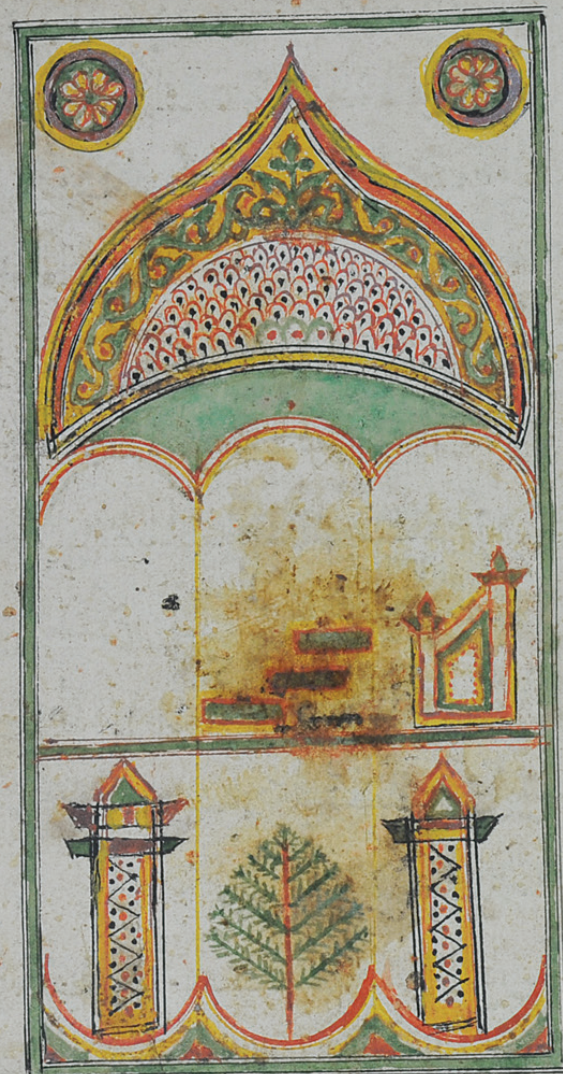




himmil

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2025



فَرَوْضَتِكَ الْحُسْنَى مُنَايَ وَيُعَيِّنِي
 وَفِيهَا شَقَا قَلْبِي وَرُوحِي وَرَاحَتِي
 فَإِنْ بَعْدَتْ عَنِّي عَزَّ مَنَازِرُهَا
 فَتَمْنَاهَا عِنْدِي يَا حُسْنَ صُورَةٍ
 هَذَا يَا خَيْرَ الْبَيْتِ كُلِّهِمْ
 أَقْبِلْهَا شَوْقًا لَا طِفْلاً حَرَقْتِي
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَحَسْبُكَ
 وَهَذِهِ صَفَةُ الرُّوضَةِ الْمَسْرُوكَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ الَّتِي دُفِنَ فِيهَا رَسُولُ
 اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَصَاحِبَاهُ أَبُو بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا

ABOVE: A manuscript containing the famous Arabic prayer book *Dalā'il al-khayrāt*, with an image of the tombs of the Prophet Muḥammad and the first two caliphs, located in Medina. The discoloration is evidence that readers have touched the tombs devotionally. Collection of the Sherif Harar City Museum, Harar, Ethiopia. (SHCM 00011, folios 22v–23r)

Our Mission

Preserving and sharing
the world’s handwritten past to
inspire a deeper understanding
of our present and future.

Handwritten books—manuscripts—help document what people over thousands of years thought important enough to record. By photographing each page of a manuscript and cataloging its contents, we can help share these texts for centuries to come.

Partnerships with libraries worldwide allow HMML to create digital images of the manuscripts in their collections and share these images online. HMML gives special priority to manuscripts located in regions endangered by war, political instability, and other threats.

Digitization is done entirely through local teams, with HMML providing equipment, training, technical support, and payment. Everything in a collection is photographed because none of us know what might be significant in the future.

Access is provided by HMML staff and associates, who ensure that the photographs of manuscripts are identified, supported long-term, and made freely available online in HMML Reading Room (vhmml.org). Through fellowships, programs, exhibitions, and more, HMML helps advance manuscript research and scholarly inquiry.

Over the course of 60 years, HMML has developed an extensive collection of resources for the study of manuscript cultures: photographs of approximately 486,000 manuscripts preserved in partnership with more than 1,500 libraries and archives worldwide. In addition, HMML’s print reference collection holds approximately 50,000 volumes on topics related to manuscripts, printed books, art, liturgy, and monasticism.

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Celebrating 60 Years

Welcome to the annual report of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML). Here, we'll review the past fiscal year—FY2025—which ran from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

This year marked the 60th anniversary of HMML's founding. It's a milestone that brings reflection and great appreciation for the people who made HMML a trusted leader in manuscript preservation and access, a legacy we honor every day in our commitment to HMML's mission: preserve and share the world's handwritten past to inspire a deeper understanding of our present and future.

To support this mission, in FY2025 HMML began implementing a five-year strategic plan that was created and approved by HMML's Board of Directors in FY2024. The strategic plan has four pillars:

- ◆ Strengthen Mission-Critical Capacities: maximize opportunities for digitization projects in regions where handwritten heritage is at risk and invest in cataloging and technology to increase online access.
- ◆ Build Expertise and Leadership Capacity: develop an optimal organizational staffing model, hire a Chief Operating Officer, and review and adjust compensation to attract and retain talented staff.
- ◆ Amplify Mission Impact: showcase HMML's mission in ways that heighten awareness, increase engagement, and build support among current and potential partners, user audiences, and donors.
- ◆ Grow and Diversify Contributed Revenue: ensure that HMML's digital and microfilm collections remain safe and accessible in perpetuity.

As you'll see later in this report, HMML conducted digitization projects in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East during FY2025. As security around the world becomes ever more fraught, manuscript heritage is at further risk of destruction or dispersal. In addition to political and environmental crises, many long-established libraries and archives face closure due to lack of human and financial resources. Digital versions of these collections may become the only means of access, especially when the fate of the original materials is uncertain. The urgency of HMML's work increases daily, even in unexpected places.

Like all US-based nonprofit organizations, HMML is navigating an ever-changing and increasingly challenging funding landscape. Every source of support is crucial. Thank you for your confidence in HMML's mission; together we can preserve and share the world's handwritten history.



Columba Stewart
Executive Director / CEO



Keyna Skeffington
Chair of the Board

HMML Team

Employees

- Margaret Bresnahan:** Director of Communications
- Dr. Jeremy R. Brown:** Cataloger of Ethiopic Manuscripts
- Dr. Jennifer Carnell:** Cataloger of Western Manuscripts
- Dr. Ali Diakite:** Cataloger of West African Manuscripts
- Julie Dietman:** Assistant for Advancement and Library Services
- Katherine Goertz:** Curator/Registrar of Art Collections
- Dr. Daniel K. Gullo:** Joseph S. Micallef Director of the Malta Study Center
- Dr. Matthew Z. Heintzelman:** Curator of Western European Manuscripts and Special Collections
- Mary Hoppe:** Digital Projects Assistant
- Mariam Magdy-Clark:** Assistant Metadata Librarian
- John Meyerhofer:** Director of Information Systems
- Dr. Josh Mugler:** Curator of Eastern Christian and Islamic Manuscripts
- Dr. Paul Naylor:** Cataloger of West African Manuscripts
- Linda Orzechowski:** Executive Assistant, Office Manager, and Corporate Secretary
- Katrina P. Schlude:** Director of Advancement
- Dr. Ani Shahinian:** Cataloger of Armenian Manuscripts
- Dr. Columba Stewart:** Executive Director / CEO
- Tim Ternes:** Director of Programming
- Dr. Audrey Thorstad:** Programming Associate
- Wayne Torborg:** Director of Digital Collections and Imaging
- Dr. Catherine Walsh:** Director of Cataloging and Library Services
- Dr. James Walters:** Lead Cataloger of Eastern Christian Collections
- Jeff Zumwalde:** Digitization Technician

International Associates

- Axel Alt:** Cataloging of Discaled Carmelite Archives, Italy
- Dr. Ahmad Atta:** Field Site Management, Pakistan
- Dr. Serena Biondo:** Site Director and Photography, Italy
- Dr. Constanța Burlacu:** Cataloging of Slavic Manuscripts
- Stephen Busuttil:** Site Director and Photography, Malta
- Rohan Chauhan:** Field Site Management, India
- Sr. Marie-Thérèse Elia:** Cataloging of Maronite Manuscripts, Lebanon
- Farisa Fatima Naqvi:** Photography, India
- Dr. Steven Gill:** Site Director and Photography, Great Britain
- Fr. Pierre Jabbour:** Cataloging of Maronite Manuscripts, Lebanon
- Stjepana Komšić:** Photography, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Isabella Leone:** Photography, Italy
- Ružica Marković:** Photography, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mehdi Mohd:** Photography, India
- Walid Mourad:** Field Site Management; Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Rome
- Nizar Saban:** Photography, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dr. Chander Shekhar:** Field Site Management, India

Student Employees and Interns

- Abdullah Ansar:** Summer 2024
- Katherine Blanks:** Summer 2024
- Eamon Cavanaugh:** Summer 2024
- Claire Kouri:** Summer 2024*
- Mary McGinty:** FY25 Academic Year*
- Taylor Samuelson:** FY25 Academic Year
- Mark Spangler:** Summer 2024
- Talbot Stacy:** FY25 Academic Year
- *Denotes a position funded by the Irma Wyman Internship, made possible through the generosity of Dr. Irma M. Wyman (1928–2015).*

Board of Directors

- Dusica Babovic-Vuksanovic**
- Thomas Barrett:** Nominating and Governance Committee
- Kathy M. Cooney:** Board Treasurer, Executive Committee, Finance and Audit Committee Chair
- Judith Healey:** Nominating and Governance Committee
- Craig Dicker**
- Mark Dimunation**
- Patrica Hamm**
- Elliot J. Jaffee:** Executive Committee, Finance and Audit Committee
- Thomas Joyce:** Executive Committee
- Steven Kennedy:** Nominating and Governance Committee
- Lyndel King:** Executive Committee, Advancement Committee Chair
- Lucia Lahiff Crane:** Nominating and Governance Committee
- Peter Lawyer:** Advancement Committee
- Rachel McGarry**
- Joseph S. Micallef**
- Dan Morgan, OSB**
- Wendy Pradt Lougee:** Executive Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee Chair Shelly Regan: Strategic Plan Task Force
- Shelly Regan:** Advancement Committee
- Marc Robins:** Advancement Committee
- Joe Rogers:** Advancement Committee
- Mary Rohman:** Advancement Committee
- Tamrah Schaller O'Neil:** Advancement Committee
- Rachael Scherer:** Finance and Audit Committee
- Catherine Shannon Ballman:** Advancement Committee
- Sue Shepard:** Advancement Committee
- Keyna Skeffington:** Board Chair, Executive Committee Chair, Finance and Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee, Advancement Committee
- LeAnne Stewart:** Executive Committee
- Brad Wallin:** Nominating and Governance Committee
- Corine Wegener**

Preservation Partnerships

This year saw the continued expansion of HMML’s work in the Balkans and South Asia, as well as the start of an exciting project at the Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy. The Casa Buonarroti project, an initiative of HMML’s Malta Study Center, will digitize the complete archive of the Buonarroti family, including original drawings by the famous artist Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564). The result will be a boon to historians of the Italian Renaissance and beyond.

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be the center of HMML’s activity in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, complemented by new projects in Montenegro and Slovenia. Among the most notable sites is the manuscript collection of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo (read more about it in *HMML Magazine*, Winter 2024). South Asia is also an area of focus for new preservation partnerships, and negotiations in Pakistan resulted in several projects that will begin in FY2026 to preserve manuscripts written in Persian, Arabic, and Urdu.

Renewed contact with the National Archives and Library of Ethiopia (NALA) offers the prospect of a partnership for digitization in Addis Ababa and in other parts of the country. Ethiopia was home to HMML’s first project with Eastern Christian manuscripts and our first outside of Europe, in 1973. HMML later became caretaker of the renowned microfilm collection created by the Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library (EMML), as well as microfilms created by the UNESCO Mobile Microfilm Unit—both of which microfilmed manuscripts at NALA. Partnerships in Ethiopia have deep significance for HMML and for the development of our collections.



ABOVE: At the Dār al-Taṣnīf va al-Taḥqīq in Faisalabad, Pakistan, the local team includes collection owner Hakeem Zia Ur Rahman (left); his son and project technician, Hifz Ur Rahman (second from left); and HMML field representative Ahmad Atta (right). The team met with Dr. Columba Stewart, executive director / CEO of HMML, in November 2024. Photograph by Dr. Columba Stewart.

We work with communities around the world to digitize manuscripts, with a particular focus on regions where manuscripts are endangered or difficult to access.

AFRICA

- ◆ **Egypt**
Wadi al-Natrun: Abu Maqar Monastery (ABMQ); 2015–present
- ◆ **Mali**
Djenné: Djenné Manuscript Library (ELID); 2019–2024
- ◆ **Mauritania**
Nouakchott: Institut Mauritanien de Recherche et de Formation en matière de Patrimoine et de Culture (IMRIPC); 2023–present

ASIA

- ◆ **India**
Aluva: Tantra Vidyā Pīṭham (DKA 005); 2024–2025
Hyderabad: Haadi-e-Deccan Library and Research Institute (HDL); 2024–present
Kaithappoyil: Malaibar Foundation for Research and Development (MF); 2024–present
Lucknow: Raja of Mahmudabad Palace Library (MBAD); 2018–present
Lucknow: Mumtazul Ulama Library (MUL); 2023–present
Lucknow: Umdatul Ulama (UUL); 2023–present
Lucknow: Faṣāḥat Jā’isī Library (UUL KKFJ); 2024–present
New Delhi: Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Research Library, Ghali Institute (FAARL); 2023–present
New Delhi: Jamia Hamdard Library (JHL); 2025–present
Rappal: Pantal Vaidikan Dāmodaran Nampūtiri (DKA 003); 2024
Thrissur: Vaṭakke Maṭham Brahmasvam, collection of the Naṭuvil Maṭham Monastery (DKA 001); 2024
Varode: Śaṅkaraṇārāyaṇa Pramod Nampūtiri Tiyyannūr Mana (DKA 004); 2024

- ◆ **Pakistan**
Faisalābād: Dār al-Taṣnīf va al-Taḥqīq Faiṣalābād (DTT); 2023–present
Karachi: Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-ye Urdu, Pākistān (ATUP); 2020–present
Karachi: Bait al-Hikmah Library at Hamdard University (BHL); 2023–present
Lahore: Kutub Khānah-yi Muḥammad Anvar (KKMA); 2023–present
Lahore: Kutub Khānah-yi Sīrat (KKS); 2024–present
Rawalpindi: Idārā-yi Ta’līmāt-i Qur’ānīyah (ITQ); 2023–present
Sardarpur Jhandir: Masood Jhandir Research Library (MJRL); 2023–present

- ◆ **Turkey**
Istanbul: Chaldean Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Diyarbakır (CCI); 2024–present

EUROPE

- ◆ **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Banja Luka: Library of the Franciscan Monastery of Petrićevac (FMSA); 2025–present
Fojnica: Archive of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Fojnica (FMHS); 2023–present
Guča Gora: Franciscan Library of Guča Gora (FMGG); 2025–present
Kreševo: Archive of the Franciscan Monastery of Saint Catharine (FMSC); 2023–present
Mostar: Library of the Franciscan Monastery of Mostar (FPHA); 2023–present
Sarajevo: National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NUB); 2024–present
Travnik: Cantonal Archives of Travnik (KAT); 2025–present
Visoko: Professor’s Library of Franciscan Classical Gymnasium, Visoko (FMSB); 2023–present
Visoko: Regional Museum, Visoko (ZMV); 2025–present

- ◆ **Great Britain**
London: Museum of Order of St. John (MOSJ); 2023–present

- ◆ **Italy**
Florence: Casa Buonarroti Archive (CBNR); 2024–present
Florence: State Archive of Florence (ASFI); 2022–present
Rome: General Archive of the Discalced Carmelites (AG OCD); 2022–present

- ◆ **Malta**
Mdina: Monastery of St. Peter (MSP); 1973–1974, 1977, 2024–2025
Mdina: National Archives of Malta (NAMCDM); 2007–present
Valletta: National Library of Malta (NLM AOM); 1989–1999, 2022–present

- ◆ **Montenegro**
Kotor: Catholic Church, Diocese of Kotor (RCDK); 2023–present

- ◆ **Slovenia**
Ljubljana: Archive of the Slovenian Franciscan Province of the Holy Cross (ASFP); 2024–present

MIDDLE EAST

- ◆ **Gaza**
Gaza City: Abdul-Latif Abu Hashem Library; 2022–present (suspended)

- ◆ **Iraq**
Erbil: Assyrian Church of the East, Patriarchate (ACEP); 2012, 2023–present

- ◆ **Lebanon**
Beirut: Université Saint Joseph, Oriental Library (USJ); 2004–present

Detailed information about each repository’s collection can be found on [HMML.org](https://hmml.org/collections/repositories) (hmml.org/collections/repositories).

Office of the Executive Director

The main task of FY2025 was developing an operating plan to implement HMML’s strategic plan, which was approved by HMML’s Board of Directors in June 2024. The strategic plan prioritizes HMML’s core mission of preserving the world’s handwritten heritage, while building stronger relationships with the communities who use, support, and are represented in the manuscript collections.

We provide leadership for all areas of HMML and manage finances, human resources, and other operational needs.

A key element of the strategic plan is working on HMML’s organizational structure, including the creation of a new position: Chief Operating Officer. A strong candidate was selected in FY2025—Whitney Buccicone—and she began this new role in August. In addition, we boosted staffing in the programming department and reviewed staff compensation, implementing phased adjustments where needed.

In FY2025, the Office of the Executive Director completed HMML’s first independent audit (of FY2024) and filing of the Form 990 for the Internal Revenue Service, required of all nonprofit organizations. Both are important elements of the financial transparency that is essential to HMML’s stewardship of the resources entrusted by our donors and partners.



ABOVE: Left to right: Dr. Columba Stewart (executive director / CEO of HMML) and Walid Mourad (HMML field site management in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Rome), during a site visit to Rawalpindi, Pakistan. This photo is in the home of Qazi Abdur Rahman Farooqi, custodian of Idārā-yi Ta’līmāt-i Qur’ānīyah, a repository where HMML has been preserving manuscripts since 2023. Photograph by Dr. Ahmad Atta.

Advancement

Everyone at HMML is deeply grateful for the incredible support from our community of donors, partners, and foundations who enabled us to exceed our annual fundraising goals in FY2025. This achievement provided essential funding and stability to HMML’s global preservation partners, who face increasing challenges while safeguarding cultural heritage.

We foster community to create meaningful relationships that build an understanding of HMML’s work, advance HMML’s mission, and ensure a sustainable financial foundation for HMML’s future.

Your generosity is directly responsible for the preservation of vulnerable, irreplaceable human history. The collective power of our compassionate and engaged community strengthens our ability to ensure the protection of knowledge so it can be shared now and by future generations.

In FY2025, the Advancement team made significant strides in supporting HMML’s new strategic plan. Key achievements include refining systems and workflows, creating a new “Meet the Staff” Q&A offering (hmml.org/stories), and publishing HMML’s first annual report as a separately incorporated nonprofit. Throughout the year, the team worked closely with HMML’s programming department to host virtual and in-person programming, including events for Millennium Club and Legacy Society members and planning an exciting HMML Journey to Uzbekistan, which will occur in October 2026. We approach HMML’s 60th anniversary with renewed focus and determination. Thank you for being an integral part of our community.



ABOVE: Digitization studio at the Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy, operated by Dr. Serena Biondo, a HMML associate conducting field site management and photography, October 2024. Photograph by Wayne Torborg.

Digital Collections & Imaging

Ongoing activities include:

- ◆ Collecting and maintaining inventories of digital images (of manuscripts and artwork) from HMML preservation partners.
- ◆ Preparation of digital images for use in HMML Reading Room and Museum (vhmml.org).
- ◆ Digitization of manuscripts, books, documents, three-dimensional objects, and artwork located at HMML in Collegeville, Minnesota.
- ◆ Conversion of analog media (e.g., microfilms, film negatives) to digital format.
- ◆ Archiving of all images and data for preservation and future use.

In FY2025, HMML completed a decades-long microfilm digitization project. HMML holds nearly 7,500 microfilms created by the Ethiopian Microfilm Manuscript Library (EMML), which began in 1973 as a partnership between HMML, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate. Digitization of this microfilm took place on an “as-needed” basis beginning in late 2004, but progress increased dramatically with a generous donation by Robert Weyerhaeuser that allowed HMML to purchase a high-speed microfilm scanner. After acquiring the new scanner in late 2021, the Digital Collections & Imaging department digitized around 6,000 EMML microfilms. In FY2025, digitization was completed—all EMML manuscript images preserved at HMML are now available online in HMML Reading Room (vhmml.org).

We collect, organize, safeguard, and make available the digital resources produced by HMML and our preservation partners.



ABOVE: Small but mighty, the FlexView microfilm scanner has transformed HMML’s microfilm conversion capabilities. In FY2025, Digitization Technician Jeff Zumwalde used this unit to produce more than 740,000 digital images from HMML’s microfilm holdings. Photograph by Wayne Torborg.

Cataloging

Our team of skilled and dedicated catalogers and curators leverage their expertise and collaborate to create access to collections while balancing quality and efficiency.

Accomplishments of FY2025 include:

- ◆ Welcomed a new metadata assistant to the team—Mariam Magdy-Clark—improving our ability to quickly standardize and professionalize our data.
- ◆ Completed cataloging for more than 20 collections (some large and some small) that were photographed in Austria, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, and Turkey. Continued work on large collections in Ethiopia and Mali.
- ◆ Represented HMML through presentations on translation, manuscripts and monasticism, cross-cultural identities, martyrs, sound in literature, cataloging of West African and Ethiopian manuscripts, and HMML’s digitization projects and history.
- ◆ Provided access to religious traditions not previously cataloged in HMML’s collections: the Assyrian Church of the East; the Ancient Church of the East; and a Hindu monastic community in Kerala, India.
- ◆ Secured permission from two libraries in Austria—Seitenstetten Abbey and the Austrian National Library—to digitize and provide online access to HMML’s microfilm of these manuscript collections. Also negotiated permission with Trinity College Dublin to provide access to Trinity’s microfilm related to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

We share and provide access to HMML’s microfilm and digital collections by creating accurate, culturally appropriate data that follows professional international standards and best practices, empowering people to search, find, identify, and utilize HMML’s resources.



ABOVE: A depiction of the Resurrection and an elaborate headpiece with a stylized altar above zoomorphic Armenian script. Collection of Our Lady of Bzummār Convent, Lebanon. (BzBz 00068)

FY2025 Statistics

1,039,166

primary digital images created by HMML preservation partners, representing 8,465 manuscripts and art objects (44.7 terabytes of data).

746,653

primary digital images created by the scanning of microfilms at HMML.

79

rare books in HMML’s Special Collections photographed and made available online (vhmml.org).

44,038

manuscripts added to the Reading Room image server.

*Includes statistics reported by HMML’s Malta Study Center (page 14).

FY2025 Statistics

16,276

manuscripts and art objects cataloged and searchable in HMML Reading Room and Museum (vhmml.org).

4,246

name authorities for persons, organizations, works, places, and families created and added to HMML Authority File (haf.vhmml.org).

753

name authorities from HMML Authority File were also contributed directly to the Library of Congress.

17

catalogers and curators (full-time, part-time, and contractors) worked to make HMML’s collections accessible worldwide.

As part of the FY2025 work to advance and maintain all of HMML’s public platforms, we:

- ◆ Added 27 Stories to HMML.org.
- ◆ Added two online exhibitions to HMML.org.
- ◆ Maintained a 99.998% average uptime for vHMML.org, which hosts HMML Reading Room and Museum.
- ◆ Completed vHMML server upgrades.
- ◆ Performed a vHMML user audit.
- ◆ Completed vHMML data portal improvements, which reduced the run time from seven hours to 10 minutes.
- ◆ Co-presented at HMML’s Millenium Club & Legacy Society event.
- ◆ Provided ongoing support to HMML’s database for Customer Relationship Management (CRM).
- ◆ Organized a visit to HMML for IT Services staff from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University.
- ◆ Participated in strategic and operations planning.
- ◆ Added 1,445 HMML Authority File IDs to Wikidata, for a total of 11,719 Wikidata objects with HMML IDs.
- ◆ Gave a Lunch & Learn presentation: “What We Talk About When We Talk About vHMML Being Hacked.”
- ◆ Completed software upgrades to three HMML websites: HMML.org, HMMLschool.org, and HMMLvoobus.org.

Additionally, FY2025 saw upgrades to many of the underlying servers and systems that help support HMML’s websites. For vHMML, this meant working with our server host (Saint John’s University), our developers (Solution Design Group consultants), and HMML staff to ensure we extend the life of our flagship product. Staff were also involved in the HMML strategic and operational plans—both of which will help shape the direction of HMML and the systems department for years.

We create and support a suite of systems that help provide information and access to HMML’s collections.



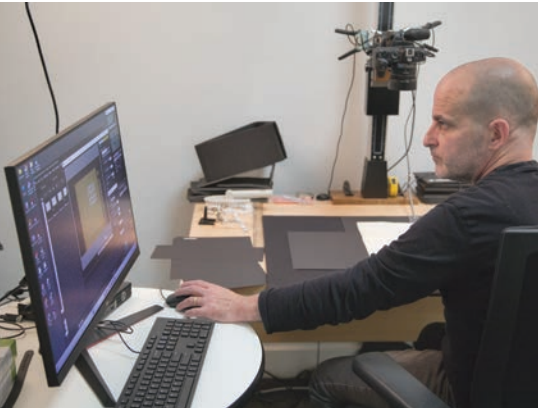
ABOVE: A depiction of the inner-workings of HMML Authority File. This graph shows the node for “Valletta (Malta)” and its relationship properties. Such linkages in a database help people and computers understand the relationship between the individuals, families, organizations, works, and places in HMML’s manuscript collections. Screenshot by John Meyerhofer.

In FY2025, HMML’s Malta Study Center operated six digitization studios in three countries:

- ◆ National Archives of Malta (Mdina, Malta): digitizing the Consolato del Mare collection as part of the “Malta Maritime History” project.
- ◆ National Library of Malta (Valletta, Malta): a long-term project to digitize the Archives of the Order of Malta.
- ◆ Monastery of Saint Peter (Mdina, Malta): digitizing 150 archival volumes.
- ◆ State Archive of Florence (Florence, Italy): digitizing the archives of the Priory of Pisa as part of the “*Langue of Italy*” project.
- ◆ Casa Buonarroti Archive (Florence, Italy): a new project to digitize the Buonarroti family archives.
- ◆ Museum of the Order of St. John (London, England): digitizing the collection of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem as part of the project “*France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775–1815.*”

In addition, Saint George’s Basilica (Victoria, Malta) provided the Center with digitized parish records, to be hosted online in HMML Reading Room (vhmml.org). The Center also inaugurated a major exhibition at HMML—*France and the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem: From Ancien Régime to Revolutionary Europe*—and published an illustrated catalog of *Mediterranean Travel: People, Places, Encounters*, an exhibition on view at HMML in 2018 and 2024.

We preserve and make accessible the handwritten culture of Malta and the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (also known as the Order of Malta) through digitization, cataloging, research, and public engagement.



ABOVE: Dr. Steve Gill, a site director and photographer for HMML’s Malta Study Center, digitizes a manuscript at the Museum of the Order of St. John in London, September 2024. Photograph by Dr. Daniel K. Gullo.

FY2025 Statistics

297,606
primary digital images created at 6 digitization studios, representing 1,100 manuscripts and art objects (Malta Study Center Collection).

1,200
legacy catalog records migrated to HMML Reading Room (Western European manuscripts).

2,634
provisional catalog records reviewed for HMML Reading Room (Western European manuscripts).

219
new catalog records created for objects photographed at Malta Study Center repositories (Malta Study Center Collection).

Fellowships & Visiting Scholars

HMML hosts two types of programs for researchers: fellowships and visiting scholars. Visiting scholars are self-funded researchers who may visit HMML in Collegeville, Minnesota, for any length of time to utilize HMML's on-site resources. Fellows receive funding from HMML to help cover travel, housing, meals, and research expenses while at HMML. Three types of fellowships are offered to researchers, made possible by generous donors:

- ◆ Established in 1991, Heckman Stipends are given through the A.A. Heckman Endowed Fund in honor of Aldred (Al) Heckman, an advocate for HMML since its inception in 1964. Heckman served as the first chair of HMML's Board of Overseers (now the Board of Directors) and supported HMML throughout his lifetime.
- ◆ The Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in Manuscript Studies was established in 2012 by Nicky B. Carpenter, a lifetime member and former chair of HMML's Board of Overseers.
- ◆ The Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscripts Studies for Junior Scholars was established in 2012 by Jeannette Swenson and HMML Board members Dr. Gregory T. Swenson and Nicholas Swenson.

We advance scholarly inquiry by providing paid fellowship residencies and hosting self-funded scholars for the use of HMML's on-site resources in Collegeville, Minnesota.



ABOVE: Fellows and visiting scholars are assigned a private study (glass offices, left) during their time at HMML and given access to the full suite of HMML's on-site and digital resources.

Fellowships

Nebeyou Alemu Terefe

Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
At HMML: October 7–October 19, 2024
Project Title: "Edition of the Pastoral Epistles in Ge'ez and their Andemta Tradition"

Dr. Botros Sadek

Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
At HMML: October 7–October 19, 2024
Project Title: "Edition of the Pastoral Epistles in Ge'ez and their Andemta Tradition"

Dr. Tsehay Ademe Belay

Heckman Stipend

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
At HMML: January 7–January 21, 2025
Project Title: "The Ethiopic Book of Joel and its Reception: A Critical Edition"

Visiting Scholars

Jacques Mercier

Université de Montpellier, Montpellier, France
At HMML: July 15–July 19, 2024

Dr. Monica Brinzei

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France
At HMML: July 22–July 26, 2024

Archbishop Polycarpus Augin Aydin

St. Ephrem Monastery, Losser, The Netherlands
At HMML: September 4–September 27, 2024

Dr. Carol Neel

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
At HMML: November 18–November 22, 2024

Dr. Jan Vandeburie

Independent Researcher, Leicester, England
At HMML: November 24–November 25, 2024

Dr. Paul Stone

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
At HMML: January 16–January 17, 2025

Dr. Tsehay Ademe Belay

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
At HMML: January 22–March 15, 2025

Dr. Margot Fassler

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
At HMML: February 3–February 5, 2025

Dr. Peter Jeffery

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
At HMML: February 3–February 5, 2025

Dr. Robert Kitchen

Independent Researcher, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
At HMML: February 3–February 7, 2025

Joseph Cochran

Independent Researcher, New York City, New York, USA
At HMML: February 14–February 23, 2025

Stephen Boutwell

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA
At HMML: February 25–March 6, 2025

Daniel O'Brien

Independent Researcher, Chaska, Minnesota, USA
At HMML: March 25–March 26, 2025

Jean-François Goudesenne

Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes (CNRS), Orléans, France
At HMML: May 11–May 16, 2025

Programming

In partnership with Dumbarton Oaks, HMML hosted its ninth annual language Summer School from July 8 to August 2, 2024, with 10 scholars studying Introduction to Ge'ez and eight scholars studying Introduction to Syriac. Scholars traveled to Minnesota from a total of 12 US states and six different countries for these intensive language and paleography courses. It was also the fourth summer in a row for HMML's popular virtual course, Introduction to Arabic Manuscript Studies.

Three exhibitions circulated at HMML in Collegeville, Minnesota, during FY2025. All three exhibitions can be viewed online (hmml.org/exhibitions):

- ◆ *Mediterranean Travel: People, Places, Encounters* (May–August 2024), curated by Dr. Daniel K. Gullo.
- ◆ *France and the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem: From Ancien Régime to Revolutionary Europe* (August 2024–January 2025), curated by Dr. Daniel K. Gullo.
- ◆ *William Shakespeare's Second Folio and the English Renaissance* (January–August 2025), curated by Dr. Audrey Thorstad.

HMML also hosted its first Winter Lecture Series, with virtual lectures held monthly from January through April 2025. Each lecture highlighted a different HMML collection and was presented by scholars who use HMML's resources for research and teaching—Dr. Jeremy R. Brown, Dr. Ani Shahinian, Dr. Jan Vandeburie, and Dr. Matthew Harkins. The lectures, attended by 441 people, were recorded and are available on HMML's YouTube channel, where they had 2,069 views as of July 1, 2025.

We help make HMML's collections and preservation work meaningful to both a general audience and the scholarly community.



ABOVE: During the last days of their month-long residency at HMML, members of the 2024 Dumbarton Oaks / HMML Summer School (Syriac and Ge'ez classes) pose for a class portrait in Alcuin Library, on the campus of Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Photograph by Wayne Torborg.



ABOVE: Volumes in the Tribunal Armamentorum collection, Legal Section of the National Archives of Malta in Mdina. Photograph by Stephen Busuttil.

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
Statement of activities and financial position
For the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025)

Statement of Activities

Revenue

Unrestricted Gifts and Grants	\$728,417
Restricted Gifts and Grants	\$1,808,098
Interest and Misc. Income	\$300,012
Investment Draw / Endowment	\$582,452
Revenue Generating Activities	\$19,092

Total Revenue \$3,438,071

Expense

Preservation Fieldwork	\$725,802
Access / Cataloging / Data Archiving	\$966,480
Academic Programming	\$183,375
General Programming	\$122,303
Administration	\$493,798
Advancement/Communications	\$336,012

Total Expense \$2,827,770

Net Revenue / Expense

\$610,301

Transfer to Reserves

\$166,580

Net Change to
Operating Fund

\$443,721

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	\$4,520,993
Non-Current Assets	\$855,732
Long-term Investments	\$22,719,300
Property, Plant, Equipment	\$14,873,091

Total Assets \$42,969,116

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$285,795
Long-term Liabilities (Annuities payable)	\$120,450

Total Liabilities \$406,245

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$22,590,876
With donor restrictions	\$19,971,996

Total Net Assets \$42,562,872

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$42,969,117



ABOVE: Creating a portrait of the 2024 Dumbarton Oaks / HMML Summer School Syriac and Ge'ez classes, near the entrance to HMML in Collegeville, Minnesota. The photographer—Wayne Torborg (director of digital collections & imaging, left)—directs the students and instructors (right), as Tim Ternes (director of programming, center) looks on. Photograph by Dr. Matthew Z. Heintzelman.

Connect with HMML

hill museum & manuscript library

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P.O. Box 7300
Collegeville, MN 56321-7300 USA

Phone: 320-363-3514
Email: hmml@hmml.org
Website: HMML.org

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



COVER: Detail of a manuscript containing homiliaries for the archangels Michael and Gabriel, copied in the 1920s CE for Zawditu (ዘውዲቲ), the Empress of Ethiopia from 1916 to 1930 CE. Empress Zawditu was one of the most important patrons for the churches of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the 20th century, building both church buildings and church libraries during her reign as Queen of the Royalty (ገገሥት: ገገሥታት). Collection of Ledatā Māryām Church, Addis Ababa. (EMML 421, folio 21r)