





**ABOVE:**

*Manuscripts in Timbuktu await digitization. While many of Timbuktu's manuscripts were moved to Bamako for safekeeping, some collections remained in the threatened city. Read about HMML's new preservation project on page 8.*

## *Hill Museum & Manuscript Library*

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

HMML is currently preserving manuscript collections at sites in Croatia, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Ukraine and Yemen. With more than 580 partner libraries worldwide, HMML holds the world's largest collection of online resources for the study of manuscript cultures both east and west. These manuscripts are available through the new vHMML Reading Room at [vhmml.org](http://vhmml.org).

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Start your research at: [www.vhmml.org](http://www.vhmml.org)

# *Illuminations*

**CONTENTS**

- 3 Director's Letter
- 4 NEH Awards HMML Major Grants
- 6 Illuminating the Medieval Egyptian Desert
- 8 Where We're Working: Endangered Libraries of Timbuktu
- 10 HMML News
- 14 HMML Campaign: One Extraordinary Mission
- 18 HMML Scholars
- 19 Finds in Arca Artium

**ON THE COVER:**

*A 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript from the Monastery of St. Macarius in Wadi Natrun, Egypt. This is the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, with a heavily decorated and illuminated headpiece and calligraphic writing in gold and blue. The decoration, including the illuminated florette word dividers, is reminiscent of Qur'an manuscripts of the Mamluk period (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries). HMML Project Number ABMQ 00017*

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# Dear Friends,

When I became director in 2003 and started to explain our work to people I'd meet during my travels the typical response was something along the lines of the classic Minnesotan "well, that's *different*." Some were intrigued by the Benedictine connection, but for the most part our mission seemed esoteric and remote. Academic types got it, but moving beyond the academy had its challenges.

How things have changed since those early years, with risks to cultural heritage now achingly frequent and increasingly newsworthy. As I look back, I can see an arc in HMML's development that began with the digital turn in 2003 and continued with our rapid expansion throughout the Middle East, India, and Africa. It was anchored by our renovation in 2014, boosted by the launch of vHMML in 2015, and accelerated with our media exposure this past year. Meanwhile, the civil war in Syria, the rise of ISIS, and continuing instability in many of the places where we have active preservation projects have converged to make us, unexpectedly, recognized leaders in the protection of endangered cultural heritage. Our quiet but effective project of more than 50 years has suddenly been noticed as an example of positive response to the many forces arrayed against voices from a now unwelcome past or evidence of diversity of culture. While the surge of interest from major media, academic institutions, agencies and foundations has been welcome, I must admit it has been a dizzying ride. I think of the "high-G" training given to astronauts and wonder where I can sign up.

We have been able to stay the course and gradually expand our efforts through the support of our most loyal friends, those who are reading these words. Thanks to you we concluded a wonderfully successful capital campaign, as you will read in this issue of *Illuminations*. As is so often true in life, and always so for fundraising, the end is also a new beginning. The adventure continues—and has perhaps only just begun.



*Here I am with Sophie Sarin, one of our valued collaborators in Mali, on our arrival in Timbuktu. We expanded preservation work to Timbuktu this summer and our initiative in Mali remains our largest digitization project in fifty-year history.*

Sincerely,

*Columba Stewart, OSB*

Father Columba Stewart, OSB  
Executive Director

# NEH Awards HMML Major Grants

*Funding to support vHMML expansion & a summer institute*

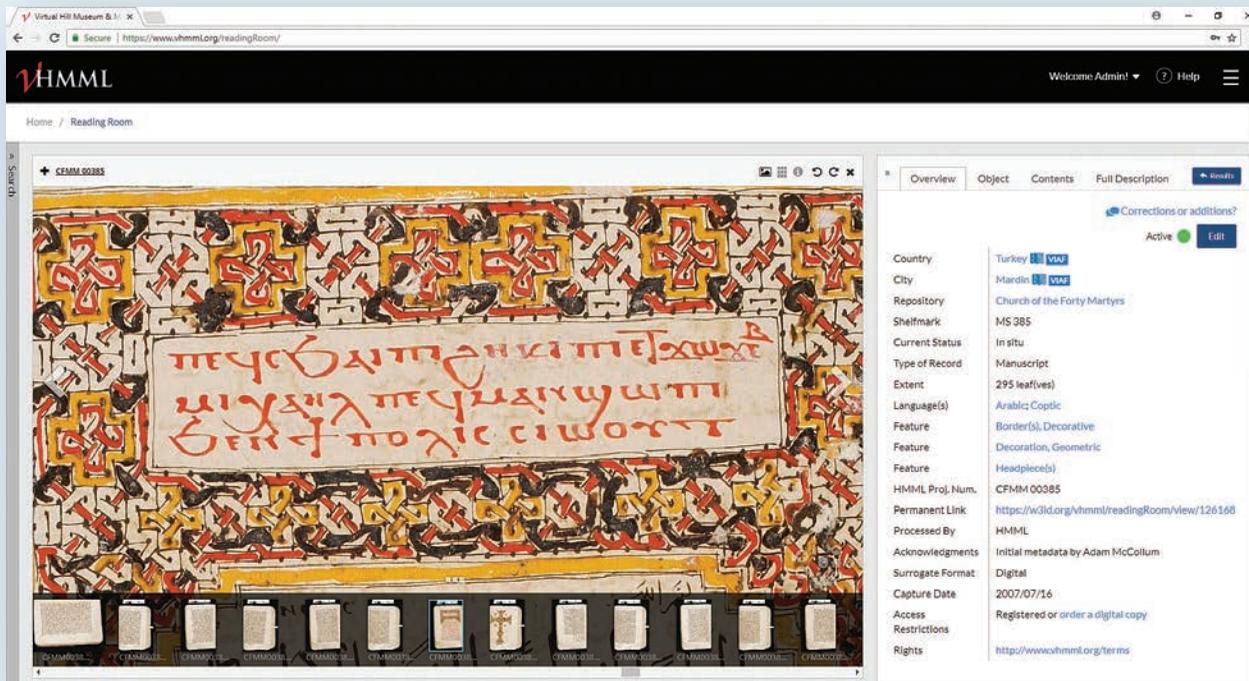
The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded HMML two grants earlier this year. The first was an outright grant of \$323,958 plus \$42,430 in matching funds for further development of vHMML, HMML's online platform for manuscript studies. HMML was one of 245 recipients nationwide, and its award is among the largest of the 27 Digital Humanities Advancement Grants. Additionally, HMML was awarded a \$162,330 grant to host a 2018 NEH Summer Institute. Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the NEH supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation.

HMML Executive Director Father Columba Stewart, OSB, observed, "vHMML has grown from a suite of online tools for manuscript studies to the world's largest online collection of digitized manuscripts from around the globe. vHMML 3.0 will offer features requested by vHMML users and partner libraries that will ensure easier access to the manuscripts and better tools for sharing discoveries. We are honored that the NEH recognizes the potential for vHMML to transform scholarship across and between manuscript cultures."

vHMML 3.0 will offer users greater discoverability of manuscripts and associated metadata, and an enhanced ability to share data with other scholars and digital humanities projects. vHMML was developed to open that archive to undergraduates, graduate students, scholars, library professionals, and anyone interested in manuscript studies. Launched in 2015, the platform provides resources for learning about manuscripts, discovering new texts, comparing versions of known texts in several languages, and tracing the circulation and use of manuscripts across time and cultures.

With the release of vHMML 2.0 in August 2016, HMML launched vHMML Reading Room, making tens of thousands of otherwise inaccessible and often endangered manuscript books and archival documents available to registered users around the world free of charge. The high-resolution, full-color digital images and legacy microfilm collections in vHMML Reading Room are searchable by country, repository, author, language, genre, date, features, city or script.

Currently, vHMML Reading Room includes over 25,000 complete manuscripts in thirty languages. Collections are added on a weekly basis. Even uncataloged collections are hosted in vHMML Reading Room, lowering barriers to



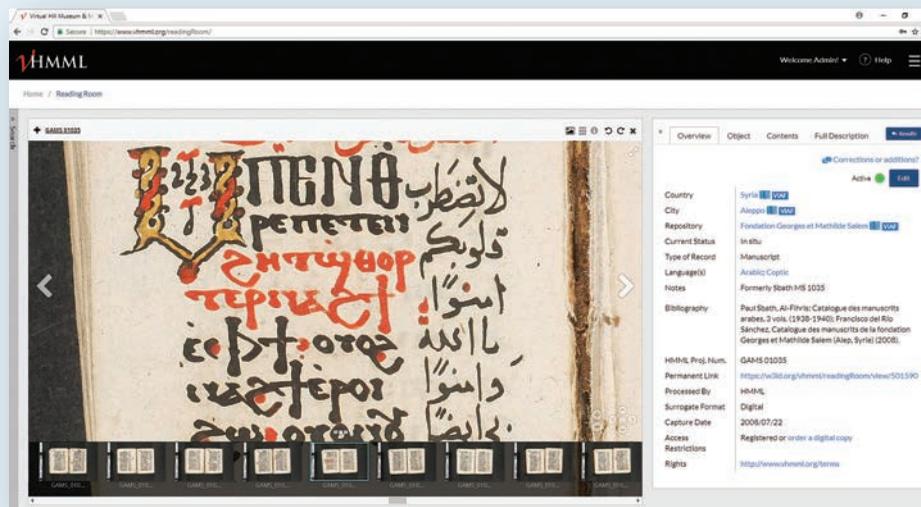
*The NEH grant will fund enhancements to vHMML Reading Room that will improve discoverability of manuscripts and allow data to be shared with researchers and other digital humanities projects.*

scholarly access. vHMML Reading Room is one of five components that make up vHMML. Each component provides resources for using, understanding, and interpreting HMML’s manuscript collections. vHMML School offers tutorials in the sciences of paleography and codicology. vHMML Folio provides richly described manuscript pages from communities around the globe and across the ages, highlighting the changing history of scripts in these traditions. vHMML

Lexicon introduces terms used in manuscript studies, and vHMML Reference contains bibliographical resources searchable by keyword, title, or author’s name.

In 2012, the Institute for Museum and Library Services awarded HMML with initial funding for the development of vHMML, while support for development of vHMML 2.0 came from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Henry Luce Foundation.

“NEH grants ensure that Americans around the country have the opportunity to engage with our shared cultural



ABOVE: vHMML uses *Mirador*, a web-based, multi-window image viewing platform that allows researchers the ability to zoom, display and compare images.

heritage,” said NEH Acting Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. “From traveling exhibitions and teacher workshops to efforts to preserve local history, these projects demonstrate the power of the humanities to build connections, stimulate discovery, and contribute to vibrant communities.”

## HMML Hosting NEH Summer Institute

The NEH also awarded HMML a \$162,330 grant to host the 2018 NEH Summer Institute “Thresholds of Change: Modernity and Transformation in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean, 1400-1700.” The grant will support a four-week long Summer Institute at HMML for college and university faculty who teach Western and World civilizations.

The Summer Institute is designed to equip instructors with the knowledge and tools to craft teaching modules or integrated aspects of Mediterranean Studies in general history surveys and interdisciplinary/cross-topical humanities courses, and/or develop Mediterranean Studies syllabi geared to their specific curricular interests. The Institute will involve participants in an intense program of intellectual interaction and study, both as groups and individually, allowing for diverse opportunities to learn about and develop course curricula in Mediterranean Studies.

“With the renovation of its facilities in 2014, HMML has increasingly become a center for international seminars and instruction,” said Dr. Daniel Gullo, Joseph S. Micallief Curator of HMML’s Malta Study Center. “Adding the 2018 NEH Summer Institute to our programming will further our mission as a resource for research and teaching.”

The Institute, which will take place from June 18-July 14, 2018, at HMML, will be open to college and university faculty members across the nation, and will immerse participants in an intensive introduction to Mediterranean Studies during the late medieval and early modern era.

“HMML has a vast collection of online manuscript and resource materials on the early modern Mediterranean, the most cosmopolitan and dynamic part of the world at the onset of globalization,” said Kiril Petkov, Director of the Institute and Professor of Mediterranean History at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. “The NEH-supported Institute will make it possible for higher education faculty across the nation to peruse HMML’s documentary wealth, discuss Mediterranean matters with some of the finest scholars of the region, and disseminate the knowledge thus gathered to cohorts of college students. The NEH grant is an auspicious opportunity to highlight HMML’s reputation as one of the leading online manuscript research libraries in the nation.”

Individuals interested in further information or participating in the 2018 Summer Institute can learn more by visiting HMML’s website: [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org).

# Illuminating the Medieval Egyptian Desert

## *Coptic manuscripts and the value of technology*

By Elizabeth Reisinger



One of the many helpful features vHMML Reading Room offers users is the ability to access manuscripts from all over the world in one place. The sophisticated tools on the vHMML platform, coupled with partnerships with libraries around the world, allow scholars access to manuscripts like never before.

Coptic manuscripts are one such example. Coptic manuscripts from collections in Egypt, Turkey, Jerusalem, Syria, Ethiopia and Lebanon can be found in vHMML Reading Room. vHMML allows scholars—including one of HMML’s own staff—to develop a more complete understanding of medieval Egyptian manuscript culture.

### Coptic defined

The word Copt is derived from the Greek word “Agyptos,” which was, in turn, derived from “Hikaptah,” one of the names for Memphis, the first capital of Ancient Egypt.

The modern use of the term “Coptic” describes both a tradition and a language. The Coptic Church looks to Saint Mark, one of the four evangelists, as its founder, and is now almost 2,000 years old. As a community, the Copts are among the oldest Christian communities in the Middle East and theirs is often considered one of the most ancient civilizations still in existence. Like every historic Christian community, the Coptic tradition produced manuscripts (in addition to art, music, architecture and other treasures) throughout the centuries.

“Coptic manuscripts are important for three primary reasons,” said Dr. David Calabro, HMML’s Lead Cataloger of Eastern Christian and Islamic manuscripts. “One, linguistically, because Coptic is the last surviving stage of the ancient language of the Pharaohs; two, for religious studies, because Coptic is a very old orthodox Christian tradition with a fascinating theology and liturgy; three, for its literature, because many significant works of hagiography and other religious texts survive in Coptic.” While most Coptic manuscripts have remained in Egypt, there are sizeable collections in many European libraries as a result of imperialistic ventures and missionary efforts.

“Digitization projects like those at HMML, the Vatican and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France represent a giant step forward in the study of Coptic manuscript traditions,” said Dr. Calabro. “Not only does this make high-resolution images of entire manuscripts accessible, allowing thorough paleographic study, but it also offers the possibility of digitally reuniting collections that have been scattered in libraries and museums across the world.”

### Scholarly study

Furthermore, the presence of Coptic manuscripts in collections across the Near East “shows that Coptic manuscripts were valued by Christians in neighboring regions, and even in non-Coptic communities,” said Dr. Calabro. “These might have been gifts given by Copts to people of other communities



who visited Egypt. Or they may represent Coptic communities outside of Egypt. For example, there is a Coptic church at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, so Coptic manuscripts in libraries in Jerusalem may have originated there.”

Dr. Calabro recently spoke about the contribution of some of HMML’s Coptic–Arabic manuscripts to paleography and the scribal culture of Coptic communities in Egypt in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. His lecture, “Manuscript Culture in the Medieval Egyptian Desert: Insights from Coptic–Arabic Bibles of the Anba Maqar Monastery,” was presented at the Vatican Film Library Annual Conference on Manuscript Studies in October 2017.

LEFT: A 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript featuring Coptic and Arabic script from the Monastery of St. Macarius in Wadi Natrun, Egypt. The library was HMML’s first project with Coptic manuscripts. HMML Project Number ABMQ 00018

TOP: A 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscript from the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Mardin, Turkey. This is the header in Coptic, inside a decorated headpiece, with a rubric and text in Arabic for the beginning of the third section of the book. The Coptic header indicates the scribe and place of production of the manuscript: “Its scribe is the poor, humble one, Michael; and the place where it was created is in the city of Asyut.” The large rubric of this section explains that this is about the afflictions that befall both the righteous and the wicked among the believers. It also explains that the section deals with the interpretation of the incident between King David and Shimei (2 Samuel 16). HMML Project Number CFMM 00385

RIGHT: Another manuscript from the Monastery of St. Macarius in Wadi Natrun, Egypt. This page is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark. Inside the decorated headpiece, which is very similar to headpieces in Qur’ans of the same period, is the title “Gospel of the venerable Saint Mark the Elect.” The Arabic text on the right is a translation of the Coptic text on the left. In the margin, the scribe of the Arabic text has added two words that were initially omitted: “the prophet Isaiah.” Despite the calligraphic quality of the Coptic, the Coptic scribe has also made several mistakes, including the omission of a letter in the word euangelion “Gospel.” This missing letter was added by a later scribe at the end of the first line. HMML Project Number ABMQ 0017, folio 121r

Although his presentation focused on Coptic–Arabic Bibles during the medieval period, Dr. Calabro has researched the broader Coptic manuscript tradition. He has compared manuscripts in HMML’s collections with others around the world, giving scholars insight into the lives and traditions of Coptic communities.

“If we include texts that are older than the ones we have at HMML, Coptic literature is very interesting because it includes lots of pseudepigrapha [writings that claim to be biblical in origin but are not part of the official “canon” of Scripture], the Gnostic texts from Nag Hammadi, and many brief documents on papyrus and on potsherds that give us insight into life in Egypt in early Christian times.”

## The value of digitization

For his research on Coptic–Arabic Bibles, Dr. Calabro has located 86 manuscripts dating from 1173 to 1843 in 14 museums and libraries around the world.

“For example, tracing the aggregate histories of these manuscripts from their colophons [inscription at the end of a manuscript giving the date, authorship, or other details], readers’ marks and *waqf* [endowment] notes, we can begin to see a long-distance network of gift exchange among priests of the great monasteries across Egypt,” said Dr. Calabro.

He also asserts that further study of the circulation of Coptic manuscripts, specifically how and why they circulated, and what these manuscripts imply about linguistic culture of the time, is definitely needed.

“This project may eventually allow us to reconstruct a coherent map of Coptic scribal culture in Ayyubid and Mamluk Egypt [dynasties of the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries],” said Dr. Calabro. “Accessing these manuscripts through digitization projects is of great importance. By making use of this material in published research, we show the value of these projects and provide impetus for other libraries to join the digitization effort.”



# Where We're Working

## Endangered Libraries in Timbuktu

New project in Timbuktu expands HMML's work in Mali

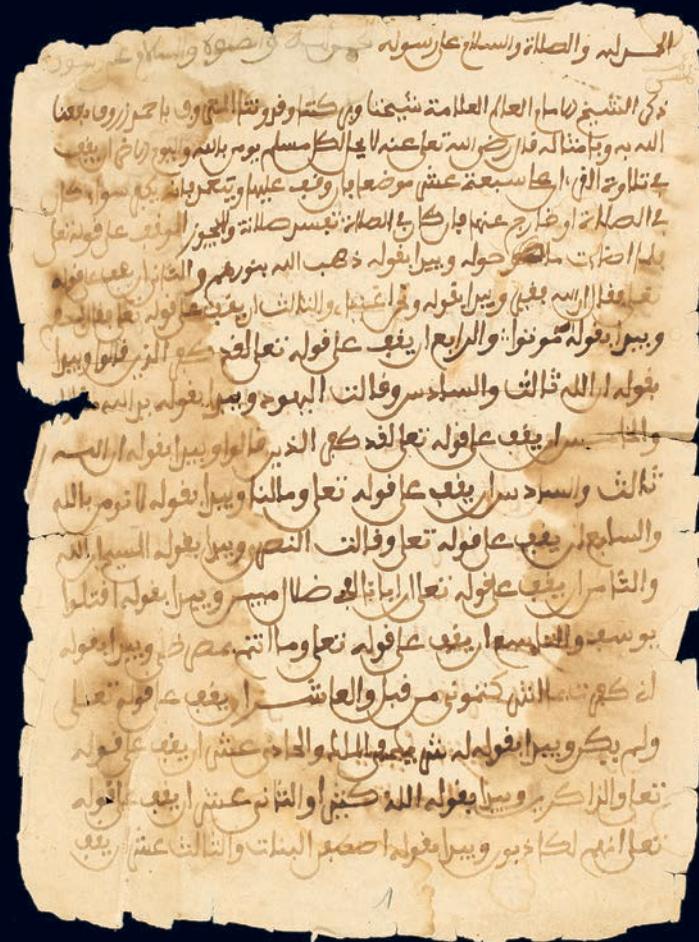
By Elizabeth Reisinger

The story of the manuscripts evacuated from Timbuktu is already legendary. In 2013, as political upheaval and violence threatened the city's cultural heritage, Timbuktu's librarians began secretly transferring centuries-old manuscript collections to Bamako, Mali's capital, some 400 miles south of the fabled desert city. Thanks to their stealthy efforts, over 300,000 historic manuscripts were saved from destruction. Today these manuscripts are being digitized in Bamako by HMML-trained Malian technicians, making them accessible to a global audience for the very first time.

Not all of the manuscripts in Timbuktu made the journey to Bamako for safekeeping and digitization. Several collections belonging to historic families of Timbuktu remained in the city. Fortunately, they escaped damage during the occupation of the city but remained vulnerable to damage or destruction in an unstable political and security environment. Digital preservation, an obvious response to that risk, was beyond the capacity of local families burdened with many urgent needs. That changed in the summer 2017.

"We were always aware of the libraries that remained in Timbuktu, but until last summer, we weren't able to access them," said HMML Executive Director Father Columba Stewart. "Our partnership with the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Hamburg University led us to a collaboration with Sophie Sarin, a Swedish-born citizen of the United Kingdom who lived in Mali for many years, to digitize important libraries in Timbuktu. We developed a digitization project co-funded by HMML and the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library, which is funded by HMML's own leading donor, the Arcadia Fund. Our partners at SAVAMA-DCI in Bamako helped us train the technicians and launch the project, ensuring that these manuscripts could also be preserved and shared with the world."

In August 2017, Fr. Columba and HMML Director of Middle East Field Operations Walid Mourad traveled to Timbuktu to meet the local partners and set up the studio at the Imam Essayouti Library in Timbuktu.



One of the newly digitized manuscripts from the collections that remained in Timbuktu. This manuscript – and thousands of others – will soon be uploaded to HMML Reading Room.

"HMML's work in Mali has always felt urgent. The risk to the manuscripts transferred from the desert of Timbuktu to the humid climate of Bamako and the uncertain political and security situation in the country led us to accelerate our preservation projects," said Fr. Columba. "We are excited to expand our efforts to Timbuktu itself at such a critical time."

## Challenges

The reality of that unstable political situation became quickly apparent. On August 14, 2017, gunmen attacked the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping force in Timbuktu, killing seven people and injuring seven others. It was the first such violent incident in the city since 2013. Fr. Columba, Mourad, and Sarin were in a hotel near to the site of the attack, and were able to use their contacts to facilitate a rescue operation that took them to the safety of the local Swedish UN base. That didn't stop the project.

"Despite the attack on the UN headquarters shortly after our arrival, we were able to meet with our local partners from the Imam Essayouti Library. Although we were unable to do the on-site training we had planned," said Fr. Columba, "we were able to get them started almost immediately on cleaning and preparing the manuscripts for digitization". In September the whole team from Timbuktu went to Bamako for training at SAVAMA-DCI, and the studio manager from Bamako then went up to Timbuktu to set up the new studios."



The manuscripts now being digitally captured in Timbuktu will join the thousands of manuscripts photographed at SAVAMA-DCI already on [vHMML](#).

"Awareness of our work in Mali is growing among the scholarly community," said Fr. Columba. "Preservation of the manuscripts that are still housed in Timbuktu is a valuable complement to the vast collection of Timbuktu manuscript images taken in Bamako."



ABOVE: HMML Director of Field Operations Walid Mourad, Fr. Columba and HMML Partner Sophie Sarin were housed safely in the local Swedish UN base after violence erupted in Timbuktu.

LEFT: Technicians in Timbuktu begin training, including cleaning and prepping manuscripts for digitization.

## Update from Bamako

Work also continues at SAVAMA-DCI in Bamako, where the evacuated manuscripts are being conserved and digitized. After starting with just two cameras in January 2014, the operation has grown to twelve active digitization stations. The project is HMML's largest to date: more than 300,000 manuscripts need to be digitally preserved. New collections are being continually added to the project, with the latest being the Abdullah Abdrahamane Family Library (12,700 items). This will be the fourth family library to be digitized, adding to the 90,000 documents already

photographed (more than 2,700,000 images). The manuscripts include Islamic religious texts; secular works of astronomy, medicine and diplomatic relations, and archival material dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Generous donors, including the Arcadia Fund (London), the Womadix Fund, The Prince Claus Fund (a Dutch NGO for cultural initiatives), and the Juma Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage in Dubai, have made this rapid expansion possible and sustainable.

# HMML News

## Permanent gallery for *The Saint John's Bible* opens in Alcuin Library

A permanent gallery for *The Saint John's Bible* opened to the public on Friday, Oct. 6, at Saint John's University's Alcuin Library. The gallery has 1653 square feet of floor space and is located in the lower level of the library, exhibiting original folios from the seven volumes of *The Saint John's Bible*.

"*The Saint John's Bible* has traveled the world on exhibition and inspired people of all cultures and creeds since 2005," said Saint John's University President Michael Hemesath. "Now, *The Saint John's Bible* comes home to a spectacular gallery where its spirit and beauty will continue to reach out to new audiences through themed exhibitions and creative programming."

To visit the gallery, visitors enter through the main doors of Alcuin Library and descend to the gallery's entrance on the lower level. There, they can interact with a full-sized, high-definition version of *The Saint John's Bible* that allows guests to electronically turn the pages of all seven volumes and explore details, videos and content behind each page.

"The gallery can accommodate up to 50 people at a time and is designed to give guests a sacred experience," said Tim Ternes, Director of *The Saint John's Bible*. "Guests enter the gallery through beautiful ebonized oak doors handcrafted at Saint John's Abbey Woodworking that feature a honeycomb design mirroring the great window in the Saint John's Abbey and University Church. As the *The Saint John's Bible* remains unbound at this time, the folios are displayed on special mounts designed to make the unbound folios look like opened books. Light levels are low to maintain conservation standards and allow the folios to be the focal points of the space."



The gallery places *The Saint John's Bible* in the historical context of the manuscript by including selections from the rare book, manuscript and art collections of Saint John's University and HMML.

"Exhibition themes will vary throughout the year and will rotate approximately every four months," Ternes said. "The opening exhibition will feature a sampling of folios from each volume of *The Saint John's Bible*.



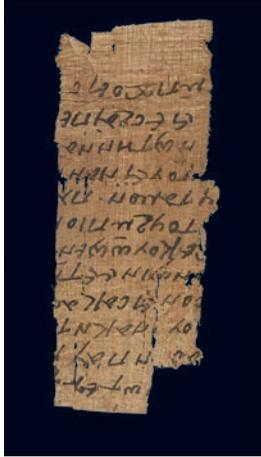
"Future exhibitions will feature folios from one volume at a time, or will showcase a common theme such as hospitality or women in scripture, or a variety of hand-lettered scripts in *The Saint John's Bible*. Themes will be advertised on HMML's and *The Saint John's Bible* social media and websites," he said.

Guided tours are available for individuals or groups and are handicapped-accessible. Guests should plan on approximately 30-60 minutes for a self-guided tour and 90-120 minutes for a guided tour or formal presentation. The gallery is open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Other times may be available; check HMML's website, or call 320-363-3514 for further information.

Group presentations are available but must be arranged in advance by contacting Ternes by email or by phone at 320-363-3351. There is no cost to view *The Saint John's Bible* in the gallery. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested for guided tours and presentations.

## Exhibition in HMML's Reading Room: Fragmented Beauty

Our knowledge of the past is often fragmented: ancient artifacts, historical documents, architectural ruins, and other important pieces of history speak to us in an incomplete state. Much of this fractional damage is the result of the ravages of history or natural processes. However, the fragmentation of manuscripts was and is often the direct consequence of human influence.



*Fragmented Beauty* was on exhibit in HMML's Reading Room from May to August, 2017. This exhibition examined and featured manuscript fragments that span a time period of over 1,500 years and are of European and non-European origin. The exhibition also explored key components of manuscript research, including content, script, and decoration. Beyond these considerations, the circumstances of fragmentation can also raise important questions about the texts themselves. The exhibition was co-curated by Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, Curator for HMML's Austria/Germany Study Center and Cataloger of Rare Books, and

Molly Lax, HMML's Irma Wyman intern for spring semester 2017, and a May 2017 graduate of the College of Saint Benedict.

"Manuscripts were fragmented for a variety of reasons: to be reused in book bindings, for financial benefit, or to promote access," said Dr. Heintzelman. "Although the practice was quite common a hundred years ago, fragmentation is discouraged today, as it degrades the integrity of important historical items."

The exhibition began with a Coptic Psalter, one of the oldest items on display. Created in Upper Egypt in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and discovered in the 1880s, the fragment contains text from the Book of Psalms, and is still legible over 1,000 years after its creation.



Several fragments of non-European origin, including a stunning and ornate Qur'an fragment from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, were also included in the exhibition. Called a "carpet page," the fragment is adorned with blue fringe decoration, detailed floral patterns, and gilding, and contains text from two Surahs in the Qur'an.

Investigation of items in HMML's collections produced an exciting reunion of two fragments that came from the same monastic scriptorium. Originally part of a set of matching 13<sup>th</sup>-century Cistercian manuscripts, two nearly identical fragments of Saint Anne teaching the Virgin Mary to read exist in HMML's collections. One image is part of an album of manuscript cuttings, and the other is glued onto parchment.

*The exhibition was co-curated by HMML's Irma Wyman intern Molly Lax and featured manuscript fragments spanning 1,500 years. This included a fragmented Coptic Psalter from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, pictured at the top left, one of the oldest items in HMML's collections.*

## HMML and MCBA co-host "The Manuscript Meets" lecture series

### THE *Manuscript Meets* LECTURE SERIES

HMML and the Minnesota Center for the Book Arts (MCBA) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, are co-hosting a free five-lecture series that explores manuscripts and manuscript culture beginning in January 2018 and following each month through May. The series is titled "The Manuscript Meets" and will be held at MCBA's community room, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. A social including refreshments will follow each presentation.

For more information visit our website at [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org). Learn more about the MCBA at <http://www.mnbookarts.org>.

#### January 25, 2018

*The Manuscript Meets* the Printed Book: Manuscripts and the Design of Earliest Printed Books in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
Matthew Heintzelman, Ph.D. HMML Curator of the Austria/Germany Study Center and Cataloger of Rare Books

#### February 22, 2018

*The Manuscript Meets* the Supernatural World: How Middle Eastern Manuscripts Functioned as Talismans  
David Calabro, Ph.D., HMML Lead Cataloger of Eastern Christian and Islamic Manuscripts

#### March 22, 2018

*The Manuscript Meets* Modernism: William Morris, Mid-Century Letterpress Printing and Me  
Rachel Melis, MFA, CSB/SJU Faculty

#### April 26, 2018

*The Manuscript Meets* the Byte: Why Manuscripts Matter in the Digital Age  
Father Columba Stewart, OSB, DPhil., HMML Executive Director

#### May 24, 2018

*The Manuscript Meets* the Modern Scriptorium: *The Saint John's Bible*, a Modern Vision through Medieval Methods  
Tim Ternes, MA, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* and HMML Programming

## HMML partners with The Rose Ensemble for performance, program

On March 16, 2018 at 8 p.m., the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University Fine Arts Programming is hosting The Rose Ensemble's performance of *Welcome the Stranger: The Promise of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica* at the Great Hall on the Saint John's University campus.

Set in 17<sup>th</sup> century Italy, this performance honors the lives of twin Saints Benedict and Scholastica. The Rose Ensemble will showcase 500 years of music celebrating the unconditional hospitality of the Benedictines – much of it preserved at HMML. The Rose Ensemble's vocal artistry invites exploration of hospitality as a community value exemplified in music, story, community practice, and spirituality in the Benedictine tradition. This timely new program highlights the call of Benedict's rule: "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."

HMML is offering two intimate pre-performance programs, followed by appetizers and a glass of wine. Attendees will be able to choose between the following programs:

- *The Benedictine Scriptorium - Ancient and New*  
Tim Ternes, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* and HMML Programming

In the Middle Ages, Benedictine monasteries were centers of culture and learning which kept the tradition of the written word alive for the whole world. For decades, scholars have speculated about the processes and challenges involved in creating a great manuscript. This presentation gives new insights into *The Saint John's Bible* in the context of giant medieval Bibles.



*The Rose Ensemble is a Saint Paul, Minnesota-based music ensemble that performs primarily early music vocal works. HMML will offer two pre-program lectures before the Rose Ensemble performance in the Great Hall at Saint John's University on March 16, 2018 at 8 p.m. photo credit: Michael Haug Photography*

- *Benedictines and Building Community Through Books*  
Dr. Matthew Z. Heintzelman, Curator for the Austria/Germany Study Center and Cataloger of Rare Books

Ever since Benedict first gave his Rule to his sixth-century monastic community, the Benedictines have been associated with reading, copying, collecting and disseminating books. This session will provide an opportunity to experience a selection of these books, dating from the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. Along the way, we will consider ways in which books bring together and reinforce community, while also prompting us to look at our world in new ways.

Tickets for the concert and evenings with HMML are available online at <http://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/the-rose-ensemble>.

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## Moving the Arca Artium Collection

The Arca Artium collection of prints and works on paper is stored in 63 boxes and seven cabinets in Saint John's University's Science Building, just east of Alcuin Library and HMML. With the completed renovation of Alcuin Library, a significant portion of the Arca Artium collection will be transferred to storage space within the HMML offices.

In addition to clearing storage space, the move will make the art collection more accessible to visitors and scholars. HMML will provide a space for works that have been stored for years to be used and enjoyed in exhibitions. For example, the works of 18<sup>th</sup> century architectural designer Giovanni Battista Piranesi have already made the journey, as have the etchings and lithographs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's Georges Rouault, the drawings of Minnesota artist Wanda Gág, and most of Arca Artium's 16<sup>th</sup> century Dutch and Flemish engravings.

The inventory is being done now before the move to HMML. Once the Arca Artium collection is transferred to HMML, each engraving, etching, woodcut, and lithograph will be inventoried and added to vHMML. The collection includes works ranging from large 20<sup>th</sup> century lithographs to tiny 16<sup>th</sup> century engravings no larger than a postage stamp.

Each transfer to HMML must be planned to ensure that all pieces are safely moved to their new home. Each print is stored in an envelope of archival glassine or in a thick archival mat. The prints will be tested in advance with a pH-testing pen to ensure that acidic materials (especially harmful to paper) don't follow the print to HMML. Before moving, works are grouped together in large archival folders, and then placed on carts or in special stiff bags made to carry art safely.

The research needed to inventory, organize, and move the collection has yielded some surprises. Fragments of books, illustrations and pages long ago cut from their volumes and their artists and titles forgotten, have been assigned to their sources. A non-descript 18<sup>th</sup> century mass-produced engraving has a distinctive collector's mark, showing that it was once part of the collection of the famous 18<sup>th</sup> century English portraitist Sir Joshua Reynolds. Another engraving has proven to be the frontispiece of the important botanical text *Hortus Cliffortianus*. The frontispiece, created in 1738 by Jan Wandelaar, depicts various botanical curiosities among allegorical figures of the Earth and the continents.

The move will continue through 2018. Learn more about our Arca Artium collection by visiting HMML's website: [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org).

## HMML at conferences

HMML's curatorial staff presented at many conferences around the world this season:

This fall, HMML's Executive Director Father Columba Stewart, OSB presented three lectures about HMML's digitization and digital access efforts.

- "Giving Voice to Ancient Texts: Digital Preservation and Access for Endangered Manuscripts from Threatened Communities," for the Advisory Council of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 2, 2017.
- "New Opportunities in Comparative Manuscript Studies: the Work of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library in Digitization and Online Access," for "Intertwined Worlds," the Tenth Annual Schoenberg Conference in Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 4, 2017.
- "Digital Preservation of Endangered Manuscript Heritage and Global Access through *v*HMML," for the National Council on the Humanities, Washington, DC, November 17, 2017.

In addition, he presented two scholarly lectures.

- "Re-situating Aphrahat's *Demonstrations and the Book of Steps* in the Ascetic Landscape of Late Antique Mesopotamia: Marcionites, Manichaeans, and Other Conversation Partners," conference presentation at the Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia, September 29, 2017.
- "Peering Through the Telescope: Placing Byzantine Reportage on Monasticism in Syro-Mesopotamia in Dialogue with Syriac Sources," keynote address at the annual conference of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America, University of Minnesota, October 6, 2017.

Since May, Fr. Columba has had two papers published.

- "An Update on the Digitization and Cataloging Work of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML)," for *ХРИСТИАНСКИЙ ВОСТОКЪ* (Christian East) 8 (14) (Saint Petersburg: State Hermitage Museum and Russian Academy of Sciences), pp. 153-170.
- "Musings of a (post-) Modern Monastic Historian," for *A Not-So-Unexciting Life: Essays on Benedictine History and Spirituality in Honor of Michael Casey*, OCSO, ed. Carmel Posa, SGS (Collegetown, Liturgical Press), pp. 350-373.

Dr. Daniel Gullo, Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the HMML's Malta Study Center, presented at two conferences this fall. The first was a co-presentation with Claudia Garradas, curator and site director of HMML's Malta Study Center in Malta, at the Working with African Arabic Manuscripts Conference at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois on August 17, 2017. Their presentation focused on techniques of digital manuscript photography for HMML. Dr. Gullo also presented, "Digitizing the Empire: New Technologies and Old Historiographies," at the 2017 Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers Symposium at The National Archives of Malta on October 27, 2017.

Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, Curator of the Austria/Germany Study Center and Cataloger of Rare Books at HMML, presented at three conferences this spring and fall. On May 2, 2017, he presented "The Library as Classroom: Gallery Spaces as Extensions of the Library's Mission" to the MnObe (Minnesota Oberlin group) meeting at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. On May 11, 2017, he presented, "Introduction to *v*HMML Reading Room: Manuscript Cataloging and Images in One Online Resource," at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. And, on October 20, 2017, Dr. Heintzelman presented, "Established Borders: Marginal Glosses in Manuscripts and Early Printed Books at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library," at the meeting of the Medieval Association of the Midwest at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Dr. David Calabro, Lead Cataloger of Eastern Christian and Islamic Manuscripts, presented at two scholarly conferences this fall. The first, on October 13-14, was at the Vatican Film Library Annual Conference on Manuscript Studies at Saint Louis University. His paper, "Manuscript Culture in the Medieval Egyptian Desert: Insights from Coptic-Arabic Bibles of the Anba Maqar Monastery," focused on the contribution of HMML's Coptic-Arabic manuscripts to the study of the paleography and scribal culture of Coptic communities in Egypt in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The second conference, November 18-21, was the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, where he presented "The Performative Turn: The Shaping of the Past in Syriac Magic Books," which discussed the illustrations of two HMML manuscripts from the Congregation of the Chaldean Daughters of Mary Immaculate (CSDMA) collection, from Aynkawah, Iraq, showing how these illustrations incorporate ancient Near Eastern iconographic motifs.

## HMML again hosts and expands language summer school with Dumbarton Oaks

HMML and The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, DC sponsored two intensive summer language schools last summer.

This is the second year of the program and the first to offer both Classical Armenian and Syriac. Ten students each were enrolled in the two language courses; most were either enrolled doctoral students or recent Ph.D.s, including early-career faculty members.

The school consisted of morning and afternoon sessions Monday-Friday, complemented by guest lectures and other learning opportunities, as well as social events and enjoyment of Saint John's University's beautiful 2700-acre campus. Each course included an introduction to paleography and to the study and use of manuscripts, and use of manuscripts, many of which are now available in the *v*HMML Reading Room. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection is an institute

in Washington, D.C., administered by the Trustees for Harvard University. It supports research and learning internationally in Byzantine, Garden and Landscape, and Pre-Columbian studies through fellowships and internships, meetings, and exhibitions.

The school will again be offered in summer 2018 at HMML. Watch the HMML website ([www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org)) for dates and details.



*HMML hosted 20 students and four instructors over the five-week summer school.*

# ONE *extraordinary* MISSION

## Campaign Focus 1

# Digital Manuscript Preservation

*Supporting the digitization of manuscripts in regions threatened by political instability or in libraries endangered by economic or environmental conditions.*

Goal: \$3,500,000 | Raised: \$5,243,947

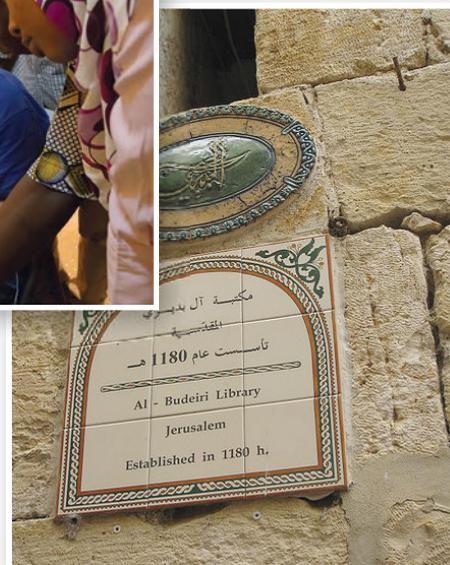
From 2008-2017, HMML forged new partnerships with faith communities, monasteries, rare manuscript libraries and world class cultural and research organizations to digitize tens of thousands of manuscripts worldwide, including the famed Timbuktu manuscripts that were rescued from Jihadist militants in 2013. Most of these collections have never been digitized and remain at-risk of being lost, looted, stolen or destroyed.

Throughout the campaign, HMML prioritized the preservation of manuscript collections belonging to communities that are swiftly disappearing from their indigenous environments. HMML provides its fieldwork partners with cameras and studio equipment, computers, on-site training and salaries for local technicians. HMML often connects the owners with conservation and scholarly experts.

By preserving these unique witnesses to human creativity and cultural identity, HMML has safeguarded the memory of threatened communities.

New Countries, New Collections  
2008-2017

- Croatia
- Egypt
- India
- Iraq
- Jerusalem
- Mali
- Montenegro
- Ukraine
- Yemen



**TOP-RIGHT:** Manuscripts in Mar Bebnam Monastery, Iraq, were hidden behind a false wall and later retrieved when the violence subsided.

**INSET:** Bamako/Timbuktu is the largest digitization project in HMML's history, partially funded through Arcadia, our largest contributor to the campaign.

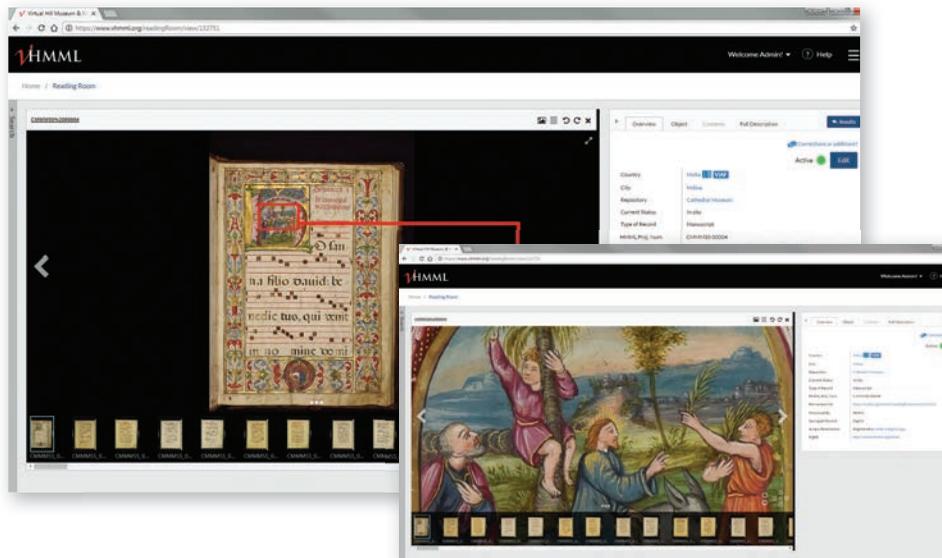
**BOTTOM-RIGHT:** HMML digitized the Budiery family library in the Old City of Jerusalem. The collection includes hundreds of Islamic manuscripts dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

## Campaign Focus 2

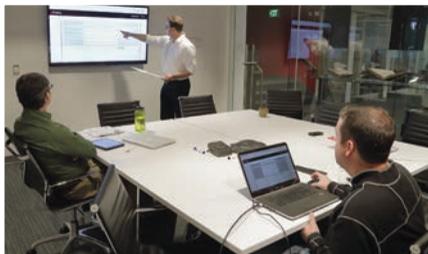
# Sharing and Safeguarding the Digital Manuscript Collections

*Supporting data archiving, cataloging, creation of finding aids and research tools, and the development of vHMML, an online environment for manuscript studies across languages and cultures.*

Goal: \$2,500,000 | Raised: \$5,459,728



The power of digital technology combined with HMML's resources have created unprecedented access to the world's great manuscript collections. Developed over the past five years by HMML staff, vHMML, or "Virtual HMML" is a comprehensive online manuscript resource that helps scholars find, identify, understand and interpret HMML's manuscript collections. The program is made up of five components: vHMML Reading Room, School, Folio, Lexicon and Reference.



The core of vHMML is Reading Room, where registered users can freely search for manuscripts by country,

repository, author, language, genre, date, features, city or even script. Over 25,000 complete manuscripts in thirty languages are now available online in vHMML's Reading Room, [www.vhmml.org](http://www.vhmml.org). Collections are added on a weekly basis. Initial funding for vHMML came from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arcadia; Reading Room was funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, and the new catalog database by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**ABOVE:** Users say vHMML Reading Room has transformed the way they access and use manuscripts for their research.

**INSET:** vHMML Reading Room is already the world's largest online collection of manuscript images, and certainly the most culturally comprehensive.

**BOTTOM-LEFT:** HMML's campaign has enabled more people, wherever they are, to discover and connect with HMML's collections.

### Campaign Focus 3

# Fostering Groundbreaking Research

*Supporting research fellowships, HMML's scholar-curators and the exchange of ideas and discoveries.*

Goal: \$6,150,000 | Raised: \$3,280,903

**U**HMML is facilitating exciting new cross-disciplinary manuscript scholarship, inspiring “A-ha!” discoveries and creative insights from both well-established and emerging scholars. New HMML fellowships are bringing these scholars to HMML to pursue their research in close proximity to our manuscript collections and curators. Recently digitized Islamic collections from the Middle East and Africa are providing many of these scholars with a more complete picture of the formative cultures in these regions of the world. As a result, new perspectives are becoming known in fields as diverse as history, languages, art, sociology, literature, theology and philosophy.

Campaign gifts in support of HMML Fellowships have enabled the contents of our collections to be studied and shared, enabling society to see present day challenges from a historic, multi-disciplinary and global perspective.



*While at HMML, fellows are able to connect with HMML's curators and other researchers. Rev. Fr. Ignatius Payyappilly, one of HMML's global partners and a visiting scholar from Kerala, India, presents a lecture on palm-leaf manuscripts in the Wallin Classroom at HMML.*

### Campaign Focus 4

# Renovating HMML's Teaching Learning and Research Environment

*Supporting inviting and technologically sophisticated spaces for teaching, learning, research and public programming.*

Goal: \$2,300,000 | Raised: \$2,102,920

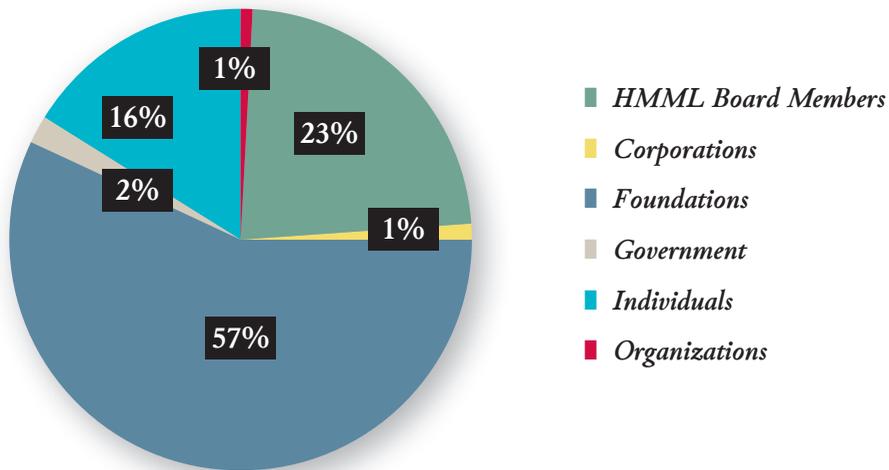


**I**n 2014 HMML underwent a major renovation—its first since 1974. Construction began in May and was completed in September 2014. The refurbished space supports the digital needs of faculty, students and visiting scholars, and provides adaptable spaces for individual, group and classroom learning.

*The newly renovated spaces allows HMML to host and convene conferences, symposia, workshops and classes related to manuscript research. In summer 2017, HMML hosted the Summer School in Syriac and Classical Armenian sponsored by Dumbarton Oaks.*

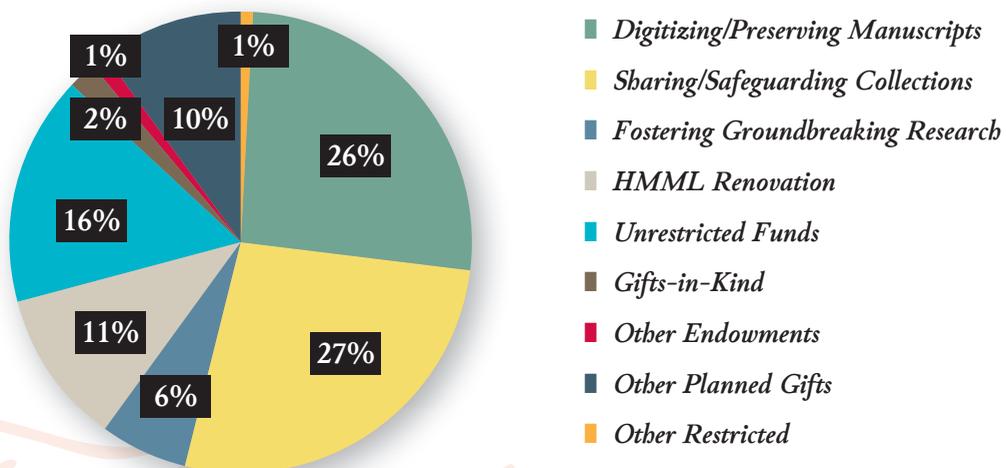
## HMML Campaign Contributions by Source

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2017



## HMML Campaign Contributions by Designation

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2017 | \$20,143,358



*Thank You*

# HMML Scholars

MELAKU ABATE

Ph.D. Student of  
Philology, Department of  
Linguistics, Addis Ababa  
University, Ethiopia  
*Project Title: The Chronicle  
of Mənilək II (1865–1913): A  
Critical Edition and Annotated Translation*  
Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern  
Christian Manuscript Studies: May 18–July 13



JULIEN DELHEZ

Ph.D. Student in Egyptology  
and Coptology, Georg-August  
Universität Göttingen,  
Göttingen, Germany  
*Project Title: Critical  
edition of the Sabidic version  
of the Encomium on the  
Archangel Gabriel Attributed to Archelaos  
of Neapolis and Comparison with the  
Arabic and Ethiopic Versions of the Text*



Swenson Family Fellowship in  
Eastern Christian Manuscript  
Studies: July 18–August 30

NICHOLAS DENYSENKO

Elfrieda and Emil Jochum  
Professor and Chair at  
Valparaiso University, Indiana  
*Project Title: The Reception  
of Liturgical Tradition:  
Festal Development in  
Byzantine Liturgy*



Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship  
in Eastern Christian Manuscript  
Studies: September 5–December 15

BARBARA HAGGH-HUGLO

Professor of Music  
(Musicology), University of  
Maryland, College Park, MD  
*Project Title: A Catalog  
of the Notated Chant  
for Saints in the Latin  
Manuscripts on Microfilm at HMML*  
Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in  
Manuscript Studies: July 23–August 5



CHARLES HILKEN

Professor, History  
Department, Saint Mary's  
College, Moraga, CA  
*Project Title: In the Shadows  
of Montecassino and Santa  
Sofia di Benevento: An Edition  
and Study of the Necrology of Santa Maria  
del Gualdo Mazzocca: Biblioteca Apostolica  
Vaticana, Codex vaticanus latinus 5949*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in  
Manuscript Studies: September 10–24

ALESSANDRO MENGOLZI

Associate Professor in Semitics,  
University of Turin, Italy  
*Project Title: Neo-Aramaic  
in the Chaldean Culture of  
Northern Iraq (ca. 1850–1950)*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship  
in Manuscript Studies: August 13–September 2

JEFFREY WICKES

Assistant Professor of Early  
Christianity, Saint Louis  
University, Saint Louis, MO  
*Project Title: Literature in  
Liturgy: Reading Saints in the  
Syrian Hudra and Fenqitbo*



Swenson Family Fellowship in  
Eastern Christian Manuscript  
Studies: July 30–August 10

WILLIAM YARCHIN

Dean's Endowed Professor  
of Biblical Studies, Azusa  
Pacific University, Azusa, CA  
*Project Title: Profiling the  
Paratexts of Medieval Latin  
Biblical Manuscripts*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in  
Manuscript Studies: July 23–August 24

RAFAŁ ZARZECZNY

Professor of Patristic and  
Ethiopian Studies, Pontificio  
Istituto Orientale, Rome, Italy  
*Project Title: A Catalog of  
Ethiopian Manuscripts in  
Two Private Collections*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in  
Manuscript Studies: July 5–August 5

## Heckman Scholars

MICHAEL CARLIN, Adjunct  
Faculty Member, University of Mary-  
Tempe, Tempe, AZ, July 9–15

JACOB DOSS, Ph.D. Student, University  
of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, July 9–29

JAMES HAMRICK, Doctoral Fellow,  
Munich Graduate School for Ancient Studies,  
Munich, Germany, July 30–August 18

NICOLE KOOPMAN, Ph.D. Student,  
Saint Louis University, Saint Louis,  
MO, August 31–September 22

ALEKSANDRA KULPINA, Ph.D. Student,  
Lomonosov Moscow State University,  
Moscow, Russia, December 10–30

## Collegeville Institute Resident Scholar

MERSHA ALEHEGNE, Associate Dean for  
Research and Technology Transfer, Department  
of Linguistics and Philology, Addis Ababa  
University, Ethiopia, September 18–October 11

## Visiting Scholars

FRANCESCA BALZAN, Curator at  
Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum,  
Mdina, Malta, October 10–12

CARSTEN HOFFMANN, M.A.,  
Philipps-University Marburg, Centrum  
for Near and Middle Eastern Studies,  
Department of Semitic Studies, Marburg,  
Germany, August 29–September 7

ELLEN JOYCE, Associate Professor of History,  
Beloit College, Beloit, WI, August 8–11

ROBERT KITCHEN  
Retired Minister/Teacher, Regina,  
Saskatchewan, Canada, October 2–4

SANA MIRZA, Doctoral Candidate at  
the Institute of Fine Arts, New York  
University, New York, NY, August 7–11

CARIN RUFF, Executive Director  
at Cleveland Park Historical Society,  
Washington, DC, August 5–10

ILARIA SCAGLIA, Assistant Professor,  
Department of History and Geography,  
Columbus State University, November 10–11

# Finds in Arca Artium

By Katherine Goertz, Registrar, HMML and Arca Artium Collection

In every issue of *Illuminations*, readers learn about the items from HMML's Arca Artium, a collection of rare books, reference books, and art objects donated to Saint John's University in 1995 by Frank Kacmarcik, Obl. OSB (+2004) and entrusted to HMML's care.

In this issue, we look at engravings by Flemish artist Maarten de Vos and engraved by brothers Johann I Sadeler (Netherlandish, 1550 – 1600) and Raphael I Sadeler (Netherlandish, 1560 – 1628/32). Pictured at right is *Saint Anthony the Great*, from the series *Solitudo sive vitae patrum eremicorum*, 1583-1588.

HMML's Arca Artium collection holds five series of engravings illustrating the lives of saintly hermits designed by the prolific 16<sup>th</sup> century Flemish artist Maarten de Vos. These 113 hagiographical portraits were among his 1600 designs for engravings, a life's work ranging from illustrations of bible stories, mythology and allegory, moral tenets, and European politics to portraits of the celebrities of his day. De Vos, and the engravers and publishers of his designs, were part of the tight-knit community of printmakers who worked out of the small, but internationally influential, print district of the city of Antwerp from the mid- to late- 16<sup>th</sup> century.

De Vos' series *Solitudo sive vitae patrum eremicorum* (*The Solitary Lives of the Hermit Fathers*) was engraved by expert engravers, brothers Johann and Raphael Sadeler, and published by Johann between 1583 and 1588. The second print in the series depicts Saint Anthony the Great, showing the Egyptian hermit at prayer among vine-covered Roman ruins and tormented by three demons. Contrasting with the usual violent depictions of this subject, De Vos' demons seem less intent on torturing Anthony than in distracting him from his reading. Saint Anthony, for his part, studiously ignores the butterfly-winged temptress before him and the reptilian demon that scratches at his back. With such details as the latter demon's jaunty hat, the former's fan of peacock feathers, and a third demon's folds of scalloped skin, De Vos obviously took enjoyment in creating demons to torment Saint Anthony.



*The De Vos' series of engravings are among the many items currently being moved to the new Arca Artium storage facility at HMML. Read about the move on page 12.*

## HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

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Collegeville, MN 56321-7300  
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