections being added on a weekly basis. *v*HMML Reading



*v*HMML Reading Room includes many functions, including the ability to zoom in on a specific text or image on a manuscript page. The most minute details can be viewed and studied in-depth. The manuscript is from the Cathedral Museum in Mdina, Malta, HMML Project Number CMMMSS 00004.



HMML staff meet regularly to refine vHMML Reading Room. Here, HMML’s Dr. Daniel Gullo and William Straub (left) meet with software developer Chad LaVigne in the HMML conference room in Collegeville.

Room lets users search for manuscripts by country, repository, author, language, genre, date, features, city or even script. Even uncataloged collections will be hosted in vHMML Reading Room, lowering all barriers to scholarly access. Users can contribute cataloging metadata using a simple tool only a click away. Researchers can view a highly-zoomable single page or view the manuscript as a larger whole.

HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, observes, “Scholarship already lives in a digital environment. At HMML, we follow the Benedictine tradition of using the best available technology to preserve the past, as monks did in the 15th century when printing was invented, and as the founders of HMML did in 1965 by using microfilm to preserve endangered manuscripts. vHMML helps a new generation of scholars learn the skills they need to read these precious witnesses to human history, and vHMML Reading Room makes those witnesses immediately available to a global audience.”

vHMML Reading Room is one component of vHMML. vHMML’s other features help users understand and interpret manuscripts. vHMML School offers tutorials in the sciences of paleography and codicology, with lessons in Latin and Syriac already available, Arabic coming very soon, and other languages in development. vHMML Folio provides richly described manuscript pages from communities around the globe and across the

ages, highlighting the changing history of scripts in these traditions. vHMML Lexicon introduces terms used in manuscript studies, and vHMML Reference contains bibliographical resources searchable by keyword, title, or author’s last name.

Over its multi-year development, the project has been supported by several generous grants: initial funding for vHMML came from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arcadia; vHMML Reading Room was funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, and the new catalog database by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Users can find vHMML at www.vhmmml.org. Due to agreements with owning libraries, users will need to register before using the collection for the first time, but it is an easy, free and one-time process. Register directly at <https://www.vhmmml.org/registration>.

“We’re very proud of the work the HMML staff has done on vHMML Reading Room – and the future that this research tool makes possible,” says Fr. Columba. “vHMML Reading Room is poised to become the world’s largest online collection of manuscript images, and certainly the most culturally comprehensive. It is a wonderful testament to the 50-year legacy of HMML– and an exciting new chapter for HMML’s next 50 years.”

Heckman Stipends Turn 25

Supporting research opportunities for young scholars.

By Elizabeth Reisinger

*F*or Erin Galgay Walsh, researching at HMML with the support of a Heckman stipend in July 2016 was not only productive, but surprising.

Walsh, currently a PhD candidate at Duke University in religious studies, studies Greek and Syriac liturgical poetry. HMML has the largest collection of manuscripts of the poetry of Narsai, the fifth-century Syriac author who is the focus of her research. Previously, Walsh has also consulted manuscripts housed at the British Library and the Vatican. Her research time at HMML was even more fruitful than she had hoped, and she admitted that she should have applied for a longer stay.

“I was looking through manuscripts for my project and I found material for another project,”



Erin Galgay Walsh was one of 250 scholars that have studied at HMML thanks to the Heckman stipends.

said Walsh. “Because I had the time to do it, I found texts I was not aware of in Garshuni as well as Syriac. That’s the value of being in the environment at HMML. It’s almost like a retreat.”

Walsh was also able to collaborate with other Eastern Christian and Syriac scholars, learn more about manuscript research, and dedicate time to her project without distractions.

Dr. Ephrem About Ishac has a similar story. His previous Heckman stipend at HMML was a transformative experience that helped define the course of his career as an academic. Ishac first studied at HMML from August to September 2011, and was then a PhD student at the University of the Holy Spirit, Kaslik, in Lebanon.

“As a junior doctoral researcher, the Heckman stipend was like a bridge, as I was able to study very important oriental manuscripts,” said Ishac. “I am really indebted to HMML.”

Established in 1991 by his children, grandchildren and friends, the A.A. Heckman fund at HMML is named after Al Heckman, who dedicated his life to philanthropic organizations in St. Paul and throughout Minnesota. Heckman first became involved with HMML in its fledging years. Heckman served as HMML’s first chair of the Board of Overseers and continued in service to HMML for more than 25 years.

Rob Culligan, now vice president of institutional advancement at Saint John’s University, joined HMML’s staff as development director in 1994 and worked with Heckman’s family and friends to establish the Heckman fund. Heckman’s vision – and commitment to HMML’s mission – was a driving force behind the fund.

“Heckman liked to help young people to get established. He wanted to support emerging scholars,” says Culligan. “His vision was also strategic: If we can get young scholars to become acquainted with

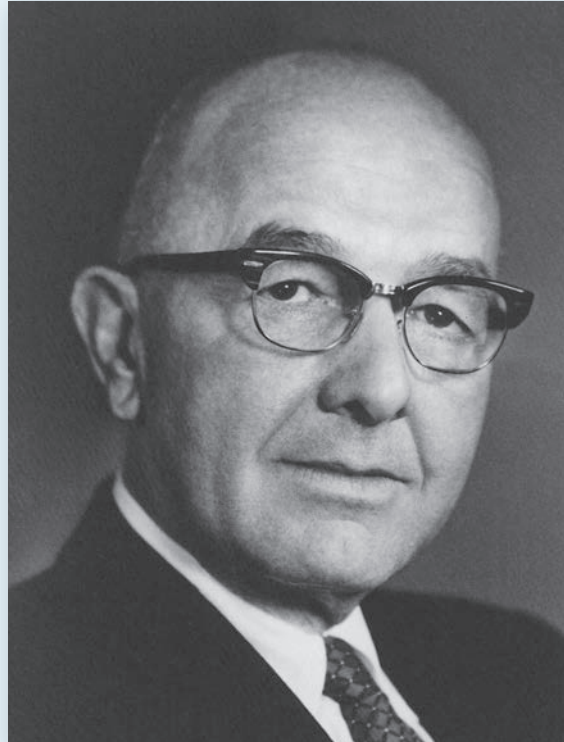
HMML early on, to begin using the collections early in their career, they will use the collections forever. The strategy maximizes the exposure of the library, while creating a commitment to HMML.”

Over the 25 years, HMML has hosted nearly 250 scholars through the Heckman stipend, from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds.

“Discovery and creativity are the foundation of research in the humanities. The Heckman stipends allow scholars at an early stage of their career, whether still in graduate school or with their doctorate recently in hand, to work with our collections and curators, collaborate and connect with other young scholars, and become part of a larger scholarly community,” said Fr. Columba Stewart, HMML executive director. “While at HMML, they can hone their skills for working with manuscript sources and have a chance to discover previously unstudied texts that can define the direction of their research for years to come.”

Since first visiting HMML in 2011, Ishac has been back twice: as a Nicky B. Carpenter Fellow in Manuscript Studies and, this past summer, as a Swenson Family Fellow in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies. Ishac is now a postdoctoral researcher on Syriac Liturgical Theology at the Vestigia Research Center at Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, Austria.

“Of course, HMML is well-known in the academic community and it is a great experience



Al Heckman supported HMML since its beginnings in 1965.

to visit it personally,” says Ishac, “especially for those who are seeking an excellent academic atmosphere to produce serious scholarly work that requires manuscripts as resources!”

Studying at HMML

The Heckman fund at HMML is designed to provide stipends to scholars who have not yet established themselves professionally and whose research cannot progress satisfactorily without consulting materials to be found in the HMML’s collections. The stipends are awarded semi-annually and can cover anything related to a scholar’s travel, housing, meals, research cost at HMML. The stipend can be up to \$2,000.

Heckman stipends are just one of four different stipends HMML offers. Scholars can also apply for the Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in Manuscript Studies, Swenson Family Fellowships in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies for junior scholars, and the Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies.

More detailed information on the application process can be found at:
<http://www.hmml.org/fellowships--stipends--internships.html>

Where We're Working

Al-Budeiry Library and Al-Khalidi Library, Jerusalem

By Elizabeth Reisinger

A crossroads of cultures, the Old City of Jerusalem holds great meaning for Jews, Christians and Muslims. The three faith traditions have been intertwined throughout the city's long and complex history—a history that has been handwritten in centuries-old manuscript collections that until now have been unavailable.

HMML's first manuscript digitization project in Jerusalem began in 2011 at Dayro d-Mor Marqos, Saint Mark's Monastery, a Syrian Orthodox monastery located in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Their collection contained over 350 manuscripts and took about a year to digitize.

Soon after, HMML began digitizing the private libraries of two prominent families in Jerusalem's Muslim community: the Al-Budeiry Library and the Al-Khalidi Library. Both are located in the heart of the Old City near the al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest sites for Muslims in Jerusalem. These are the first completely Islamic collections HMML has digitized in its five decades of work.

The Al-Budeiry family collection, which totals 1,177 manuscripts, was acquired over many generations of the family. "It's a family endowment, founded by the Al-Budeiry family in the 18th century, with each new generation taking over the responsibility of the library," said David Dahdal, HMML's field director in Jerusalem.

Some of the manuscripts within the collection are 400 to 650 years old. Several of the documents are unique manuscripts with no extant copies. Like many of the collections that HMML digitizes, the texts cover a wide range of subjects, such as religious documents, legal archives, poetry and mathematics. "It's one of the most important and unique private collections in Jerusalem," said Dahdal. "Many of the texts tell the story of Jerusalem as a holy place for Muslims – documenting the Islamic period in a descriptive way, and most of them are descriptive texts for Jerusalem history as well."

Dahdal trained family member and curator of the library, Shaima Budeiry, in digitizing techniques.

With her one-camera studio, she was able to digitize the collection in approximately three years. The images are



LEFT: *This manuscript, dated 1722, is a treatise on prayers for the Prophet Muhammad. The rich assortment of colors and the ornate Maghribi calligraphic style are appropriate for the theme of using language to praise the Prophet. HMML Project Number ABLJ 00465.*



The Al-Budeiry Library is a small, three-room building in the Old City. As in many HMML fieldwork sites, lighting controls are necessary for proper digitization.

currently being cataloged and will be available on [iHMML Reading Room](#) when completed.

Digitization of the Al-Khalidi Library is ongoing. The Al-Khalidi family established the library in 1900. Like the Al-Budeiry collection, the Al-Khalidi family accumulated their collection over several generations. With over 2,000 manuscripts on Islamic theology, philosophy and other subjects, it is the largest private collection of manuscripts in Jerusalem today. Most of the works are written in Arabic, with a few in Persian or Turkish. The oldest dated item is an Islamic historic document from the 10th century.

HMML recently completed work at the Dar Issaaf Nashashibi Library, an Islamic research library

that houses a collection of over 800 manuscripts written in Arabic, Ottoman and Turkish, the oldest of which dates back to the 12th century. A smaller Islamic collection at the Dar Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Bukhari Library consisting of 50 manuscripts has recently been digitized under Dahdal's direction. Once cataloged, the images from both collections will be added to the [iHMML Reading Room](#).

“The collections HMML is digitizing reveal the richly varied faith traditions and a history that goes back many centuries,” said Dahdal. “They help us look at our own more recent history and traditions with a new perspective.”

RIGHT: *This page with an illuminated headpiece belongs to a commentary on a commentary. It is the *Hāshiyah ‘alā Sharḥ al-‘Aqīdah al-Kubrā* by Al-Ḥasan ibn Mas‘ūd al-Yūsī, which is a seventeenth-century commentary on a book by Muḥammad ibn Yūsuf al-Sanūsī, which is in turn a commentary on al-Sanūsī’s own fifteenth-century work *‘Aqīdat Abl al-Tawḥīd*, “*Creed of the Monotheists*.” HMML Project Number ABLJ 00144.*



HMML News

HMML in the News

HMML's preservation work was the subject of an August feature article in *The National*, an English-language newspaper published in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Journalist Matteo Fagotto and photographer Matilde Gattoni chronicled HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart's summer 2016 visit to HMML's fieldwork sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, where HMML is currently digitizing two Islamic manuscript collections. Find a link to the article online on our homepage, www.hmml.org.

HMML's Malta Study Center was featured in the online newspaper *Malta Today*. The September 28, 2016 article highlighted HMML's partnership with the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti (FPM). The FPM is a non-profit heritage organization that works with several of Malta's private manuscript libraries. Find a link to the article online on our homepage, www.hmml.org.

HMML in the Community: HMML Annual Millennium Club and Legacy Society Lecture

On Wednesday September 21, Jesuit priest and scholar, Dr. Michael Suarez, director of the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, presented the 2016 Annual Millennium Club and Legacy Society Lecture at the James J. Hill Library in Saint Paul, Minnesota.



Bert Colianni Jr., Chair of HMML's Board of Overseers, welcomes guests.

Over eighty people attended the lecture entitled "How Does Your Garden Grow? Ecosystems of Reading and the Need for Futuristic Cultivation." Millennium Club members give a minimum of \$1,000 annually and Legacy Society members have included HMML in their estate plans. Readers can find a link to Dr. Suarez's lecture on the HMML home page, www.hmml.org.

Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory

The annual Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory (MMRL) took place at HMML from May 30 through June 3. MMRL is a project developed by the Center for Medieval Studies (CMS) of the Institute for Advanced Study in the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. This is the 12th year that HMML has co-sponsored the week-long laboratory. The workshop was led by Dr. Carin Ruff of Washington, DC, with contributions by HMML curators Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, providing practical guidance and training in the areas of manuscript text studies, text editing, paleography and codicology.



Students are introduced to paleography and codicology at MMRL.

The workshop is open to undergraduate and graduate students from any institution as well as to faculty, independent scholars and other individuals who have a background in classics, medieval studies, or library studies, and are interested in manuscript studies.

Father Columba on Research Leave

Fr. Columba is in residence at the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, during the 2016-2017 academic year. He is completing his book, "Between Earth and Heaven: Interpreting the First Thousand Years of Christian Monasticism." His leave coincides with his recent Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Fr. Columba will remain engaged in HMML's international preservation work throughout his time in Princeton and will return to HMML in June 2017.

Dumbarton Oaks/HMML Syriac Summer School

In summer 2016, HMML hosted an intensive four-week Syriac language and paleography class for 10 doctoral students or recent PhDs who demonstrated a need to learn Syriac for their research. The summer school, sponsored and funded by Dumbarton Oaks, included a long weekend in Washington, D.C., to visit Dumbarton Oaks and other institutions in the area to learn more about their resources for Byzantine and Eastern Christian studies.

Taught by Dr. Scott Johnson, University of Oklahoma (Syriac language), and Dr. Adam McCollum, University of Vienna (Syriac manuscripts), the summer school consisted of morning and afternoon sessions Monday-Friday, complemented by guest lectures and other learning opportunities, as well as social events and enjoyment of Saint John's University's Collegeville campus.

Each morning session was devoted to the study of Syriac language, and each afternoon session provided an orientation in the reading of Syriac manuscripts of all periods from the major script-types. Materials were drawn from HMML's vast collection of digitized Syriac manuscripts, and students had the opportunity to hone and challenge their language skills while gaining a foundational experience in deciphering Syriac manuscripts from various communities and time periods.

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection is an institute in Washington, D.C., administered by the Trustees for Harvard University. It supports research and learning internationally in Byzantine, Garden and Landscape, and Pre-Columbian studies through fellowships and internships, meetings, and exhibitions.



Syriac Summer School students in HMML's Reading Room in Collegeville pose with Fr. Columba.

Catholic University of America Order of Malta Digitization Project

HMML's Malta Study Center signed an agreement with Catholic University of America (CUA) to digitize the Maltese manuscript collections in CUA's Rare Books and Special Collections. The collections hold over 200 manuscripts and document the Order of Malta's history from the late 17th through the early 19th century. The project digitized two major collections that were gifted to CUA: the Carol Saliba gift in 1994 and the Foster-Stearns gift in the 1950s. Both collections have been inventoried, but neither has been fully cataloged. Digitization of the CUA Order of Malta collections took place in October 2016. Watch HMML's website for online availability of these two collections.



The digitization process took six days at CUA's Rare Book and Special Collections in Washington, D.C.

HMML and James Ford Bell Library exhibition: "The Bembo of Venice: Merchants, Diplomats, and a Knight of Malta"

The University of Minnesota James Ford Bell Library featured HMML materials in the exhibition, "The Bembo of Venice: Merchants, Diplomats, and a Knight of Malta." The exhibition is on display September 12, 2016 through January 13, 2017, at the University of Minnesota, James Ford Bell Library. The Bell Library hosted a reception and guest lecture on October 27 where HMML's Dr. Daniel Gullo presented "A Knight of the Italian Renaissance: Pietro Bembo and the Order of Malta."

New Cataloger for HMML's Eastern Christian Collection

David Calabro, PhD, joined HMML in August as the new cataloging fellow for Eastern Christian manuscripts. Calabro specializes in Christian Arabic, Syriac, and Coptic.

Before coming to HMML, Calabro earned a doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago. From 2014 to 2016, he was a researcher and editor at the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at Brigham Young



David Calabro, PhD

University. He has published several articles on the languages and cultures of the Near East. He has also taught courses on Near Eastern languages and literature at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and at Brigham Young University. His fellowship is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of its grant to develop a new and enriched catalog database for vHMML Reading Room.

Dr. Daniel Gullo presents Conversations in Culture Lecture Series in Washington, D.C.

On October 14, Dr. Daniel Gullo, Joseph S. Micallef curator of HMML's Malta Study Center, was invited to speak as part of the Conversations in Culture Lecture Series in Washington, D.C. His lecture, "Preserving the World's Historic Written Cultures," featured stories and images describing HMML's manuscript preservation work in Malta and around the world.

The lecture was presented by the Library of Congress European Division in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Malta, Embassy of Italy, Italian Cultural Institute and European Union National Institutes for Culture. The Conversations in Cultures Lecture Series is sponsored by the delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington D.C.

HMML Exhibition: "Knights, Memory, and the Siege of 1565"

The James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities hosted HMML's Malta Study Center's traveling exhibition, "Knights, Memory, and the Siege of 1565: An Exhibition on the 450th Anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta," from June 1 until August 19, 2016.

The exhibition featured more than twenty original rare books and manuscripts narrating the history of the conflict between the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and the Ottoman Turks from the 1480 Siege of Rhodes, through the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. William Zammit, senior lecturer at the University of Malta, gave a short presentation on the exhibition at a reception hosted by the Bell Library on July 7.

HMML Symposia

HMML's Malta Study Center hosted the 2016 Mediterranean Seminar Fall Workshop on November 11-12 at HMML. The Mediterranean Seminar was held in conjunction with the Mediterranean Studies Research Collaborative, Center for Medieval Studies, Center for Early Modern History, and Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

The seminar included a one-day academic workshop, "Magic, Medicine, and Technology in the Mediterranean" on Friday, November 11. Scholars were invited to submit papers on relevant disciplines, especially comparative or interdisciplinary work that uses the Mediterranean as a frame of analysis and addresses the topics of magic, science, or medicine. Dr. Monica Green of Arizona State University gave the plenary lecture, "Orientis et Occidentis magister': Constantinus Africanus and His Manuscript Legacy."

On Saturday, November 12, participants attended a one-day colloquium, "Magic, Science, and Medicine in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean" that included round-table discussions on disease, hospitals and care in the Mediterranean; scientific exchange in the Mediterranean; and magic and dissimulation in Mediterranean society.

Discussants and presenters for the two-day seminar included scholars from around the world, including Christ's College in Cambridge, University of California-Santa Cruz, and UCLA.

HMML at Conferences

HMML's lead cataloger of Eastern Christian manuscripts, Dr. Anton Pritula, and Fr. Columba Stewart attended the Symposium Syriacum in Rome in August. The annual symposium gathers Syriac scholars from around the world. Fr. Columba presented a paper on his current research, "The Syriac versions of Evagrius' Gnostikos and their relevance for the study of translation in Late Antiquity." Dr. Pritula presented the paper, "East Syriac poetry collections of the Mongol time according to the earliest existing manuscripts: a general typology." Dr. Pritula and Fr. Columba also gave attendees an impromptu demonstration of vHMML Reading Room.

Following the Symposium in Rome, Fr. Columba and Dr. Pritula were the leading presenters at a workshop on digital manuscript portals sponsored by the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

In September, Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, curator of the Austria / Germany Collection and cataloger of rare books, attended the annual meeting of Digital Scriptorium at Harvard University. The Digital Scriptorium is a consortium of libraries and museums committed to free online access to their collections of pre-modern manuscripts. Dr. Heintzelman presented an overview of vHMML Reading Room to approximately a dozen attendees who work with rare book, manuscript and related materials at institutions including Harvard University, Yale University and Columbia University.

Dr. Heintzelman also presented a lecture at the Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM) conference in Duluth in early October. MAM is an interdisciplinary association of medievalists in the Midwest that promotes the study, criticism, research, and exchange of ideas related to all aspects of the medieval period and to articulate the specific needs of medievalists in the Midwest. Dr. Heintzelman's lecture highlighted recent acquisitions in HMML's rare book collection.

In June, Eileen Smith, HMML metadata librarian, attended the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Smith presented a poster session about HMML's global preservation work, focusing on HMML's partnerships and collaborations with libraries and institutions.

HMML & Syriac Manuscripts: New Exhibition at HMML

Syriac Manuscripts were the subject of a HMML exhibition this summer, featuring the first printed Syriac New Testament (1555) and other rare early printed books, as well as manuscript leaves and historic artifacts representing Syriac cultures ranging across the Middle East to India.

Syriac Christianity dates back to the 1st century A.D. The Syriac language is a dialect of Middle Aramaic that was spoken across the Near East during Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. During this time, the Syriac Christians authored an abundance of manuscripts pertaining to history, science, literature, philosophy and religion.



The exhibition highlighted HMML's digitization process of Syriac manuscripts.

"Preserving the linguistic and liturgical traditions of Syriac

Christians became a priority for HMML in 2006, when globalization, wars and religious intolerance began to threaten historic Syriac Christian communities in the Middle East and India," said Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, executive director of HMML. "By digitizing, cataloging and archiving these unique witnesses to human creativity and cultural identity, HMML is keeping the Syriac language, literary and liturgical traditions and histories alive and accessible forever."

Since 2003, HMML has digitized over 13,500 manuscripts belonging to Syriac communities in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and India.

See the exhibition online at:
<http://www.hmml.org/syriacexhibition.html>.

Philanthropy Report

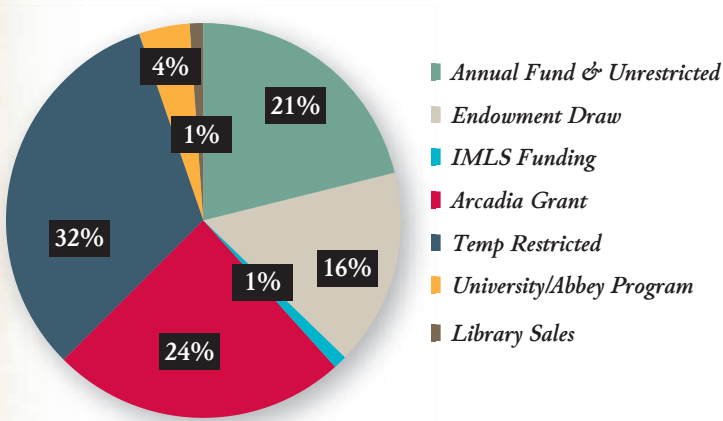
Fiscal Year 2016 | July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

In fiscal year 2016, HMML was awarded a \$4 million grant from Arcadia Fund—the largest gift in its fifty-one year history. The grant will support HMML’s digitization, archiving and cataloging of endangered manuscript collections through 2021. In addition, Arcadia’s funding will make these digitized materials freely available to worldwide users through HMML’s online vHMML Reading Room.

HMML also recorded its largest annual fund in fiscal year 2016—over \$327,000. The financial support we receive from foundations, organizations, corporations and individuals is vital to helping HMML preserve the manuscript heritage of countries affected by war, looting and emigration. Thank you!

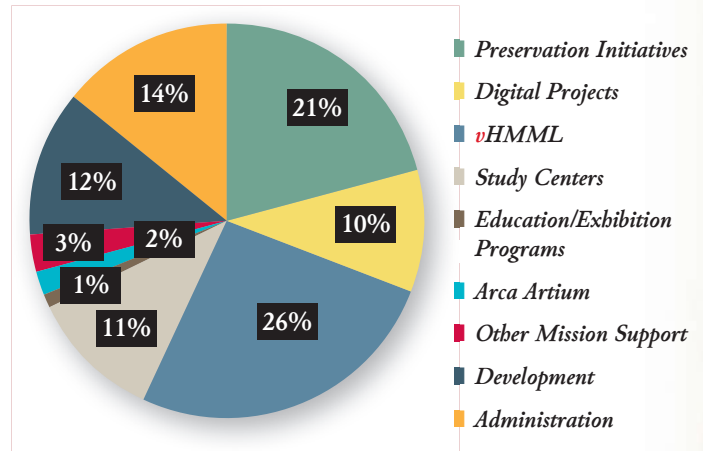
HMML Revenue by Source

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



HMML Expenses

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



The HMML Campaign

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2016

HMML surpasses its \$16.2 million Campaign Goal.

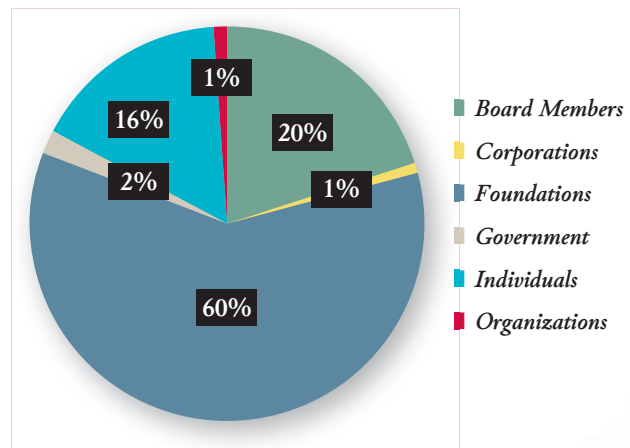
HMML is part of Saint John’s University current \$160 million fundraising campaign that will be carried out through fiscal year 2017 (June 30, 2017). HMML has been counting gifts toward its \$16.2 million campaign goal since July 1, 2008. In fiscal year 2016, HMML surpassed its goal.

HMML has raised a cumulative total of \$18,830,633 (116% of \$16.2M goal) in cash, pledges and grants. A total of \$16,152,045 in cash and pledges has been directed toward our campaign priorities, with \$2,678,588 designated to non-campaign goals.

\$18,830,633

HMML Campaign Contributions by Source

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2016



HMML Scholars

NEBEYOU ALEMU

PhD Student, Philology,
Addis Ababa University,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Project Title: Critical Edition and
Translation of Pastoral Epistles in
Ge'ez and their Andemta Tradition*



Swenson Family Fellowship
in Eastern Christian
Manuscript Studies, July 26-August 9

ERIC DURSTELER

Professor, Department of
History, Brigham Young
University, Provo, Utah

*Project Title: Can Women
Speak Languages? Gender and
Multilingualism in the Early
Modern Mediterranean*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in
Manuscript Studies, July 17-22

EPHREM (ABOUD) ISHAC

Senior Researcher at Karl-
Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria

*Project Title: Checklists of Syriac
Anaphoras Manuscripts*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in
Manuscript Studies, July 5-August 5

TIMOTHY SAILORS

Professor, Philology, History
of Religion, Eberhard-
Karls-Universität
Tübingen, Germany.

*Project Title: The Oldest
Ethiopic Textual Witness to
the Epistula Apostolorum:
The Text in Ṭānāsee Manuscript 177
and a Comparison between It and the
Text Found in Other Manuscripts*



Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian
Manuscript Studies, August 14-October 3

Heckman Scholars

Amanda Gerber, Professor, Department of English,
Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico

Monika Mansfeld, Philosophy, University
of Silesia, Katowice, Poland

Michael Sims, PhD Candidate, Near and Middle Eastern
Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Nafisa Valieva, PhD Candidate, University
of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Erin Galgay Walsh, PhD Candidate, Duke
University, Durham, North Carolina

Visiting Scholars

Fr. Leulerkal Alemu, Ethiopian Orthodox
Church, Seattle, Washington

Kathryne Beebe, Assistant Professor of History,
University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

Jacob Doss, PhD Student, History Department,
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

George Greenia, Professor Emeritus of Hispanic Studies,
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

Brooks Henne, College of William and
Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

Robert A. Kitchen, Regina, Saskatchewan

James Mixson, Associate Professor of History,
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Amy Nelson, PhD Candidate, Medieval Institute,
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

Steffan A. Spencer MA, PhD, Assistant Professor of
African History, University of Minnesota, Duluth

James Sylvester, College of William and
Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

William Zammit, President, Malta National Archives
Council University of Malta, Msida, Malta

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