Dear Friends,

Summer in Minnesota is a glorious season of long days, warm temperatures, and time spent sitting by a lake with family and friends. At HMML, things were a little different this year. In mid-May we moved out of our 40-year-old facility so that it could be gutted and completely rebuilt. We spent almost four months in the bunker-like basement of the Alcuin Library next door while an incredibly hard-working and efficient crew created the new HMML. Day by day we could see the progress as new mechanical systems, walls, wiring, lights, and seemingly acres of glass were fitted into our space. The result is an extraordinary environment with a focus on researchers and students. Everywhere the fruits of technology are evident, from LED lighting to large flat-panel monitors in the meeting spaces. It is a joy to go to work every day and to marvel at what we accomplished with the help of a skilled architect, fine contractors, and many generous friends.

Amidst the excitement of the renovation was the tragic story unfolding in the Middle East. I was in Egypt and Israel in June, leaving Jerusalem just before the Gaza conflict began. ISIS had already begun its march across Iraq, ultimately reaching our partners in one of Iraq’s oldest Christian villages. I remained in close contact with them throughout the summer as a massive refugee crisis developed. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, many of them Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities who knew they had no future under ISIS. Our friends in Iraq made it to safety, carrying many important manuscripts with them. Thousands of other manuscripts, however, are presumed lost. See this issue’s cover story for more.

Fortunately, most of the Christian manuscripts at risk in Iraq had already been digitized, and copies of them are safely archived at HMML. We’re working on cataloging and sharing them with the world as quickly as possible. And stay tuned for important news in the coming months about how we’re making all of our collections more and more accessible to a global audience. We’ve never been busier, or more aware of how much we rely on our friends to make all of these good things possible. Please keep Fr. Nageeb and his team in your thoughts and prayers, as you are in mine.

Sincerely,

Columba Stewart, OSB
Executive Director

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library's mission is to identify, digitally photograph, catalog, and archive endangered manuscripts belonging to threatened communities around the world. Having formed partnerships with over 560 libraries and archives, HMML has photographed over 140,000 medieval, renaissance, and early-modern manuscripts from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and India. These resources, available through HMML's online catalog, OLIVER, and image database, VIVARIUM, have become essential tools for global manuscript research. HMML is the home of The Saint John’s Bible.
HMML in Iraq: The Crisis of Summer 2014
By Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB

Readers of Illuminations met our Iraqi colleague, Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP, in the Fall 2012 issue. HMML has been working with him and his Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts, or CNMO) since 2009, in one of HMML’s most fruitful collaborations. Fr. Nageeb and his team of young Iraqis at the CNMO have digitized thousands of manuscripts in Syriac, Arabic, Armenian, and other languages. HMML has provided training, equipment, and salaries directly to CNMO and has worked on data archiving, cataloging, and scholarly access in Collegeville. We enjoyed hosting Fr. Nageeb at HMML for a few months of sabbatical in the winter of 2013, and he made many new friends with his joyful manner. At that time, all seemed to be going smoothly for the Christians in northern Iraq, even as Syria tipped into its civil war and the broader region began to fragment.

Last June, I was in the Middle East developing a new project at one of Egypt’s ancient monasteries (you’ll hear more about this in an upcoming issue of Illuminations). Like everyone else, I was stunned by news of the rapid conquest of Mosul by the forces of ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria), which had taken over large sections of Syria and had begun its march across Iraq. Taking Mosul brought them weapons, money, and control of Iraq’s second-largest city and key roads. It also meant that the ancient home of Jews and Christians, biblical Nineveh, was now to be purged of all non-Muslims. The Jews had left decades ago in the fall-out from the Arab-Israeli wars, and now it was the turn of the Christians. Their homes were marked with the Arabic letter ٰ for Nasrani, “Christian.” Given the choice of conversion to Islam, death, or exile, they left. As they left the city, whatever valuables they tried to bring with them were taken by the ISIS troops. Churches were desecrated, their crosses removed, statues destroyed. The monks of Mar Behnam Monastery, near the city, were forced to leave without any of their cherished religious items, including a remarkable manuscript collection.

At the time there were threats to the predominantly Christian villages located between Mosul and Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, but the Kurdish militias kept ISIS at bay. We settled into a summer that was tense but seemingly stable. The Kurds were famous for their military prowess, and had become steadfast defenders of the Christian towns and villages in the post-Saddam era. Everyone focused on the war in Gaza. Then in the night of August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration, the Kurds determined that they had to pull back from the Christian areas. This left them defenseless before the territorial ambitions of ISIS, now rebranded as the “Islamic State,” or IS. Our friends in Qaraqosh and other towns were roused from sleep and told to grab whatever they could carry and head for Erbil. The walk of 40 miles through the heat of an Iraqi August day was indescribably horrific. When I reached Fr. Nageeb by phone the day after, this normally ebullient man was still in shock. “I saw things I never thought I would ever see,” he said. “Old people, children, left dying by the side of the road. No transport, no help from anyone. We did everything we could, using our small cars to drive people walking on the highway to Erbil, going back again and again for more. We needed buses, but didn’t have them.”

In the midst of the chaos, they managed to retrieve the manuscripts and archives of the Dominican Priory, brought from Mosul bit by bit after the Dominicans were forced to leave in 2008 due to kidnapping threats, long before the ISIS menace. They also rescued a precious treasure, the manuscripts of the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate in Baghdad, which had been brought to Qaraqosh in 2013 for conservation and safekeeping. The removal of the manuscripts to Qaraqosh, the result of protracted and sensitive negotiations, allowed the digitization of those still in good condition. This has been an enormous boon to scholars, since the Patriarchal collection contained the finest manuscripts taken from various libraries of the Chaldean

LEFT: Christian refugees from Qaraqosh heading to safety in Erbil in August 2014. Photo: Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP.

BELOW: The emergency evacuation of manuscripts from CNMO in Qaraqosh, August 2014. These included the Dominicans’ library originally from Mosul and the manuscripts of the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate in Baghdad. Photo: Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP.
The Catholic Church located throughout modern Turkey and Iraq. Many were unique texts. But now even the safe haven had become dangerous, and once more the manuscripts had to be carried to safety.

Reestablished in a house in Ankawa, a Christian suburb of Erbil, Fr. Nageeb and his Dominican brothers are focused mostly on the needs of the tens of thousands of refugees who have little besides the clothes on their backs. They sleep in churches, schools, tents, and improvised shelters. Even so, the impulse to find and preserve manuscripts remains strong. Although most of their equipment was left behind in Qaraqosh, the team at CNMO is rebuilding their capacity to digitize what they managed to bring with them, and to search out other collections as yet unknown. The scale of their achievement over the past several years is astonishing: some 5,000 manuscripts, from dozens of libraries, many of them now behind IS/ISIS lines and feared lost. The only access to any of them, for the time being, and perhaps forever, is through the digital versions created by CNMO. HMML has deployed an international team of catalogers to work on these collections so that their contents can become known and used by scholars around the world.

This is HMML’s mission at its purest: ensuring that the contents of manuscripts threatened by war, disasters, poverty, or any other risk are preserved for future generations. We began our work at a time when nuclear war in Europe was a distinct possibility. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, the world seemed to become more stable. We started anew in the Middle East in 2003, and ever since have seen the unravelling of the established order. Since 2011, the Arab Spring, the civil war in Syria, the ISIS advance across Iraq . . . what’s next? This is why HMML has broadened its focus beyond Christian manuscripts to include Islamic collections equally threatened by the narrow-minded fanaticism of ISIS and other groups. The manuscripts evacuated from Timbuktu before the fundamentalists arrived, the libraries of the great Muslim families of Jerusalem, the Ethiopian Islamic manuscripts of Harar, all fit HMML’s commitment to ensure that human handwritten culture is safe. All of the Hebrew manuscripts in the world have been photographed by a project based in Israel; the vastly greater number of Christian and Islamic manuscripts demands an equally thorough response. It is our privilege to be among those providing it.

**Right:** Books rescued from Mosul at the Dominican Priory in Qaraqosh before the events of August 2014.

**Left:** Yazidi shrines in northern Iraq. Much of this region is now behind ISIS lines.

**Right:** Eliya of Nisibis, Yoḥannan Bar Za’bi, et al., *Fundamentals of the Syriac and Arabic Languages*, a 17th-century manuscript in Syriac and Arabic from the Chaldean Archdiocese of Kirkuk, Iraq. ACK_00075, fol. 25v, dated 1682 CE. Manuscript on paper. 31.5c21x6 cm.
The monastery now generally known as that of Mor Gabriel (Mor Gabriel Manastırı, also Deyrulumur), a seventh-century abbot and bishop who managed to gain some allowances under Caliph ‘Umar I for Christians in the area, has also been called by the name of earlier saints Samuel († 408) and Symeon († 433), the latter’s disciple. One of the oldest monasteries of Christianity, it is located near the village of Qart(a)min (Turkish Yayvantepe) in the region of Midyat in the province of Mardin in Turkey. The monastery has a long history, and is said to have been founded in 397 by the aforementioned Samuel and his disciple Symeon. It was early recognized by the Roman emperor, and imperial recognition and donations would continue for some time. The monastery flourished and came to own fields and other property.

The monastery lies in what was a border region between Roman and Persian territory, and there were Persian raids in the mid-fourth century. Samuel was himself a disciple of the bishop Karpos, a martyr who has a church named for him in Qartomin. In flight after the death of Karpos, Samuel came to Qartmin, and here he and Symeon started the monastery. Some time later, in the mid-seventh century, Gabriel of Beth Qustan became abbot, and more than a century after his death in 667, during a plague in the year 774 that killed 94 monks there, they exhumed his body and set it in the church, and the story goes that the plague there thus ended. Also associated with the monastery is Symeon of the Olive Trees (d. 734), so named for 12,000 trees he is said to have planted, which supplied the oil for all the churches of Ŧur ʿAbdin. This Symeon, bishop of Harrān and attendant of the Council of Manazkert in 726, studied at the monastery that would later be named for Gabriel when he was a young boy and later as bishop he often visited the monastery.

While the monastery has been the object of more recent constructions, very old parts of it remain. Syriac inscriptions from the sixth century and later survive and give some details of the monastery’s history and inhabitants.

Just over three hundred manuscripts make up the collection at the monastery. About 80 percent of the more than 1,000 individual texts in the collection are in Syriac, the next most substantial language being Arabic, mainly written in Syriac letters, i.e. Garšūnī, and there are a few texts in Kurdish and Turkish (both written in Syriac letters). The latest dated manuscript is from February 14, 1990, and there are very many from the 20th century, especially from the 1960s and later.

Among the most visually interesting manuscripts in the collection is a 19th-century Gospel-book with several illustrations, not only of crosses and scenes from the Gospels (see the photograph here of the entry into Jerusalem), but even of the then-new technology of the telegraph. There are liturgical manuscripts from the 15th century, and a manuscript of the Gospels in Arabic (not Garšūnī) dated 1533/4 that is very unique for the fact that it was copied by a woman, Maryam of Al-Manṣūriyya. To point out only one more notable manuscript, there is a late copy (1966) of collected lives of female saints that is over five hundred pages in Garšūnī. These and the few hundred other manuscripts in the collection now accessible for study will paint a more detailed picture of the monks, scribes, and community surrounding this very old monastery.
Welcome to the New HMML
Renovation Complete!

The renovation of our space at Saint John’s University was completed over the summer, and staff, scholars, and the campus community have been enjoying it ever since.

The remodel addressed the changing technological and scholarly needs of our diverse community of users while maintaining the tradition of Hungarian born architect, Marcel Breuer, the original designer of the space in 1974.

HMML now houses a reading room, classroom, conference room, six private studies for visiting scholars, and staff offices. Every space supports connection to HMML’s online resources, and new exhibition cases allow students and visiting scholars to conduct their research in an environment shaped by HMML’s rich collections of rare books and art.

Staff offices and work spaces have been redesigned to support digital library services, as well as traditional curatorial activities. New heating and air conditioning systems, as well as fire and security systems, provide an optimal environment for HMML’s collections and for those who use them.

HMML’s main entrance has been reoriented to a foyer connected to Saint John’s University’s Alcuin Library, making HMML’s Reading Room and scholar studies accessible during Alcuin Library’s open hours. HMML’s reference collection and other scholar services are available during HMML’s open hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visitors are always welcome!

"HMML’s renovation recognizes that technology is now embedded in research and teaching," said HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. "Now we can offer a range of spaces conducive to both individual and collaborative study. With this renovation, HMML is positioned as a major center for research and outreach related to the cultures whose manuscripts we have photographed, cataloged and shared with the world."

HMML staff offices. Photos on this page: Fred J. Fuhrmeister

LEFT: View of the new public entrance to HMML through Alcuin Library.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Abbot John Klassen, OSB, gave a blessing at the HMML Board of Overseers Fall Meeting in the Reading Room.

BELOW: View of HMML’s Maxine H. Wallin Classroom which seats up to 25 and supports a wide range of media. The Classroom has seen much use since our new space opened.

BELOW: View of scholar study spaces from the HMML Reading Room, with a view of the exhibition space and classroom in the distance.
HMML News

HMML’s Malta Study Center to digitize collection at the National Archives of Malta

In September, Dr. Daniel K. Gullo, Joseph S. Micallef Curator of HMML’s Malta Study Center, signed an agreement with the National Archives of Malta to digitize the law court records for the French period, Epoca Gallica, 1798-1800.

This important collection covers the legal history of Malta when the French abolished the Order of Malta’s civil and criminal justice system and the Office of the Inquisition and replaced it with a secular court system based on the French Republic. The records to be digitized include law court cases with original pagination and bindings which were added during the 19th century. This collection will be of great interest to international scholars and historians of that era.

This is the second digitizing studio HMML has established at the National Archives. The first began in 2007, and thus far has digitally preserved 1500 volumes of law court records dating back to the time of the Knights of Saint John.

HMML Board of Overseers Develops New Strategic Plan for 2016–2020

At the September meeting of the HMML Board of Overseers, members began to develop a new strategic plan that will build on HMML’s recent accomplishments and organizational strengths, including the growth of its preservation projects in the Middle East, India, Ethiopia, and Mali, the development of HMML (Virtual HMML), an online environment for manuscript studies, and a major renovation to HMML’s physical space.

HMML’s last strategic planning process took place in 2010–2011 as preparation for the Capital Campaign. That plan focused on HMML’s continuing investment in manuscript digitization projects throughout the world, deepening HMML’s digital infrastructure, and fostering groundbreaking research by scholars from around the world. The plan also identified a pressing need to update and renovate HMML’s physical environment, constructed in 1974 and never renovated.

Since then, HMML has expanded its international manuscript work into new regions, while undertaking new initiatives to widen access to its digital collections, and has transformed its physical space into a dynamic environment in which to learn, teach, and conduct research. HMML must continue to evolve in ways that meet the research needs of its diverse community of users, ensure free and open access to its vast manuscript collections and archives, and engage scholarly, cultural, and creative interactions with its partner libraries and institutions. An updated strategic plan will respond to these challenges with goals and objectives that will provide measurable benchmarks of success.

HMML has retained the services of MacCallum Ross to facilitate the planning process. A grant from the Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst Foundation has provided support for HMML’s strategic planning process.

HMML Dedicates Classroom to Maxine H. Wallin

In October, HMML dedicated its new classroom to librarian, philanthropist and past HMML Board member, Maxine H. Wallin. Mrs. Wallin served on the HMML Board of Overseers from 1996 to 2004.

The Maxine H. Wallin Classroom seats 25 students and is equipped with the interactive technologies required for teaching, learning, and accessing and sharing information. The classroom will be used by the students and faculty of Saint John’s University, the College of Saint Benedict, and for public programming.

The classroom was made possible by a generous grant from the Wallin Foundation. At the dedication ceremony Mrs. Wallin said:

“HMML’s manuscript collections are irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration that must be studied and shared with the world. It is my hope that this classroom will facilitate manuscript research, strengthen teaching and provide opportunities for life-long learning in the humanities. The Wallin Foundation is proud to support the classroom project.”

“Mrs. Wallin lent her leadership to the HMML Board during a critical time in our almost 50-year history” said HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. “In 2003, the HMML Board made the bold decision to focus our preservation work on Middle Eastern manuscript collections that were at risk of disappearing because of war, neglect and the accelerating emigration of minority Christian communities. Since then, HMML has digitized more than 25,000 manuscripts from Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and the Old City of Jerusalem. The fate of many of the manuscripts HMML digitized in Syria is unknown; perhaps thousands of manuscripts in Iraq were destroyed after the recent advance of ISIS/IS forces. HMML now holds the only record of their existence. It is most fitting that HMML’s first classroom be named for a visionary woman committed to preserving these documents and sharing them with the world for scholarship and study.”
Philanthropy Report
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

The generosity of individual donors, foundations, corporations and organizations allows HMML to take on new—and urgent—preservation projects, provides cataloging and innovative finding aids for the collections, and inspires research critical to understanding humankind. HMML gratefully acknowledges the support of all who contributed to our many successes in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014).

Manuscript Study Opportunities at HMML

Each year HMML hosts scholars from around the world at our facility in Collegeville, MN. Opportunities are available for varying levels of residency and study. See some of the most recent scholars we’ve hosted and their specific areas of study on the next page.

HMML annually invites applications for its Heckman Research stipends, made possible by the A.A. Heckman Fund. Up to 10 stipends in amounts up to $2,000 are awarded yearly.

The Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in Manuscript Studies is a $5,000 annual award for senior scholars who will use HMML’s microfilm and digital manuscript collections for their research.

The Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies has been established in memory of Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB (1949-2008), 11th President of Saint John’s University. The fellowship was first awarded in 2013-2014 and will be awarded annually for the next two years. It may be held for one full academic year (September 1 through April 30). Applicants must be undertaking research on some aspect of Eastern Christian studies requiring the use of HMML’s microfilm or digital manuscripts collections.

The Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies is awarded semi-annually and supports residencies for graduate students or post-doctoral scholars with demonstrated expertise in languages and cultures of Eastern Christianity. The $2,500-$5,000 award was established by Dr. Gregory Swenson and Jeanette Swenson, with their son, Nicholas.

For more information about any of these research opportunities or fellowships, please visit www.hmml.org/scholar-opportunities.html. If you have further questions, or would like to visit with a curator, please contact HMML at 320-363-3514, or email hmml@hmml.org.

The HMML Campaign

HMML is part of Saint John’s University’s $160 million fundraising campaign that continues through fiscal year 2016 (June 30, 2016). HMML has been counting gifts toward its $16.2 million campaign. From July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2014, HMML has raised a cumulative total of $11,860,028 (68% of $16.2M goal). Visit hmml.org/campaign for details on progress toward campaign goals.

Expenses
- Preservation Initiatives
- Digital Projects
- Study Centers
- Mellon Project
- Arca Artium
- Other Mission Support Development
- Administration

Revenue
- HMML Annual Fund
- Annual Program Gifts
- Endowment Draw
- Mellon Grant
- IMLS Funding
- Arcadia Grant
- Temp Restricted Funds
- University/Abbey Transfers

Scholar Spotlight

Summer 2014 HMML Visiting Scholars

William (Bill) Varchus, Visiting Scholar, May 29 - July 3
Professor of Biblical Studies
Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
Research: Christians and Jewish Paratextual Scribal Practices and the Book of Psalms during the Middle Ages

Jennifer Ares Freeman, Heckman Scholar, June 23 - 27
PhD Candidate in Religion
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Research: Embracing God: Carolingians, Controversy, and the Althburchum Frontpiece

Cynthia Cyrus, Visiting Scholar, June 30 - July 4
Visiting Professor of Musicology
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Research: The Changeable Muse on page as signal of Music in Nuns’ Liturgical Books in Late Medieval Freiburg im Breisgau

Fr. Emmanuel Frisch, C.S.Sp., Visiting Scholar, July 1 - 14
Independent Researcher and Ethiopian Scholar
Lyon, France
Research: Gregory Meyers

Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in Manuscript Studies

Heckman Scholar, August 4 - 29
Music Teacher and Independent Researcher
Port Moody, Canada
Research: Music and Urban Liturgical Ritual in Slavia Orthodoxa, 11th-14th Centuries: The Marian Feasts

Michael Eisenberg, Heckman Scholar, August 11 - September 5
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Columbia University, New York, NY
Proposed research: The Occurrence of Liquefication in Chant Repertories and the Phenomenon’s Testimony to the Linguistic Development of Phonemic Shift

Barbara Swanson, Heckman Scholar, July 16 - 22
Adjunct Professor
Briercrest College and Seminary, Saskatchewan, Canada
Research: Recitation and Rhetoric: The Emergence of Elloquent Enunciation in Chanted Psalmody

Lindsey Schorer, Heckman Scholar, June 23 - 26
PhD Candidate, History Department
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Research: The Visitationes, Gratiae, and Litterae Registers: Understanding Medieval European Epistolary Power Structures

Fall 2014 HMML Visiting Scholars

Katarzyna Jablonska, Heckman Scholar, September 5 - October 4
International University of Logistics and Transport, Wroclaw, Poland
Research: From the Artifact to the Icon—Magaliths, Archaeological Truth and Popular Culture Image in Malta and Europe

Anton Pritula, Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, September 13 - December 22
Head of the Byzance and Near East Section
Ottoman Department, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia
Research: Syria. Parody of the Mongol Time: from Monasteries to the Royal Tents (late 13th-early 14th cent.)

Nicolas Al-Jelilo, Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, September 26 - October 17
Priest, St. John’s Seminary
San Francisco, CA
Research: Christian Manuscript Studies, September 13 - December 22

Jason Williams, Heckman Scholar, October 24 - November 19
Post-doctoral student
University of Kent, School of History, Canterbury, UK
Research: The Manuscript Tradition of the Work of Jacques de Vitré (d.1240)

Neruevo Alemu, Heckman Scholar, October 15 - November 15
Ph.D Candidate in Philology
Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Research: Critical Edition and Translation of 1 Corinthians in Ge’ez
Want to receive periodic updates about HMML’s latest adventures? Send your email address to hmml@hmml.org and we will add you to our list.

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