

عیمان شدند که از ره کاروانی
 شدند آن کاروان آن قوم و لشکر
 چو پیل آمد سوی دریا روانی
 درویشان شدند بجز باران



On the Cover

The romance of Mihr and Mushtarī is a fourteenth-century Persian narrative poem by ‘Aṣṣār of Tabrīz. On this folio (86r), Mushtarī and his friends are captured and taken aboard a ship on the Caspian Sea. The manuscript was copied by a scribe named Hidāyat Allāh in sixteenth-century Iran. Peter Lambeck, keeper of the imperial library in Vienna (now the Austrian National Library), purchased the manuscript in Istanbul in 1677 CE. Image digitized by the Austrian National Library from Cod. A.F. 68 (HMML microfilm 22211).

In This Issue

3 Director’s Letter

Cover Story:

4 Microfilm Milestones

Where We’re Working:

6 Mali

News:

8 News in Brief

Scholar Focus:

10 Advancing Scholarship

Postscript:

11 A Closer Look at a Single Manuscript

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. David Calabro—Contributing Writer

Julie Dietman—Contributing Writer

Dr. Daniel K. Gullo—Contributing Writer

Dr. Matthew Z. Heintzleman—Editorial Review

Dr. Josh Mugler—Contributing Writer

Joe Rogers—Contributing Writer, Editorial Review

Katrina P. Schlude—Editorial Review

Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB—Contributing Writer, Editorial Review

Wayne Torborg—Imaging, Production Manager

Dr. James Walters—Contributing Writer

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, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Malta, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria, and Ukraine. With approximately 300,000 manuscripts digitized in partnership with more than 800 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).

Executive Director

Father Columba Stewart, OSB

Board of Overseers

Chady AlAhmar, Eden Prairie, MN

Dusica Babovic-Vuksanovic, Rochester, MN

Catherine Shannon Ballman, Saint Paul, MN

Thomas Barrett, Minneapolis, MN

Brother Dennis Beach, OSB, Collegeville, MN

Bert Colianni, Minneapolis, MN

Kathy Cooney, Minneapolis, MN

Judith Healey, Minneapolis, MN

Suzanne Joyce, Hilton Head, SC

Tom Joyce, Minneapolis, MN

Charlie Kelley, Orono, MN

Steven Kennedy, Medina, MN

Lyndel King, Minneapolis, MN

Abbot John Klassen, OSB, Collegeville, MN

Lucia Lahiff Crane, Edina, MN

Andy LeFevour, Sunfish Lake, MN

Rachel McGarry, Deephaven, MN

Joseph S. Micallef, Saint Paul, MN

James Mullen, Collegeville, MN

Brother Richard Oliver, OSB, Collegeville, MN

Angela Pennington, Minneapolis, MN

Shelly Regan, Minneapolis, MN

Kathryn Reyerson, Arden Hills, MN

Dan Riley, Bloomington, MN

Patricia Simmons, Alexandria, VA

Keyna Skeffington, London, England

Barbara Slade, Minneapolis, MN

Father Columba Stewart, OSB, Collegeville, MN

Nick Swenson, Shorewood, MN

Brad Wallin, Edina, MN

Corine Wegener, Alexandria, VA

S. Linn Williams, McLean, VA

© 2022 Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

HMML does not sell or rent *HMML Magazine* subscriber information.

Dear Friends,

Visitors to my office have noticed a new screensaver on my computer: “2011: Syria. 2014: Iraq. 2020: Ethiopia. 2021: Mali. 2022: Ukraine.” In the 1960s, we were racing to microfilm as many manuscripts as possible before a feared nuclear war. Today, we’re seeing a world that has become even more volatile and unpredictable.

HMML started working in Syria in 2006. My last visit there was in March 2011, just a week before the demonstrations that became harbingers of civil war. I was in Jerusalem in June 2014 when news broke that something called the Islamic State had captured Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city. Two months later, they moved east across the Nineveh Plain, causing Christians and Yazidis to flee from their ancient villages. Our work in Iraq began in 2009 and continues to this day.

Each of the last three years has brought more crises. In 2020, Ethiopia lapsed into a new iteration of the civil war it had known in the late 1980s. A year later, Mali experienced a military coup and, more recently, further instability. And now Ukraine, a place I visited many times in the early years of our projects in L’viv. I knew Ukraine in heady and hopeful days. What’s happening there and to oppressed peoples everywhere is breaking my heart. All of these are HMML places.

We each do our part to ensure that cultural heritage is not erased. Digital images of manuscripts continue to arrive at HMML from libraries around the world and are made freely available online. Over the years, and now much more rapidly thanks to a new microfilm scanner, we’ve digitized more than 10 percent of our microfilms to make them accessible online. We know that many manuscripts filmed in Ethiopia in the 1970s and 1980s have disappeared, making it even more urgent that the copies we possess be shared as widely as possible.

Scholars are now returning to HMML for on-site research, and our Dumbarton Oaks/HMML Summer Language School will resume in-person instruction in July. This recovery of something like normalcy at HMML is very welcome. But as my screensaver reminds me, there is nothing status quo about our mission.

Sincerely,

Columba Stewart, OSB

Father Columba Stewart, OSB
Executive Director



ABOVE: Fr. Columba in Bamako, Mali, in 2016.

Microfilm Milestones

Cataloging opens access to Arabic-script manuscripts in Austria

By Josh Mugler

HMML's first library partnerships were to photograph the collections of prominent libraries in Western Europe, some of which included significant numbers of manuscripts acquired from the Islamic world. Of these collections, by far the largest is the massive collection of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library) in Vienna. In the early 1970s, more than 3,200 Arabic-script manuscripts in this library were microfilmed; these microfilms are now fully cataloged online in HMML Reading Room.

Included in the collection are more than 1,700 manuscripts in Arabic and more than 1,300 in Ottoman Turkish, as well as manuscripts in Chagatai, Azerbaijani, and other Turkic languages and dialects. There are more than 500 manuscripts in Persian, a few in Urdu, and one each in Bosnian, Albanian, and Kurdish. The vast majority of the texts are by Muslim authors, but there are also texts written and copied by Christians, Druze, Zoroastrians, and Bahá'ís. Even the term "Arabic script" does not capture the full diversity of the collection: two of the manuscripts are in medieval Turkic languages written in the old Uighur script of Central Asian origin.

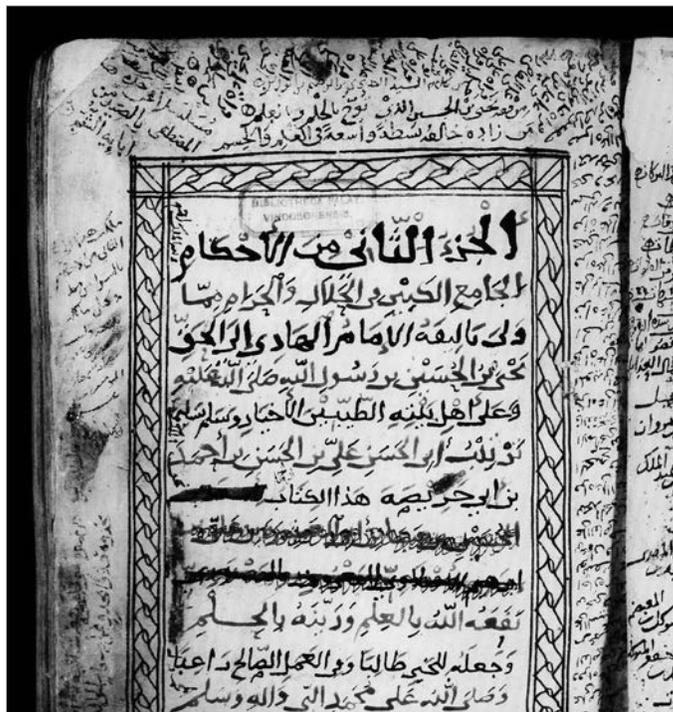
Formation

The bulk of these manuscripts were acquired by the government of the Austrian Empire, especially during the height of its power in the nineteenth century. Manuscripts were obtained from great distances, including Iran, South Asia, and other regions with Islamic heritage.

Because the Austrian Empire was in constant contact—and frequent conflict—with their Ottoman neighbors, a great number of the manuscripts came from historic Ottoman territories in Southeast Europe, Anatolia, and the Middle East. When both empires collapsed in the wake of World War I, Austrian and other European scholars continued to buy manuscripts in the newly established Republic of Turkey. The collection is therefore an especially valuable resource for Ottoman Turkish, including many items that are rare to find outside of Turkey (or anywhere at all).

Literary, poetic, and historical texts are especially well represented in the collection, highlights of which range from the world's oldest-known Islamic Persian manuscript—a medical text copied in 1056 CE (Cod. A.F. 340, HMML microfilm 22470)—to diplomatic correspondence exchanged across the border between the Austrian and Ottoman empires.

The focus of the Nationalbibliothek collection distinguishes it from other Islamic collections that HMML has digitized in recent years. The collection was formed during a period when Western institutions and individuals were acquiring many valuable and historic manuscripts from the Islamic world, especially in the fields that were considered most interesting by Orientalist



ABOVE: The oldest dated manuscript in the Glaser collection: a book of hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) that are relevant to the law of the Zaydī community, originally compiled in the tenth century and copied in Yemen in 1145 CE. (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Cod. Gl. 108, HMML microfilm 25352)



ABOVE: The Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library) entrance at Heldenplatz, in Vienna, Austria. Founded by the Habsburgs in 1368 CE, the library was known as the Imperial Court Library until 1920 CE.

scholars. HMML’s work in places like Jerusalem or Timbuktu—photographing all items in a collection—digitally preserves the manuscripts that were left behind, which often testify to traditions and fields of knowledge that have been less prominent in Western scholarship. Naturally, there are also many areas of overlap, including shared texts that can now be more easily analyzed across continents using photographic copies.

Accessibility

Only a small number of the manuscripts have been fully digitized by the Nationalbibliothek, so HMML’s microfilms continue to be a valuable way of accessing the collection. Of the more than 30,000 manuscripts in the Nationalbibliothek, HMML’s microfilms preserve approximately 14,000 handwritten books and tens of thousands of papyri fragments.

Roughly 250 of the 3,229 Arabic-script manuscripts are part of the Eduard Glaser collection, acquired by the Nationalbibliothek in the 1890s and consisting primarily of manuscripts from the Zaydī Shī‘ī community of Yemen. Microfilms of the Glaser collection were scanned as part of the Zaydī Manuscript Tradition project of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and are available for viewing online. The remainder of the Nationalbibliothek collection that HMML microfilmed can be viewed with microfilm readers on-site at HMML or scanned by request.

Significantly, HMML Reading Room is now the most comprehensive catalog of the Nationalbibliothek’s Arabic-script collection in the world.

The Nationalbibliothek is still in the process of integrating information into their own online catalog, especially for items acquired since Gustav Flügel’s monumental catalog was published in the 1860s. HMML Reading Room contains detailed, updated descriptions of each Arabic-script manuscript in the collection. The authors and titles of the texts are also described in the open-access HMML Authority File database—useful as a resource for all researchers of these literary traditions.

This nearly two-year cataloging project is part of the Resources for the Description of Manuscripts from Understudied Christian and Islamic Traditions grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the past year, cataloging was completed for six other Austrian libraries microfilmed by HMML, representing 3,856 manuscripts written in Latin, German, French, Italian, Hebrew, and Czech. In April 2022, cataloging was completed for all the Islamic and Arabic-script microfilms in HMML’s collections. Descriptive catalog records are making these manuscripts discoverable online, for readers around the world.

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

Mali

By Columba Stewart

In the spring of 2012, the desert city of Timbuktu in northern Mali was attacked and occupied by a coalition of radical Islamist forces. The attack brought Timbuktu to people around the world, as news spread that the invaders had ransacked ancient libraries and destroyed historic shrines dedicated to local Muslim saints. For historians, the name Timbuktu evokes a golden age when this oasis was a crossroads of trade and learning. Photos of burned manuscripts suggested that the entire historical memory of Timbuktu had been lost.

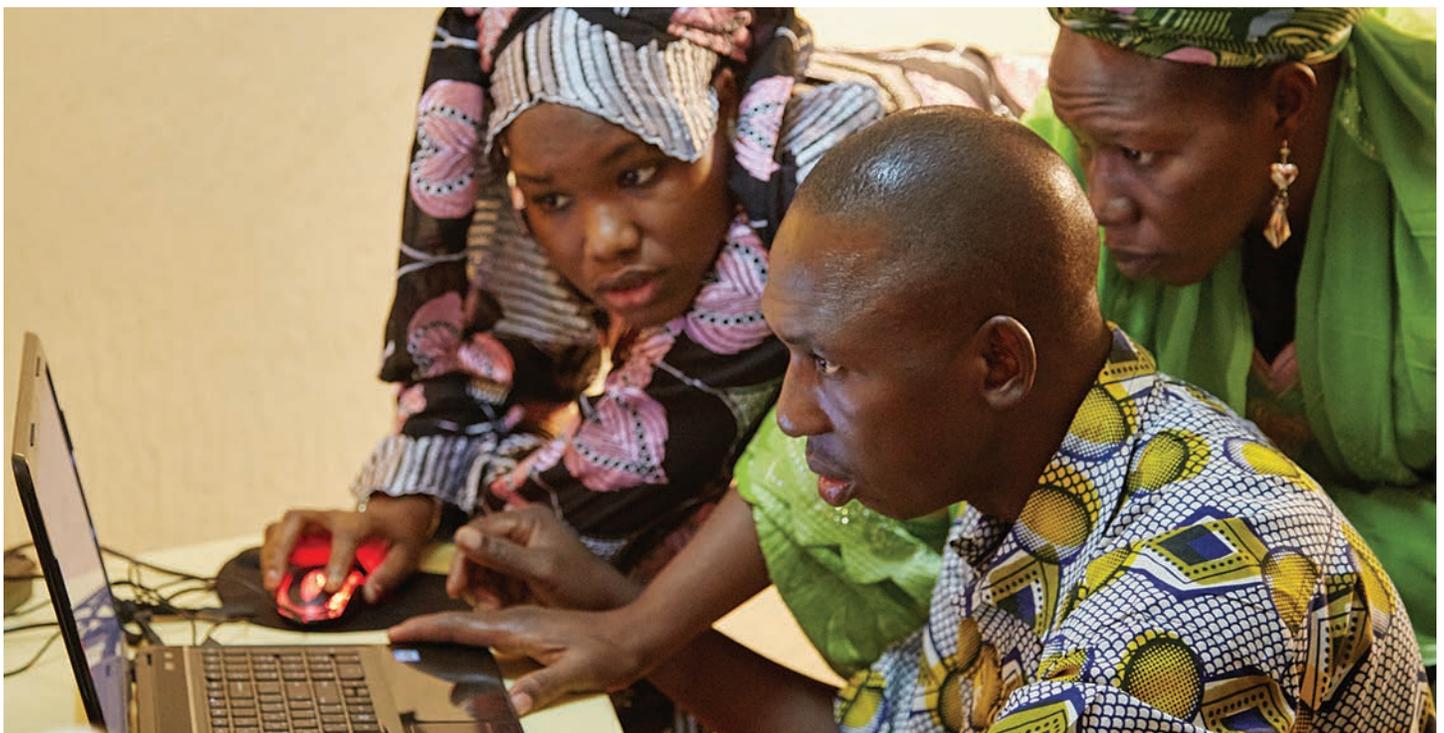
After the initial shock, another story emerged, one of rescue and preservation. Most of Timbuktu's manuscripts—more than 200,000 from some 36 libraries—had been taken out of the city in advance of the occupation. The rescue was led by Dr. Abdel Kader Haidara, scion of one of the important families of Timbuktu and caretaker of the Mamma Haidara Library, the city's largest. Transporting manuscripts in metal boxes via boat and truck, Dr. Haidara brought the manuscripts to the Malian capital of Bamako, where they remained packed in their chests while a plan was devised to sort, digitize, and describe them.

Bamako

With Walid Mourad (HMML field director for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia), I visited Bamako in August 2013 to meet Dr. Haidara and propose a large-scale digitization project. A second visit in December with Wayne Torborg (HMML director of digital collections and imaging) and HMML board members Tom Barrett and Tom Joyce sealed the deal, and work began that same month. Working with Dr. Haidara's organization (SAVAMA-DCI) and the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures in Hamburg, Germany, HMML's digitization project eventually expanded to 12 studios, supported by an Arcadia Fund grant to HMML, individual HMML donors, and occasional short-term support from SAVAMA-DCI's other partners.

Timbuktu and Djenné

With work in Bamako well underway, HMML turned its attention to libraries that had remained in Timbuktu, hidden by their owners in the same manner as when the Moroccans invaded in the late sixteenth century and the French in the nineteenth.



ABOVE: Souleymane Diarra, director of digitization at SAVAMA-DCI, training new technicians in 2013.



ABOVE: Metal boxes used by caretakers of Timbuktu's libraries to store and transport manuscripts to safety prior to the 2012 occupation.

Sophie Sarin, a Swedish-British expat who'd been living in Mali for many years, made initial contact with the leaders of the three principal mosques in Timbuktu and secured their agreement for a digitization project. Work began in 2017 as a partnership between HMML and the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme and continued as HMML's project until completion in 2020.

Working now for HMML as a project director, Ms. Sarin's own digitization initiative in Djenné, sister city to Timbuktu, was adopted by HMML after several years of sponsorship by the British Library. In both Timbuktu and Djenné, HMML partnered with AMALIA, an Italian conservation association founded by Dr. Maria Luisa Russo. AMALIA trains local librarians in how to make protective boxes for their manuscripts and other conservation treatments.

Ongoing Efforts

Today, cameras are still operating in Bamako and Djenné. The key task—reading the manuscripts and describing them for online access—is well underway with two HMML catalogers of West African manuscripts: Dr. Ali Diakité and Dr. Paul Naylor, with us through grants from the Mildred Kellogg Trust and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Diakité and Dr. Naylor have already made more than 17,000 of Mali's manuscripts available online in HMML Reading Room, including the entire collection of the Aboubacar Ben Said Library. Their work is reshaping perceptions of an important tradition of African Islam and has already been featured in global media. You can read more about their findings at hmml.org/stories.

In the last few years, the general security situation in Mali has deteriorated. Visits to Timbuktu and many other locations now require support from United Nations peacekeepers. The central government's control of most of the country is weak or nonexistent, and much of Mali has become a "no-go" area for visitors.

A coup in 2020 imposed military rule, and promised elections have been repeatedly delayed. Neighboring countries have levied sanctions and land blockades, and France is reducing their military presence. Fortunately, HMML was able to get preservation projects off the ground, and we continue to support our partners through difficult times. The project in Bamako should be completed this year. We will keep our colleagues in Djenné busy until they run out of manuscripts. And with each photograph that arrives at HMML, the written heritage of Mali can be widely shared, learned from, and celebrated.



ABOVE: Garba Yaro, of the Djenné Manuscripts Library, in 2021.

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

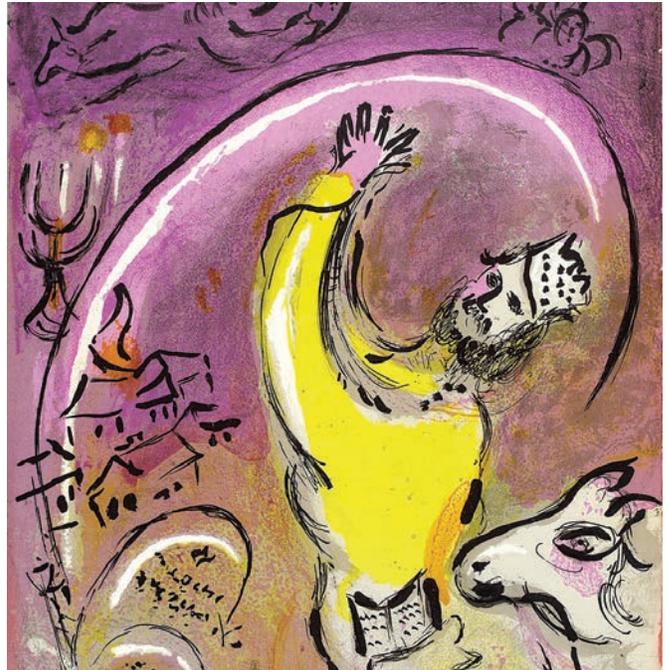
News in Brief

Highlights from HMML's cultural preservation initiatives and activities

Celebratory Numbers

HMML Reading Room now offers online access to more than 103,000 manuscripts of historical and cultural significance, located in hundreds of repositories worldwide. More than half of these manuscripts are accompanied by high-quality digital images, and others offer a window into HMML's microfilm collection. In addition, HMML Museum provides access to nearly 5,000 digitized art objects online, showcasing artwork in Collegetown (such as Marc Chagall's *King Solomon*, detail pictured), Malta, and at other partner repositories.

With an impressive team of catalogers and curators creating easily-searchable records for these collections, HMML is opening new pathways for people to access and understand the world's cultural heritage.



Two Visits to United Arab Emirates (UAE) Lay Groundwork for Future

In December 2021, Fr. Columba Stewart, executive director of HMML, attended Expo 2020 Dubai as a guest of the United States State Department. He visited several national pavilions of interest to HMML as future preservation sites, engaged with global media, and received an invitation to return in March as a member of a delegation of Catholic leaders to discuss interfaith relations in the Emirates, sponsored by the UAE government.

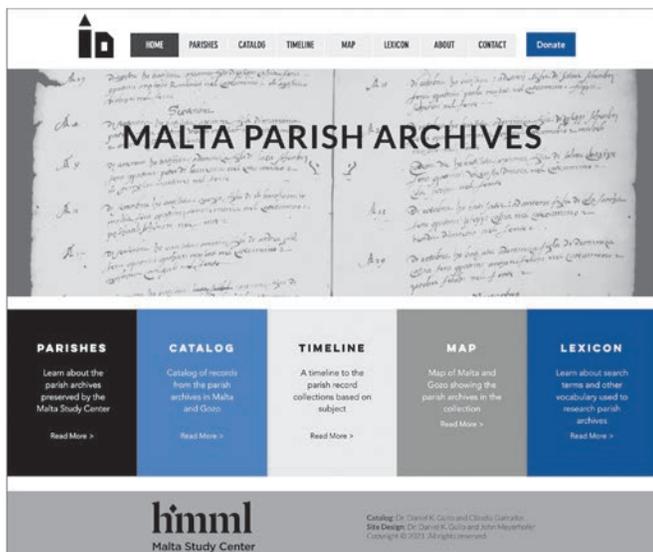
At the heart of the second trip was the opportunity to develop relationships with religious and political leaders, including the Catholic bishop of South Arabia, a New York-based rabbi who serves the small but growing Jewish community in the UAE, and the ambassador of the Order of Malta to Palestine—relationships that Fr. Columba hopes will help expand HMML's reach. A highlight was the visit of Cardinal Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, to Expo 2020 Dubai (pictured).



Malta Parish Archives Project Completed

In 2016, HMML's Malta Study Center began the Malta Parish Archives Project to facilitate the study of genealogy and parish life in Malta. The project included the development of a specialized website (maltaparisharchives.org) to show the scope of the collection and to create easy access to digitized copies of the parish records in HMML Reading Room. On maltaparisharchives.org, researchers can learn about each parish and search for archival volumes by location, time period, and type of church record, such as baptismal records and marriage records.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Archives of the Archdiocese of Malta, the Malta Study Center scanned more than 500 reels of microfilm that were photographed by the Center during the 1970s and 1980s. In addition, four archives from the parishes of Naxxar, Żabbar, Siġġiewi, and Victoria (Gozo Island) were digitized, for a total of 628 volumes of Maltese parish records added to HMML Reading Room and linked to maltaparisharchives.org. The project was developed by Dr. Daniel K. Gullo with technical assistance from John Meyerhofer and Cláudia Garradas.



Notable

HMML STAFF PRESENT AT GLOBAL CONFERENCES

JULY 4–9, 2022

13th Symposium Syriacum
Paris, France

Speaker—Dr. Vevian Zaki

Topic—Coptic Networks in Fourteenth-Century Egypt and Syria: Tūmā ibn al-Ṣā'igh and his Clients

Speaker—Fr. Columba Stewart

Topic—New Manuscript Evidence for the Letter to Melania of Evagrius Ponticus

Speaker—Dr. David Calabro

Topic—Soundings in the Textual History of Syriac Amulets

JULY 4–9, 2022

11th Christian Arabic Studies Congress
Paris, France

Speaker—Ted Erho

Topic—The Arabic Ambrosian Homiliary and the Ethiopic Homiliary of the Fathers: Evidence for an Early Adoption of Arabic Melkite Texts by Miaphysites in Egypt

AUGUST 8–12, 2022

18th World Congress of Jewish Studies
Jerusalem

Speaker—Ted Erho

Topic—Ezra Literature Among Jews and Christians in the Horn of Africa

SEPTEMBER 12–17, 2022

34th Deutsche Orientalistentag
Berlin, Germany

Speaker—Dr. Celeste Gianni

Topic—The Fihris of Paul Sbath, or: Cataloging as a Mirror of Identity in the Early 20th-Century Middle East

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Dr. Daniel K. Gullo is Joseph S. Micallef Director of the Malta Study Center at HMML. Joe Rogers is director of external relations at HMML.

Advancing Scholarship

Meet Six Scholars Completing Fellowships at HMML



Barbara Hagg-Huglo
Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship

Professor of Music, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
Project Title: "*Cantus officiorum sanctorum*: Catalogues, an Edition, and a Concert"

At HMML: August 3–15, 2021;
May 23–June 4, 2022



Benedikt Lemke
Heckman Stipend

PhD Candidate, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Project Title: "Witnesses of Faith and Law—Judicial Ordeals and their 'Liturgification' in the Carolingian Era"

At HMML: April 12–May 13, 2022



Jonathan Loopstra
Swenson Family Fellowship

Professor of History and Chair, University of Northwestern, St. Paul, Minnesota

Project Title: "The Syriac 'Masora': An Introduction to Reading Practices in the Early Medieval Near East"

At HMML: June 1–21, 2021



Mario Cossío Olavide
Heckman Stipend

Professor, Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, both in Lima, Perú

Project Title: "Juan Manuel and the Cistercian Order in Portugal"

At HMML: February 7–16, 2022



Margaret Mary Summers
Heckman Stipend

PhD Candidate, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Project Title: "Schools of Prayer: Liturgy and Scholastic Culture at Paris, c. 1150–1400"

At HMML: March 6–19, 2022



George Summers
Heckman Stipend

PhD Candidate, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Project Title: "The Knights Hospitaller in Northern Italy, c. 1200–1421: Continuity and Change"

At HMML: March 6–19, 2022

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Julie Dietman is assistant for advancement & library services at HMML.

A Closer Look at a Single Manuscript

By David Calabro and James Walters

The Syriac *Book of Medicines* is a fascinating compendium of medical lore from the region of modern-day Iraq. This work is attested in several manuscripts digitized by HMML, including QACCT 00149 (dated 1803 CE), DFM 00417 (dated 1883 CE), and CSDMA 00010 (containing two distinct manuscripts, both undated). Recently, at HMML we identified an even earlier witness to this text in PLKI HD 00001 (dated 1796 CE), part of the private library of Hurmuz Dībātū in Kandā Kūsā, Iraq.

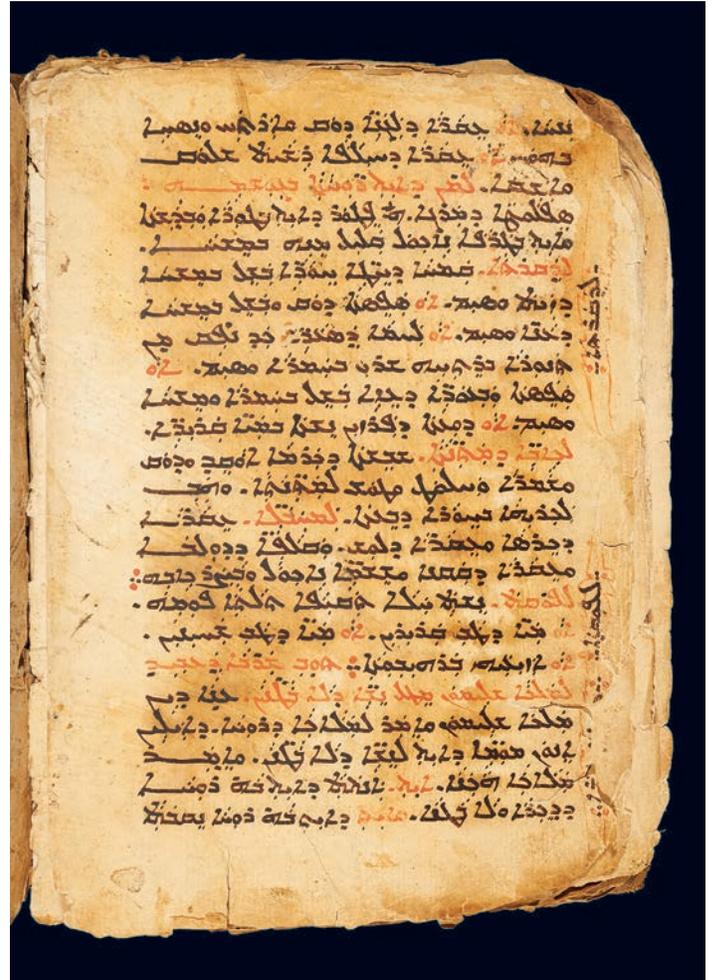
The first section of PLKI HD 00001 is a collection of remedies for various ailments. Chapter two is a glossary of drug names—this usually appears at the end of other manuscripts of the *Book of Medicines*. Chapter three, a treatise on therapeutic medicine according to Galenic principles, appears after the glossary. The section on astrology that appears in some manuscripts of the *Book of Medicines* is absent from PLKI HD 00001, perhaps torn out.

Like other traditional medical works from the Middle East, the *Book of Medicines* combines medicinal information (herbal remedies, compounds, etc.) with supernatural elements.

One such example—found in PLKI HD 00001, DFM 00417, and CSDMA 00010, but not otherwise known—addresses issues of conceiving children and prescribes remedies for infertility, all framed as a story about King Solomon. The story is only partly extant in PLKI HD 00001, but the other two manuscripts supply the missing portion. The story begins with the king seeking knowledge from an angel:

Then King Solomon answered and said to the angel of the Spirit, "What are the infirmities that women who do not conceive have?" Thus said the angel: "There is one kind of woman in whom there is a male spirit; she does not conceive. There is another kind in whom there is a female spirit; she does not conceive. There is another kind who has a binding spell placed on her by magic; she does not conceive. There is another whose womb is turning over; she does not conceive. There is another kind in whom are the spirits of many women; she does not conceive. And there is another kind in whom is greenish urine; she does not conceive."

(CSDMA 00010, folios 44v–45r)



ABOVE: The angel's advice to King Solomon, part of the Syriac *Book of Medicines* in the private library of Hurmuz Dībātū in Kandā Kūsā, Iraq. (PLKI HD 00001, fol. 36v)

The angel goes on to explain how to recognize the various types of infirmities and how to treat them using animal and plant products.

This tale, nearly lost to the hazards of time, gives valuable insight into perceptions of medical issues in pre-modern societies and the perpetual story of challenges related to childbirth.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Dr. David Calabro is curator of Eastern Christian manuscripts at HMML. Dr. James Walters is cataloger of Syriac manuscripts at HMML.

hill museum & manuscript library

2835 ABBEY PLAZA
P.O. BOX 7300
SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
COLLEGEVILLE, MN 56321-7300
320-363-3514 HMML.ORG



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Saint John's University



Preserve and Share

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



“In the 20th century, this Church was reduced by 90 percent in terms of clergy and 99 percent in terms of active laity. And then freedom came. Freedom came without a war, without a bloody revolution, and people harkened back to the tradition. This is why tradition is so important; this is why memory is so important; this is why manuscripts are so important.”

—Archbishop Borys Gudziak, president of Ukrainian Catholic University, speaking with Father Columba Stewart, OSB, about the revitalization of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church after the fall of the Soviet Union. (*To Listen: A Global Journey*, March 18, 2021)

LEFT: The wooden church at Univ Lavra, a Ukrainian Greek Catholic monastery about an hour from L'viv, photographed in 2008.
