

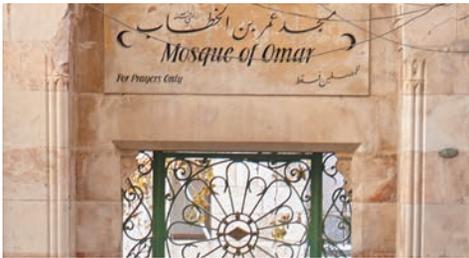
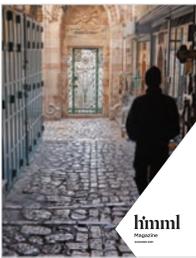


مسجد عمر بن الخطاب  
Mosque of Omar  
For Prayers Only

# himml

Magazine

SUMMER 2021



## On the Cover

'Umar, the second caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate, ruled during the 638 CE Muslim conquest of Jerusalem. According to legend, 'Umar visited Jerusalem after the conquest and was shown around by the Christian patriarch Sophronius. 'Umar was impressed by a tour of the Holy Sepulchre, but when Sophronius offered to let him pray there he declined, saying that his followers would then want to turn the church into a mosque. Instead he prayed at a convenient site next door, which became the Mosque of Omar ('Umar), pictured.

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## HMML Magazine

is published twice a year in support of HMML's mission: to preserve and share the world's handwritten past to inspire a deeper understanding of our present and future.

- Margaret Bresnahan—Editor
- Dr. Ali Diakite—Contributing Writer
- Julie Dietman—Contributing Writer
- Ted Erho—Contributing Writer
- Katherine Goertz—Contributing Writer
- Dr. Daniel K. Gullo—Contributing Writer
- John Meyerhofer—Contributing Writer
- Dr. Josh Mugler—Contributing Writer
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## 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 around the world. HMML places a special priority on manuscripts in regions endangered by war, political instability, or other threats. HMML is currently preserving manuscript collections at sites in Croatia, Egypt, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Malta, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria, and Ukraine. With approximately 300,000 manuscripts digitized in partnership with more than 600 libraries worldwide, HMML offers the world's largest collection of resources for the study of manuscript cultures. View the manuscripts in Reading Room ([vhmml.org](http://vhmml.org)).

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Father Columba Stewart, OSB

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# Dear Friends,

Having passed the one-year COVID-19 milestone, I'm proud of the remarkable resilience of HMML teams abroad and here in the United States. More than ever I appreciate the support networks that keep us going. In the U.S., vaccinations are making us think that we're getting to the other side of the pandemic. In many of the countries where HMML is working, however, vaccines remain a distant dream. The virus has been an additional stress on already fragile economic and political systems. The full impact of the pandemic remains to be seen.

HMML moves between so many nations and cultures these days that we need to keep a truly global view and to make wise decisions specific to each and every project. Despite the pandemic and tragedies such as the explosion in Beirut last summer and the surge of violence in Gaza and Jerusalem, most of our preservation sites have been active since the first round of lockdowns around the world.

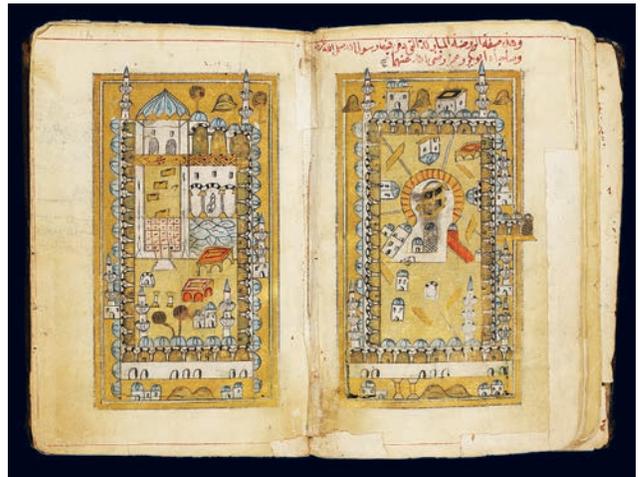
As noted in the Postscript of this edition of *HMML Magazine*, history suggests that pandemics (a.k.a. plagues) have often been the drivers of major social change. Stories of catastrophes and responses to them abound in the manuscripts we have photographed and in the communities we have worked with. We are grateful for our partnerships, and in the following pages share stories of collaborations in Jerusalem, the Balkans, Mali, Malta, and elsewhere.

The survival of each manuscript is a sign of the resilience of the human spirit and the written word. Thank you for helping us preserve and share them.

Sincerely,

*Columba Stewart, OSB*

Father Columba Stewart, OSB  
Executive Director



**TOP:** The new mosque in Banzakouma, near Djenné, Mali. Good news continues from our preservation partnerships in West Africa (page 8). **MIDDLE:** This manuscript (DINL 00356 143) contains two ornate miniatures of holy places in Mecca and Medina. It is part of the collection at the Issaf Nashashibi Library, one of the four family libraries we've been working with in Jerusalem (page 4). **BOTTOM:** Bishop Amfilohije welcomes Fr. Columba and a HMML Journeys group to the Monastery of Cetinje in Montenegro, one of our most important preservation sites in the Balkans (page 6).

# Four Family Libraries in Jerusalem

Partnerships complete the digitization of manuscripts belonging to Islamic libraries in Jerusalem.

By Josh Mugler

At many points in its history, Jerusalem has been one of the world's most important cultural crossroads, where people from an incredible range of homelands and religious traditions cross paths on a daily basis. "There are dwelling therein people of every nation under heaven," wrote the German Dominican friar Burchard of Mount Sion, in his thirteenth-century *Description of the Holy Land*. This history of diversity has influenced HMML's work as well.

Since the late 1960s, HMML has photographed thousands of Islamic manuscripts, including those in the collections of Christians in the Middle East and in the collections of major European libraries, most notably the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library). Jerusalem, however, was the first location where HMML photographed manuscripts belonging to non-Christian libraries, specifically the collections of four prominent Muslim families and institutions.

HMML's work in Jerusalem began in the early 2010s, photographing the Eastern Christian collection of Saint Mark's Monastery in Jerusalem's Old City. The work with Saint Mark's put HMML in contact with the monastery's neighbors, prominent Muslim families of Jerusalem who had built their own libraries over centuries of painstaking acquisition and preservation. The foundation was laid for HMML's first partnerships to preserve Islamic manuscripts with Muslim families and institutions.

This spring, HMML completed the digitization and cataloging of the four family libraries we have partnered with in Jerusalem. The complete collections are available to view online in Reading Room, discoverable by their HMML project codes (indicated here in parentheses). The Khalidi Library (AKDI) opened to the public in 1900 as part of the

Khalidi family trust (*waqf dhurri*). The Āl Budeiry Library (ABLJ) is the collection of the Budeiry family, a Shāfi'i family of Jerusalem. The library of the Issaf Nashashibi Center for Culture and Literature (DINL) was primarily collected by the Ḥusaynī family. And the library of al-Zāwiyah al-Uzbakiyah (AABL), also known as the Uzbek Sufi Center, has been under the leadership of the Bukhārī family since its founding; one of the caretakers of the collection was Sheikh 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Bukhārī, a notable interfaith peacemaker who died in 2010.

## What the Collections Tell Us

All of these collections consist primarily of Arabic manuscripts, with treatises on theology, law, Sufism, grammar, astronomy, and other topics, alongside books of poetry and literary texts. The dated manuscripts range over a period of more than



**ABOVE:** A book of poetry in Persian and Chagatai, with illustrations of Muslim holy sites in Mecca and Medina. Part of the collection of al-Zāwiyah al-Uzbakiyah. (AABL 00196 016)



**ABOVE:** (Left to right) Āl Budeiry Library, Khalidi Library, Issaf Nashashibi Library, and al-Zāwiyah al-Uzbakiyah.



**ABOVE:** Prayers for the Prophet, written in Arabic. Part of the collection of Āl Budeiry Library. (ABLJ 00494)

Connections throughout the Ottoman Empire mean that the Khalidi and Nashashibi collections include a substantial number of Turkish texts. Persian manuscripts are also well represented, especially in the Khalidi Library, which holds an illustrated Persian romance from Mughal India (AKDI PER 0001, pictured on back cover).

The Budeiry collection is almost entirely Arabic but shows evidence of interactions with North Africa, including prayer books from that region that are full of elaborate, colorful calligraphy (ABLJ 00494, pictured, and ABLJ 00495). Connections with Cairo, long a center of Sunni scholarship, are well represented throughout all the libraries, but there are more surprising finds as well, such as a text on Arabic grammar copied in Herat, Afghanistan in 1403 CE, part of the Nashashibi collection (DINL 00565 020).

900 years, from a collection of hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad) that was copied in April 1027 CE (AKDI 00206 0091), to a text about the genealogy of one of the earliest Muslims, copied in December 1932 CE (AKDI 01694 1193). In total, the digital copies made at these libraries constitute almost 4,000 items in HMML Reading Room.

Even though all four collections belong to Muslims living in Jerusalem, there is significant diversity among the texts. The four collecting families have been connected to different regions and affiliated with different schools of Islamic scholarship. As a result, they have read and collected a wide range of works, filling out the picture of medieval and early modern Islamic scholarship in Palestine and beyond.

The Bukhārīs have maintained their relationships with Central Asian relatives and friends, and their collection accordingly includes numerous texts in Ottoman Turkish, modern Uzbek, its predecessor Chagatai, and Persian (AABL 00196 016, pictured).

These family libraries can teach us a great deal about the networks of Islamic scholarship and cultural exchange over many centuries, and the ways that these networks have converged in Jerusalem. Just as the city is a crossroads for people and cultures, it is a crossroads for the manuscripts that have long helped to preserve and transmit those cultures. HMML is privileged to partner with these families to make their manuscripts available around the world.

**CURRENT EVENTS NOTE:** Jerusalem, Gaza, and the surrounding areas have recently been experiencing extraordinary violence, resulting in loss of life and destruction. We are in regular contact with our field director and, at the time of publication, our partners are safe and their libraries have not sustained any damage.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Dr. Josh Mugler is curator of Islamic manuscripts at HMML.

# The Balkans

By Columba Stewart

When people ask how we find new projects for HMML, I admit that sometimes they just come to us. That was the case for our work in the nations of the former Yugoslavia. The opening came through our colleague István Perzcel of Central European University in Budapest. Dr. Perzcel had worked with us in Kerala, southwest India, on the Syriac-tradition manuscripts of that ancient Christian community.

Thanks to Dr. Perzcel's connections with the Serbian Orthodox community in Hungary, we sponsored the digitization of Slavonic and Greek manuscripts belonging to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Hungary (the Szentendre collection). During a visit to Jerusalem, Dr. Perzcel met Jovan Ćulibrk, a Serbian Orthodox bishop doing research on the Holocaust in Yugoslavia. They kept in touch and began to discuss the fate of Serbian manuscripts scattered across the countries that were formed in the early 1990s when Yugoslavia fractured. As Bishop Jovan learned more about HMML, he suggested a meeting.

In June 2016, I drove with Dr. Perzcel from Budapest to Pakrac, Croatia, the seat of Bp. Jovan's diocese of Slavonia. Bp. Jovan became an advocate for HMML among his fellow Serbian bishops in Croatia and Montenegro, leading to the signing of several contracts for digitization in those countries. A memorable HMML Millennium Club and Legacy Society trip to the Balkans in 2017 included a visit with Bp. Jovan and lunch at the most important digitization site thus far, the Serbian Orthodox Monastery at Cetinje in Montenegro.

Despite the historic tension between Orthodox and Catholic communities in the region, Bp. Jovan has formed good working relationships with Catholic leaders in Croatia who share his hope for healing the religious divisions that led to war and the mass displacement of populations in the 1990s. The Catholic bishop of Đakovo in Croatia has joined the project with HMML, the first of what we hope will be several projects with Catholic partners in the region.



**ABOVE:** Monastery of Cetinje, Montenegro. The monastery holds an extraordinary collection of Church Slavonic manuscripts dating from the 13th and later centuries, many of exceptional artistic and literary importance.



**ABOVE:** HMML partner and project sponsor Bishop Jovan Čulibrk, at liturgy in his church in Pakrac, Croatia. Čulibrk is the bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Slavonia.

The manuscripts in these collections are heavily theological, liturgical, or biblical in content. They range in age from the medieval to early modern periods, with the collection at Cetinje particularly notable for medieval parchment codices containing early Slavonic translations of Greek texts, many accompanied by impressive illuminations. Digitization is currently ongoing, with completed manuscripts awaiting cataloging.



**ABOVE:** Manuscripts in Pakrac, awaiting digitization.



**ABOVE:** The beginning of the Gospel of Mark, written in Church Slavonic. This gospel book was digitized in Pakrac in partnership with the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Slovenia. (SOCES 00001)

The Balkan region is very important for the history of Slavic linguistics, as it is the only place that preserved the original form of the Slavic writing system devised by Saint Cyril in the 9th century. In Croatia and the Dalmatian coast, Slavonic was written using Glagolitic script until the early 19th century. We hope to find Glagolitic manuscripts as our work expands.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, is executive director of HMML.

# News in Brief

## Highlights from HMML's cultural preservation initiatives and activities

### Museum Milestones

Two years ago, we launched Museum—HMML's online repository for art collections. This April, the number of objects cataloged in Museum surpassed 3,500. The artwork now viewable online includes Flemish Old Master engravings, 19th-century French etchings, 20th-century American modernism, and works from four collections in Malta.

Periodically new additions are purchased or donated to HMML's own collection in Collegeville. Recently HMML acquired *The Fate of Enkidu Weighs on Gilgamesh* (pictured), an etching from the 1965–1966 portfolio *The Epic of Gilgamesh and Enkidu* by the Jewish American modernist Ben-Zion. Visit [vhmml.org/museum](http://vhmml.org/museum) to view this work in detail (AAP5783).



### Projects in Mali Continue Apace

HMML has now completed projects at the libraries of the three principal mosques in Timbuktu. A major project with manuscripts at SAVAMA-DCI in Bamako will be completed in 2022 with more than 30 collections digitized. The latest project, in Djenné, brings manuscripts from nearby villages (such as Banzakouma, pictured) to the digitization studio next to the famous Great Mosque.

Since we began the immense job of cataloging Timbuktu's manuscripts in October of 2019, HMML catalogers Ali Diakite and Paul Naylor have created around 8,000 unique records, each record describing a manuscript. Much of their work involves enhancing data received from Mali. This includes identifying unknown texts; standardizing names and titles; adding information such as genre, textual features, and dates; and noting individuals who may have copied or owned the text. While cataloging, Ali and Paul identified 254 titles and 133 authors not found in international databases such as at the Library of Congress. These titles and names will now be added to those essential resources for scholarship.



## In Memoriam of Mgr. Ġwann Azzopardi, 1937–2021

Monsignor Ġwann Azzopardi, better known as Dun Ġwann, passed away on February 19, 2021. Dun Ġwann played a major role in HMML's development. He and Joseph S. Micallef, the Honorary Consul General of St. Paul/Minneapolis, began HMML's preservation work in Malta in 1973. As director of the Malta Manuscript Microfilm Project (1973–1988), Dun Ġwann supervised the microfilming of over 40 Maltese archives, ultimately producing 8,224 microfilms. Among the collections microfilmed under his leadership were the Archives of the Inquisition of Malta, the Spoils of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, and a remarkable collection of early modern music. In 2015, he initiated a new preservation project with HMML's Malta Study Center, digitizing over 600 manuscripts and nearly 700 early modern drawings at the Cathedral Museum in Mdina.

Dun Ġwann, pictured here with HMML staff, was a renowned musicologist and church historian. His many publications include catalogs, studies, and critical editions of rare manuscripts found in Malta. He served as curator of the Cathedral Museum and Archives from 1967–2001, and archivist of the Mdina Metropolitan Cathedral from 2013. He founded the Wignacourt Museum in Rabat, where he was also a canon of the Collegiate Church. His passion for Malta's history extended to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, which he served as Chaplain Grand Cross.



## Notable

### HMML STAFF PRESENT AT GLOBAL CONFERENCES

June 23, 2021

2021 IIF Annual Conference

*Location* - Virtual

*Speaker* - John Meyerhofer

*Topic* - Using a Static Site Generator to Generate IIF Level 0 Manifests for the Web

September 10–12, 2021

The Apocalypse of Peter Within Apocalyptic and Early-Christian Traditions

*Location* - Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

*Speaker* - Ted Erho

*Topic* - Apocalyptic Imagery in an Ethiopic Homily: New Evidence for the Apocalypse of Peter in Ethiopia?

September 13–16, 2021

Islamic Manuscript Association Conference on Arabic-Script Manuscripts in Africa

*Location* - Alexandria, Egypt

*Speakers* - Dr. Ali Diakite, Dr. Paul Naylor, Dr. David Calabro

*Topic* - HMML's Model for Standardized Metadata of West African Manuscripts

October 28–29, 2021

Hosted by the Berlin State Library in collaboration with Bibliotheca Arabica

*Location* - Berlin, Germany

*Speakers* - Dr. David Calabro, Dr. Josh Mugler, Dr. Catherine Walsh

*Keynote* - Fr. Columba Stewart

*Topic* - Titulus and HMML Authority File: Creating and Sharing Authorities From Cross-Cultural Manuscript Traditions at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:** Katherine Goertz is curator/registrant of art collections at HMML. Dr. Ali Diakite and Dr. Paul Naylor are catalogers of West African manuscripts at HMML. Dr. Daniel K. Gullo is Joseph S. Micallef Director of the Malta Study Center at HMML.

# Advancing Scholarship

By HMML Staff

## Visiting Scholars

HMML reopened to visiting scholars on June 1, 2021. Over the course of 2021 and 2022 we will prioritize the arrival of the following 18 scholars whose visit to HMML in Collegetown was postponed due to pandemic restrictions.

### Carpenter Fellows

David Andrés Fernández (Madrid, Spain); Barbara Hagg-Huglo (College Park, Maryland); Joshua Hollman (Bronxville, New York); James Mixson (Tuscaloosa, Alabama); Michelle Sauer (Grand Forks, North Dakota).

### Heckman Stipend

Fleur Brincat (Msida, Malta); Jeremy Brown (Washington, D.C.); Shahid Jamal (New Delhi, India); Ariana Natalie Myers (Princeton, New Jersey); Mario Cassio Olavide (Twin Cities, Minnesota); George Summers (St. Louis, Missouri).

### Swenson Fellows

Augustine Dickinson (Hamburg, Germany); Julia Furman (Berlin, Germany); Michael Lally (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Jonathan Loopstra (St. Paul, Minnesota); Matteo Poiani (Strasbourg, France); Bostros Sadek (Redondo Beach, California); Colby Scott (Washington, D.C.).

## Record Numbers Online

Over the past year, HMML's online services have seen a remarkable increase in registrations and use. With more scholars turning to remotely accessible resources, HMML's online services were well-placed to support their needs. Reading Room saw a 46 percent increase in page views and user registrations rose 57 percent. Taken as an average, this means that every day this past year five new people signed up to use HMML's online platform. Originally launched in 2015, Reading Room provides access to over 85,000 catalogued items, growing every day. HMML's redesigned organizational website (hmml.org) was also recently recognized for its "Resources for Scholars and Researchers" with a MuseWeb 2021 GLAMi award.



## Courses Online This Summer

This summer, HMML will host 50 scholars from around the world in three online courses. Thanks to our continued partnership with Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., HMML will teach two language courses this July: 10 students will be introduced to Classical Armenian and 10 will hone their skills in intermediate-level Syriac.

In addition, HMML is offering a new summer course: Introduction to Arabic Manuscript Studies, already of such interest that we've expanded the course into two sessions. Students will explore the historical, cultural, and material dimensions of manuscripts, led by Lucia Raggetti from Bologna, Italy, with support from HMML curators David Calabro and Josh Mugler as well as catalogers Ali Diakite and Paul Naylor. HMML's virtual classrooms will be buzzing!

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:** Julie Dietman is assistant for advancement & library services at HMML. John Meyerhofer is director of information systems at HMML. Tim Ternes is director of programming at HMML.

# A Closer Look at a Single Manuscript

By Ted Erho and James Walters

We live in a world ravaged by a pandemic, by wars, by all manner of catastrophic and frightening events. A world that seems out of control.

Ours is not the first generation to experience such calamities. A century ago, as World War I drew to a close, the Spanish Flu circled the globe. Other tragedies less remembered—local, regional, international—stretch back to time immemorial.

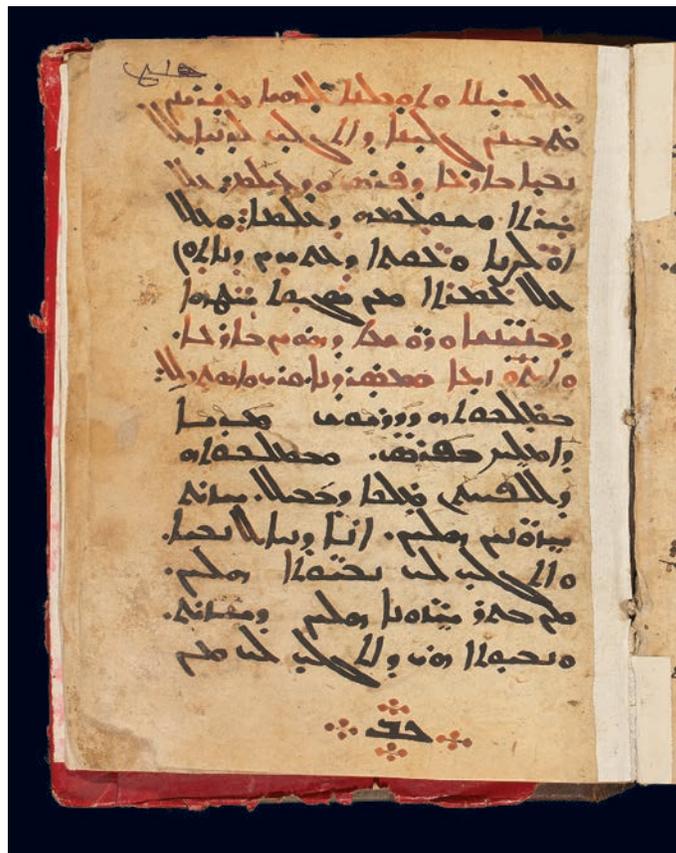
How people deal with such events has naturally differed. Some have described the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as they knew it. One such response comes from the *Syriac Apocalypse of Daniel*, composed by a Syriac Christian around the rise of Islam, when the power structures in the Middle East were being transformed. This rare Syriac work is preserved in just two 15th-century manuscripts, one at Harvard (Syr. 42) and another, recently identified at HMML, in the library of the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Mardin, Turkey (CFMM 00281). The latter, copied in 1475 CE, begins:

*With Godly strength and confidence, we begin to write the revelation that was revealed to Daniel the prophet in the land of Persia and Elam, concerning the end and culmination of the world, and concerning the afflictions and sorrows that are about to come upon the inhabited world because of the many sins of humanity and the crimes that took place in the land, and the fearful and terrifying signs. Read and understand.*

*In the kingdom of Darius the Mede, who ruled in Persia, and in the kingdom of Alpachtan, king of Babylon, I, Daniel the prophet, saw these visions, and these prophecies were revealed to me after these visions I had seen. And this prophecy was revealed to me by...*

(CFMM 00281, page 359)

Later the tribulations are described at length, culminating with Earth's inhabitants being afflicted “with the sword and with pestilence; also with all kinds of trials.” Immediately, however, the scene is reversed: “After this there will be silence on earth, and peace will abound; those who dwell in the world will be healed.” This is just the first in a series of such



**ABOVE:** The opening to the Syriac Apocalypse of Daniel, in a manuscript belonging to the library of the Church of the Forty Martyrs, Mardin, Turkey. (CFMM 00281, page 359)

reversals, and while the imagery is often hyperbolic, the text betrays the angst of an individual and his community trying to cope with forces beyond their control as well as their belief that better days lay ahead.

The *Syriac Apocalypse of Daniel* is but one of many ancient apocalyptic works (including the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation) that similarly served to comfort in times of crisis. CFMM 00281 significantly enhances our understanding of this specific text, as well as the genre in general.

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:** Ted Erho is cataloger of Ethiopic manuscripts at HMML. Dr. James Walters is cataloger of Syriac manuscripts at HMML.

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## Preserve and Share

Working with communities around the world to preserve rare and endangered cultural heritage



“If society is a heavily embroidered cloth, it takes painstaking dedication, months and years, to take a needle and to slowly craft this beautiful object and to aesthetically tie it into one whole piece. [...] Unfortunately, what we're witnessing around the world right now is that we're taking scissors to this cloth, or simply tearing it. And that doesn't take time at all. The work of centuries is destroyed in days and weeks or months.”

—Dr. Ali Khan Mahmudabad, speaking with  
Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, in HMML's premiere of  
*To Listen: A Global Journey*, January 21, 2021.

**LEFT:** A manuscript of Persian poetry, containing the *Romance of Nāz and Niyāz*. This manuscript was once owned by Akbar, the third Mughal emperor (1542–1605 CE), and is now part of the Khalidi Library in Jerusalem. (AKDI PER 0001)