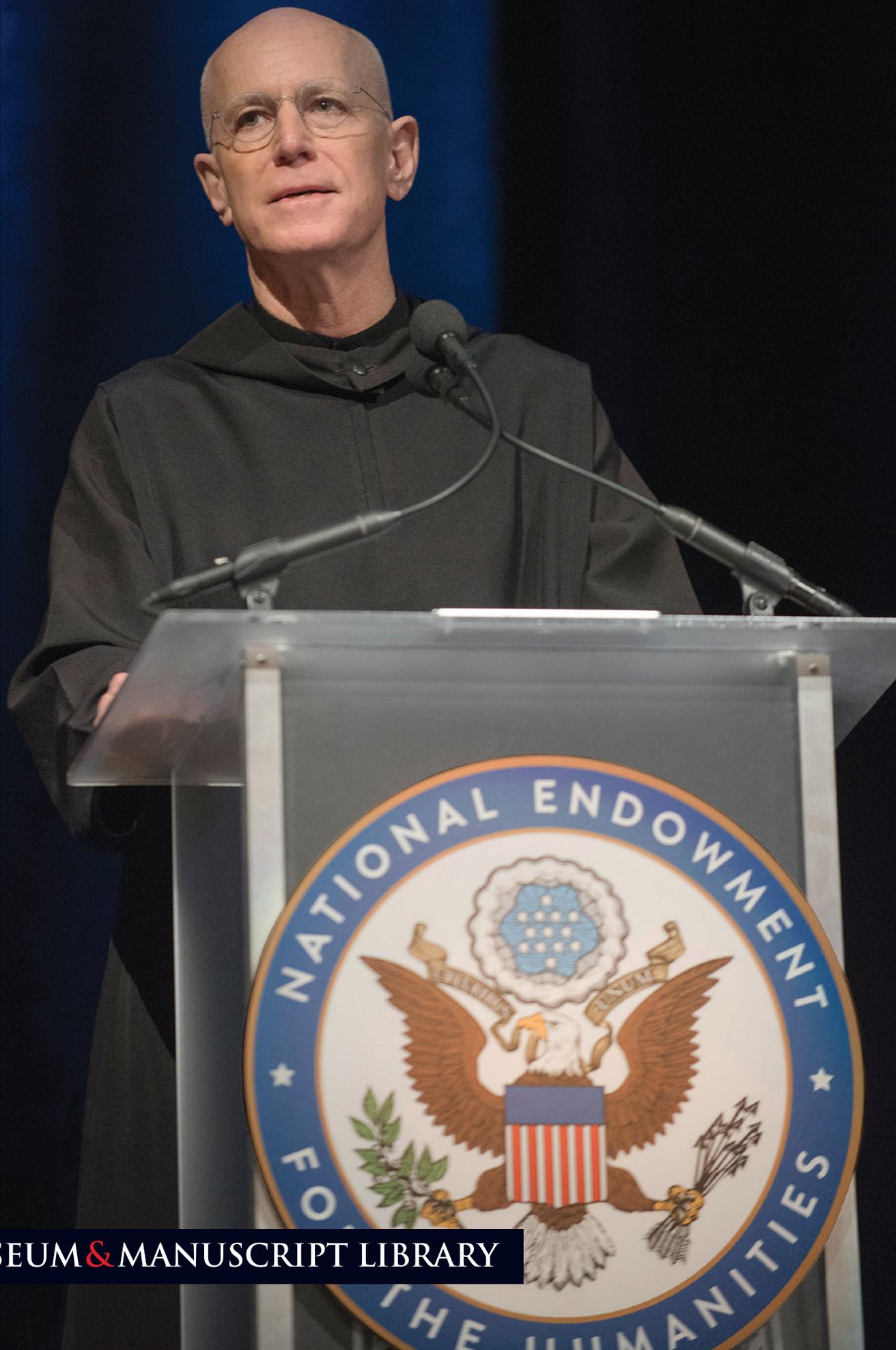


WINTER
NEWSLETTER
2019

ILLUMINATIONS



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



ABOVE:

The scene outside the Warner Theatre in Washington D.C., the venue for the 2019 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. According to attendees, the queue of people lined up to attend the event stretched around the block and all the way to the Washington Metro transit station (photo credit: Stephen Barrett).

ON THE COVER:

Father Columba Stewart, OSB delivers the 2019 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. This honorary lecture series, established in 1972 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), has featured such luminaries as novelist Toni Morrison and filmmaker Martin Scorsese. The lecture is the highest honor the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities (photo credit: Stephen Barrett).

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, Italy, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Nepal, Ukraine, and Yemen. With more than 540 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 vHMML Reading Room at vhmml.org.

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Collegeville, MN 56321-7300
320-363-3514 (phone) | 320-363-3222 (fax)
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Illuminations

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Dear Friends,

The last several weeks have been quite the ride for all of us at HMML. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tell our story to a national audience at the NEH Jefferson Lecture in Washington, DC, has put HMML squarely on the map of leaders in cultural heritage protection and research across boundaries of culture, religion, and language. In this issue of Illuminations, you can read an abridged version of my lecture. It was also great to bring it all home in early November at the History Center in Saint Paul with an audience of HMML friends both old and new.

The Jefferson Lecture coincided with a series of lectures at college campuses across the United States for Phi Beta Kappa and a brief lecture tour to Europe, where I spoke in Amsterdam and London about HMML's work. Everywhere I went, my audiences were fascinated by the stories from our work around the globe and mightily impressed about what our local partners have been able to achieve with our support.

The availability of so many digitized manuscripts on vHMML was a revelation to those with scholarly interests in texts or art history. The theme that resonated most was my insistence that listening and dialogue are still possible in a world too often mapped by its differences rather than its commonalities.

As we head into our annual season of gratitude and celebration, know that my heart is filled with gratitude for what you have helped us do.

Sincerely,

Columba Stewart, OSB

Columba Stewart, OSB
Executive Director



Fr. Columba holds a certificate proclaiming November 6, 2019 to be “Father Columba Stewart Day,” at an event in St. Paul celebrating the Jefferson Lecture. Pictured with Fr. Columba are Minnesota Governor and First Lady Tim and Gwen Walz, Fred de Sam Lazaro, director of the Untold Story Project, and Kevin Lindsey, CEO of the Minnesota Humanities Center. (photo credit: Lisa Miller)

Why Preserving and Sharing Manuscripts Matters—Here and Now

By Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB

The following are the concluding remarks from the 2019 NEH Jefferson Lecture, delivered to an audience of over 1,700 people by honoree, HMML executive director, Father Columba Stewart, on October 7, 2019 at the Warner Theatre in Washington, DC. The lecture, titled “Cultural Heritage Present and Future: A Benedictine Monk’s Long View,” focused on the themes of monks, manuscripts, the work of HMML, and why it matters—here and now. Fr. Columba spoke about the essential role monastic communities have played in preserving and sharing knowledge (whether through hand-copying texts in the Middle Ages, or digitally preserving them today), and highlighted the importance of reflection and listening—to the wisdom embedded in these ancient books, and especially to others, across faith traditions.

Watch the entire lecture on the YouTube channel for NEH.gov.

The intellectual pathways we trace in our preservation efforts reveal the original “internet of things,” the manuscripts that travelled in a merchant’s chest, in a monk’s pocket or pilgrim’s pouch across the known world. The ideas written in them were translated into new languages, challenged conventional assumptions, summoned forth creative replies. Their power was in their words, words usually read aloud, in the way of traditional reading. As they

read, they heard another person’s voice, in real time, at the pace I am speaking to you now. It is often said that Jews, Christians, and Muslims are “People of the Book,” even if not the same book. In fact, we were and are people of many books, as are those who follow ancient philosophies or other great religious traditions. In those books are stories, reflections on stories, ideas spun from human observation and experience, attempts to trace how our universe exists and functions in space



Fr. Columba Stewart addresses the attendees of the 2019 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. His lecture, titled “Cultural Heritage Present and Future: A Benedictine Monk’s Long View,” featured images from HMML’s digital preservation projects, such as this Arabic manuscript from the Dar Issaf Nashashibi Library in Jerusalem (photo credit: Stephen Barrett).

and time. These books changed the world because their words were heard. They were taken seriously, seriously enough at times to prompt rebuttal or controversy, admiration or adoption. But they were heard.

We are at great risk of losing the capacity to listen, and therefore losing our ability to understand. The opening word of Saint Benedict's Rule is, appropriately, *obsculta*, "listen." The discipline of listening is now an endangered art. Equally endangered are the stores of wisdom contained in the manuscripts of the world, targeted by those fearful of difference or threatened by imaginations broader than their own. Those old books become caught in the indiscriminate destruction of war and left behind by the displacement of their owners. The wisdom contained in them is eroded by the forgetting that besets a diaspora community severed from its roots, resettled in a strange place and often undergoing the slow but inexorable loss of its language and distinctive ways.

It has been my privilege to meet these communities on their own ground, even if they subsequently lost it. Our team at HMML have worked with them to ensure that their deposits of wisdom, their libraries of handwritten texts, the voices of their past, can join the global conversations of the digital era. And we do it side-by-side, as equals.

What happens when we fail to listen, or forget the wisdom of the ancestors? I have said that the opening word of the monastic rule I follow is "listen": to the words of Scripture, to the events around you, to the stirrings of your own heart. When we fail to listen, when we miss or misread the "signs of the times," the result can be catastrophic. Peter the Venerable was abbot of Cluny at its zenith; six centuries later, the monastery and its great church were plundered, and its library burned. At one time Cluny had represented a great reform of Benedictine life. At its end, it represented everything the poor had come to hate about the concentration of wealth and power in the church and the aristocracy. No institution, however venerable, is immune to the consequences of forgetting its ideals or ignoring the voices of its critics. We Catholics know this only too well.

What is true of my small part of the human community is also true of nations when they forget to listen, or simply give up trying. Our fragile planet has never been so threatened nor the human beings who inhabit it so divided. The terrain for rational discourse has shrunk to a narrow strip between camps defined

and limited by their political views, religious beliefs, race or ethnic identity, beset by anxiety that easily becomes fear and then violence. In such times as these, we must dig deeply into our respective stores of wisdom and offer whatever we find for the sake of mutual understanding, the only possible basis for reconciliation and for the resolve to move forward for the common good. Frankly, we need all the help we can get.

Of course, that wisdom is found not only in manuscripts, but also in the other records of our past. The power of words has illuminated our own nation's darkest and most troubled times, from the Civil War through Jim Crow and the Civil Rights movement. Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., the late Toni Morrison, my luminous predecessor at this podium: they called us to wrestle with our nation's original sin of chattel slavery and its woeful legacy. In my own lifetime I have seen the death of Jim Crow, the unmasking of the myth that separate can be equal, the abolition of the poll tax in my native Texas, and the desegregation of the schools I attended. And yet we still tolerate so many, less obvious, versions of those odious practices. We are not done, not nearly.

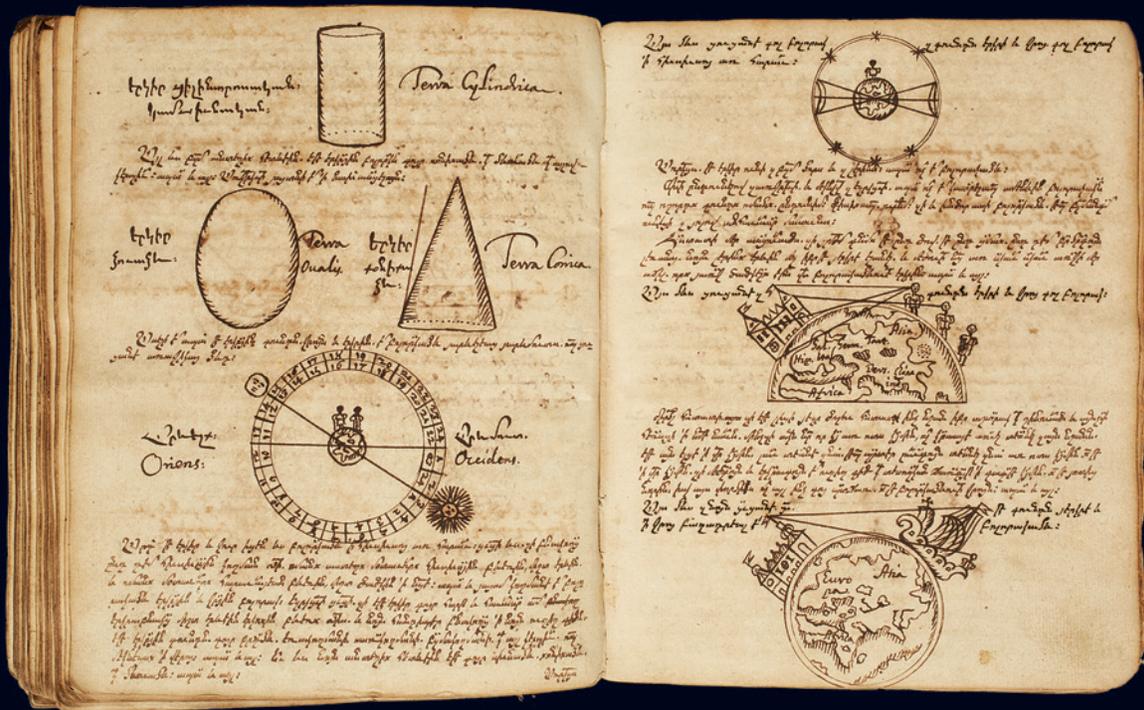
Now we are facing a new temptation to ostracize and demean, this time because of the sincerely held religious beliefs of our Muslim sisters and brothers. This is not simply a divisive geopolitical issue, but an urgent local problem, even in my adopted state of Minnesota with its immigrant Somali and other Muslim communities. As medieval Christian scholars of Arabic manuscripts came to understand, their enemy was not Islam, however deep their theological differences. The common enemy was—and remains—the fanaticism and ignorance that make understanding impossible.

My roots in an ancient monastic tradition give me a certain perspective, and dare I say, a confidence and hope when considering the work that lies before us. I recall the story told long ago by a young African man, confused and emotionally tormented, who heard the voice of a child chanting, *Tolle, lege. Tolle, lege*. "Pick it up and read it. Pick it up and read it." He picked up the book at his side, and he read it, as if for the first time. His name was Augustine, and in time he would become the finest writer of western Christianity. But first he had to pick up the book—of course it was a manuscript—and read. May we do the same.

Where We're Working

Pontificio Collegio Armeno, Rome, Italy

By Malina Zakian



Demonstrations that the earth is round, from a work of physics attributed to the 17th-century Catholic missionary Clementis Galanus. Written in Armenian and Latin, the manuscript is dated 1676 and was copied in Leopoldis (today Lviv, Ukraine), the site of an Armenian College opened by Galanus under the auspices of the Propaganda Fide. Ms PCA SB 00020, fols. 181v-182r.

HMML began digitization at the Pontificio Collegio Armeno (PCA) in Rome in 2018. The PCA is located in central Rome, near the Quirinal Hill, and adjacent to the Church of San Nicola da Tolentino agli Orti Sallustiani (Saint Nicholas of Tolentino in the Gardens of Sallust). The original seminary or collegio was established in 1584, but closed shortly afterwards. Pope Leo XII resurrected the collegio and granted the present-day site to the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate in 1883. It continues to function as an Armenian Catholic seminary to this day.

As a collection used to teach seminarians, the Collegio library contains printed books, archives, and manuscripts written in Armenian, Greek, Latin, Syriac, Georgian, and Arabic. The Armenian manuscript collection, the focus of HMML's digitization, includes two separate collections: that of the Collegio Armeno (the Leoniano Collection) and a group of manuscripts originally housed at the Church of San Biagio della Pagnotta. The combined Armenian codices number over 200, dating from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries, although the majority are from the latter two centuries. The texts represent a broad range

of genres including scriptural, liturgical, historical, polemical, philosophical, scientific, and theological works. In addition to Armenian versions of Roman Catholic theologians and of Greek and Latin liturgical books, there are also texts by Armenian Orthodox authors whose popularity spanned confessional groups.

The majority of the manuscripts of the Collegio collection were donated by individuals who either studied at the Collegio or were associated with it. Many of the manuscripts from the San Biagio collection bear the stamp of Santa Maria Egiziaca in Rome, a church given to Armenian Catholics along with a guesthouse in the sixteenth century by Pope Pius V. Armenian Catholics found refuge at the church in the eighteenth century, after fleeing persecution in the Ottoman Empire; the books they bequeathed formed the core of the collection. While many manuscripts were produced in Italy, particularly Rome, some of the later manuscripts hail from Armenian Catholic centers in eastern Europe and around the Black Sea, in Lvov (Lviv), Trebizond (Trabzon), Crimea, and Transylvania. Likewise, there are a number of devotional books

in Armeno-Turkish (Turkish represented in Armenian script), reflecting a Turkish-speaking community with its roots in Constantinople and the Ottoman Empire. Notably, scholar Anna Sirinian has traced the provenance of at least two fifteenth-century illuminated manuscripts to scriptoria in the Vaspurakan region near Lake Van.

The transnational collection bears witness to a community marked by migrations from the Ottoman Empire as well as dynamic interactions with other diasporan Armenian Catholic communities. The digitization work done by HMML will help shed light on this history and make available unique historical resources for scholars and the Armenian public worldwide.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Malina Zakian catalogs HMML's Armenian language collections, which now number over 5,500 books and scrolls in microfilm and digital format from Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Italy. Zakian holds an MLIS from San Jose State University and is the archivist for the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.



Talin Agob, an experienced technician who has worked on numerous HMML projects, demonstrates the digitization process to Dr. Melissa Moreton, HMML's Assistant Director for Strategic Initiatives.

HMML News

New Faces at HMML

In October, HMML welcomed Dr. Heinin Ali Diakite as its new Associate Cataloger for West African Manuscripts. Diakite was born in Burkina Faso and later moved to Bamako, the capital of Mali, to join the Université de Bamako Department of Arabic Studies. During his PhD work, his research on west African intellectual life in the 19th century brought him to the great libraries of Timbuktu to study their manuscripts. As a scholar and native speaker of Arabic, Fulfulde, and Bambara, Diakite brings his skills and knowledge of these texts to HMML. Diakite is part of an international community of scholars who are shaping the field of West African manuscript studies and standardizing metadata for authors, titles, and Arabic scripts unique to this tradition. His cataloging work will allow the hundreds of thousands of Timbuktu manuscripts digitized by HMML to be shared online at vHMML.org.

Dr. Catherine Walsh joined HMML in November as its new Metadata Librarian. Walsh worked previously as a librarian, archivist, and cataloger for the Ruth Lilly Special Collections and Archives and the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has an MLIS from Indiana University, Indianapolis and a PhD in Art History from the University of Delaware in 19th-century American art. Walsh will

work with HMML's growing team of catalogers to standardize HMML's manuscript metadata so that such things as authors, titles, and locations comply with existing international standards. She will work with the Library of Congress to establish official recognition of eastern Christian and Islamic authors and titles from understudied manuscript traditions—the core of HMML's growing collection.

HMML is also excited to welcome Katrina Schlude as its new Director of Advancement. Schlude leads all aspects of HMML's development efforts including fundraising, constituent engagement, and the promotion of HMML's mission and work. Schlude, who joined the team in November, has extensive leadership experience working in non-profit organizations. She most recently served as Executive Director and Head of School at Children's Workshop Montessori in the Twin Cities, where she led a staff of 28 and was responsible for all aspects of development and fundraising. Schlude completed a certificate program in fundraising at the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas. She has an MS degree in Education from Duquesne University and a BA degree in Studio Arts and Classics from Macalester College. Her development work supports HMML's mission and allows HMML to continue its work into the future.



Recent additions to HMML's staff include (from L to R) Dr. Catherine Walsh, Katrina Schlude, and Dr. Ali Diakite.

Language Summer School

For the fourth consecutive year, HMML was energized by the presence of scholars and students who participated in the Language Summer School in Collegeville, made possible by the generous support of Dumbarton Oaks. The goal of the program is to train a new generation of scholars in the languages needed to study ancient and medieval manuscripts from the wide Byzantine cultural world. In the past, the program has included study in Syriac and Armenian. This year, classes in Syriac and Coptic were offered with students coming from as far away as Russia, Latvia, Poland, Italy, Turkey, and Egypt. While the primary goal was to help students develop research skills in these languages, the instruction also included the exploration of such topics as paleography (the study of ancient handwriting) and manuscript culture. Students not only developed a new language skill set, but also formed lasting personal and professional connections with summer school faculty, fellow students, and HMML staff. The language classes were taught by renowned scholars: Robert Kitchen and Sergey Minov for Syriac, and Alin Suciu and Victor Ghica for Coptic. During the program, the staff at HMML welcomed Anna Stavrakopoulou, the Resident Program Director for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, who came to conduct a site visit and to see the school in action. HMML and Dumbarton Oaks agreed to continue this transformative partnership for summer 2020, when classes in Intermediate Syriac and Armenian will be offered.



HMML's Dr. David Calabro (center) discussing textual details of a Coptic manuscript from HMML's teaching collection with Coptic instructors Dr. Victor Ghica (left) and Dr. Alin Suciu (right) in preparation for a workshop session with students at the Language Summer School.

HMML Staff Make Scholarly Impact

The staff at HMML continue to contribute broadly to the fields of history, cultural studies and manuscript studies. Fr. Columba is a Phi Beta Kappa Scholar for the 2019–2020 academic year, which involves visits to six colleges and universities throughout the year, including a major lecture, class visits and meetings with faculty and students. He has already conducted visits to Saint Michael's College (Vermont), Queens College (of the City University of New York), and Fordham University (Bronx, New York) and will visit Louisiana State University, the American and Catholic Universities, and Valparaiso University in the spring. Fr. Columba was also the keynote speaker at the North American Syriac Symposium at Brown University in June, delivering his address on HMML's preservation work, titled "Discovering a new World in the Old: Revealing, Preserving, and Sharing the Syriac Manuscript Heritage in the Near East." Dr. David Calabro also attended, giving a talk titled, "The Social Context of Syriac Amulets in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries" drawn from his research on HMML's digital collection of Syriac manuscripts.

In October, Dr. Daniel Gullo, Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center (MSC), co-sponsored a two-day Mediterranean Seminar workshop with the University of Toronto exploring violence in the Mediterranean world. In September, Dr. Gullo joined HMML staff members, MSC Archivist Dr. Valeria Vanesio, and HMML Systems Librarian John Meyerhofer at the Digital Scriptorium meeting at the Newberry Library in Chicago. They brought their expertise in digital humanities to conversations regarding revisions to the Digital Scriptorium, a digital library that aims to gather images of medieval manuscripts from all North American collections.

Dr. Melissa Moreton, Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives, recently presented at the Medieval Ethiopia conference at the University of Toronto, highlighting HMML's half-century of work imaging thousands of manuscripts across Ethiopia. In June, HMML hosted the Medieval Manuscript Research Lab (MMRL), a multi-day workshop training University of Minnesota graduate students in the skills they need to study medieval and early modern texts. Students made goatskin parchment by hand, learning about the materiality of manuscript codicology (the study of the physical aspects of manuscripts), manuscript typology, and Diplomatics (the study of document creation and transmission).

HMML Exhibits

HMML curates exhibitions for three on-site gallery spaces in Collegeville, as well as in other venues nationally. Seventy prints from the Arca Artium collection made by 20th-century Jewish artists born in the Russian Empire are currently on display at TMORA, the Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis. The exhibit, “Mystical Imprints: Marc Chagall, Ben-Zion, and Ben Shahn,” is curated by HMML’s Katherine Goertz and runs through March 22, 2020. Prints by these artists are also viewable in vHMML Museum (www.vHMML.org/museum).

HMML recently hosted an exhibition in its Reading Room, titled “The Golden Age of Spain,” curated by students from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University (CSB/SJU) and their Hispanic Studies professor, Dr. Emily Kuffner. They spent a semester working with HMML’s Dr. Matt

Heintzelman studying rare books, archival documents, and artwork produced during Spain’s Golden Age (15th–18th centuries). Kuffner stated that “coming into contact with texts from another era really brings history alive. Not only because manuscripts are often incredibly beautiful, but also because coming into contact with old texts, artifacts, and other objects connects us to the people who came before us in a tactile and material way—a nearly magical experience that I love to share with students.” She feels that having access to primary source materials allowed her to practice experiential learning principles and transformative pedagogy that are essential aspects of a CSB/SJU education. “Designing an exhibit allows students to become experts on the subject matter and transforms them from being passive learners into being producers of knowledge,” added Kuffner.



A selection of etchings by Ben-Zion, part of HMML’s exhibit “Mystical Imprints: Marc Chagall, Ben-Zion, and Ben Shahn” on display at TMORA, the Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis.

HMML Scholars

July 2019—December 2019

SALAH EDRIS

Professor, Syriac Literature,
Armenian Studies Center,
Cairo University, Giza, Egypt
*Project Title: Nomocanon of Bar
Hebraeus (13th century CE)*

Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship
in Manuscript Studies
October 15–26



RALPH BARCZOK

Research Associate at the
Research Center for Aramaic
Studies at Goethe University
Frankfurt, Frankfurt
am Main, Germany
*Project Titles: A Digital Edition
of the Vita of Joseph Busnaya
and The Ordination Hymns by
Eliya III Abu Halim and Salomon of Basra*

Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern
Christian Manuscript Studies
August 12—September 1



ALICE CROQ

PhD Student at the École Pratique
des Hautes Études, Paris, France
*Project: Critical Edition of the
Apocalypse of Gregory of Edessa*

Swenson Family Fellowship
in Eastern Christian
Manuscript Studies
July 8–31



JONAS KARLSSON

PhD Student at the Center for
the Study of Manuscript Cultures,
University of Hamburg, Germany
*Project Title: The Formation of the
Dəggwā: The main Antiphonary of
the Ethiopian Christian Tradition*

Swenson Family Fellowship
in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies
October 7—November 15



Heckman Scholars

MELANIE BATOFF

Assistant Professor of Music at
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
*Project Title: Uncovering the Laity's Role in the
Medieval Liturgy in the German-Speaking Lands*
August 11–16

DAN BATOVICI

PhD/FWO Research Fellow, at KU
Leuven - University of Leuven, Belgium
*Project Title: Versions of Early Christian Past:
The Reception of the Apostolic Fathers in the
Syriac, Coptic, and Latin Manuscript Cultures*
July 1–27

JOHN HUNT

Assistant Professor of History at Utah
Valley University, Salt Lake City, Utah
*Project Title: All the World's a Game: Gambling
and Sociability in Early Modern Italy*
July 18—August 7

Visiting Scholars

JAMES MIXSON

Associate Professor of History at the University
of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Project Title: Textual Traces of the Crusade of 1456
August 5–7

MADALINA TOCA

PhD Candidate in Religious Studies at
KU Leuven - University of Leuven, Belgium
*Project Title: The Syriac Manuscript Reception
of the Letters of Isidore of Pelusium*
July 1–27

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