

FALL  
NEWSLETTER  
2012

# ILLUMINATIONS



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



# *Illuminations*

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*ON THE COVER: Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP, examines a damaged manuscript in Qaraqosh, Iraq. The damage is from damp storage conditions that have rotted the paper folios and binding.*

*ABOVE: Close-up of the damaged manuscript, showing older manuscript folios used to construct the binding. It is too late to digitize this manuscript.*

## *Hill Museum & Manuscript Library*

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library's mission is to identify, digitally photograph, catalog, and archive endangered manuscripts belonging to threatened communities around the world. Having formed partnerships with over 480 libraries and archives, HMML has photographically preserved over 125,000 medieval, renaissance, and early-modern manuscripts from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and India. These resources, available through HMML's online catalog, OLIVER, and image database, *Vivarium*, have become essential tools for global manuscript research. HMML is the home of *The Saint John's Bible*.

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# Dear Friends,

Since March 2011, the world has watched the uprising in Syria become progressively more deadly and widespread, escalating sharply in recent months. There had previously been a false sense of security in Syria, leading some to think it might be immune to the turmoil sweeping the region since the 2003 Iraq war and then the Arab Spring. Readers of *Illuminations* know that HMML has been working in Syria for several years. I visited frequently to monitor our projects, negotiate new digitization contracts, and learn more about a remarkable country. There were very few overt indications of the



*Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP, and I at Mar Mattai Monastery, Iraq.*

bitterness now exploding across the length and breadth of the land. Our projects have been mostly in Aleppo, the major center for Syrian Christians, but we have had projects in Homs and Damascus as well (you can read about the project in Homs elsewhere in this issue). The church where we worked in Homs has been largely destroyed, though the manuscripts have been taken to safety. As I write, Aleppo has become one of the fiercest battlegrounds in the conflict, and the ancient Christian communities in the historic heart of the city are very much caught up in the conflict. World-class monuments in Aleppo have suffered tremendous damage, and there have been attacks on Christian sites as well.

The lesson for us is that we simply don't know when a seemingly secure part of the world will suddenly be destabilized, threatening both its people and its historical patrimony. Accidents can happen anywhere, but even widespread chaos is more possible than we like to think. As I write, HMML is working across the Middle East and in Ethiopia, as well as in more stable regions such as Malta and south India. We are fortunate to have both the opportunity and, thanks to you, the resources, to be working as fast we can in all of these vulnerable places.

Sincerely,

*Columba Stewart, OSB*

Columba Stewart, OSB  
Executive Director

# Our Work In Iraq: Building an Extraordinary Partnership

By Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB

**O**n Ash Wednesday 2009, I headed east from Mor Gabriel Monastery in southeast Turkey toward the Iraqi border. Although I had been to the monastery several times, the landscape to the east was unfamiliar. On that rainy February morning the rocky, windswept plain looked pretty forbidding. With me were Walid Mourad, HMML's Field Director for the Middle East Region, and Fr. Joseph Moukarzel, our colleague from Holy Spirit University in Kaslik, Lebanon. None of us had been to Iraq before, and even though we were headed for the most peaceful part of the country, the northern area administered by the Kurdish Regional Government, each of us was more than a little apprehensive. The border crossing turned out to be a vast transit terminal for trucks carrying construction supplies for the rebuilding of Iraq. In the car behind us was a bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East on his way home from Moscow. After some delay on the Iraqi side, resolved by a couple of phone calls, we found our way through the pelting rain to a taxi that would take us to Duhok, one of the major cities of the burgeoning Kurdish region. As we drove through the rain, the skies began to clear and a series of rainbows appeared: the first of many we would see during our week of discovery and adventure.

Ever since I became executive director of HMML in 2003, people have been asking me about how we could help in Iraq. Earlier that same year, during the last stages of the American-led invasion of Iraq, I had been in Lebanon helping to set up our first project in the Middle East. Over the next five years we saw the situation in Iraq deteriorate, with massive displacements among the Iraqi people, especially the Christian minority. Many of them left the country entirely, others moved to the relative safety of the Kurdish region. We saw the news stories about looting of the National Museum in Baghdad, burning of archives, and damage to archeological sites, but it was very difficult to gain a sense of what was happening with the thousands of Christian manuscripts held by ancient communities across the country. In 2008, while at a conference in Aleppo, Syria, a colleague told me about an Iraqi Dominican priest who was digitizing manuscripts in the north. At another conference a few months later, another colleague told me that he had recently visited Iraq and actually met him. Clearly this was the man we too needed to meet.

It took some time to establish contact and build trust, but by that day in February 2009 we were finally on





**LEFT:** *Fr. Columba, Fr. Nageeb, and Walid Mourad examine a printed Bible at the Dominican Priory in Qaraqosh.*

**BELOW:** *Catherine Yono of the Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (CNMO) in Qaraqosh cleans a Syriac manuscript in preparation for digitizing.*

**FACING PAGE:** *Rabban Hormizd Monastery, near Alqosh, Iraq. Founded in the seventh century, the monastery has been an important center for East Syriac Christians (Assyrian Church of the East and, later, Chaldean Catholics).*

our way to meet Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP. There was anxiety on both sides. Would he be open to working with HMML? Would he feel safe collaborating with an American institution? Would the owners of the manuscripts be willing to share their treasures with the larger world?

Over the course of several days crisscrossing northern Iraq, we laid the groundwork for what has proved to be an extraordinary partnership. Speaking in French, the language we all shared, we got to know each other while visiting bishops and monasteries, examining manuscripts brought to the north for safety, meeting people who had fled their homes because of kidnapping and other threats. It was an amazing few days. In one place I had to conceal my identity as an American even as I watched President Obama on television announcing the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. Earlier that same evening I had met some young soldiers from Texas who were visiting a Christian town to meet the locals and hang out with the kids. Though dressed in full battle gear, they were doing their best to show the human face of the American presence. They couldn't quite figure out why I was there, but seemed happy to meet another American.

During our week in Iraq, we spent time at Fr. Nageeb's impressive Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts). For several years he had been concerned about threats to manuscripts, and with the support of his Dominican

community in Mosul he began to gather and photograph whatever he could find. After the outbreak of the war in 2003 the situation became even more critical, even as Fr. Nageeb's community was forced to leave their home in Mosul. Although Dominicans had served the local population, both Christian and



*Continued on page 5*

Muslim, since 1750, sectarian violence in the city and very specific threats made their continued presence impossible. Reestablishing themselves in Qaraqosh, a town about 15 km away but safely within the Kurdish-controlled region, they have managed bit by bit to bring their famous library to safety and to begin a new ministry with the many refugees who have come to Qaraqosh in recent years from all parts of Iraq.

Their new priory has ample space for the manuscript work, done by young Iraqis who earn a salary, gain useful skills, and learn more about their own heritage. One of the first fruits of HMML's partnership with Fr. Nageeb was an internship for him and three members of his team at Fr. Moukarzel's conservation lab at Holy Spirit University, one of the very best in the



**TOP RIGHT:** *Catherine Yono digitizing a Syriac manuscript at the CNMO.*

**ABOVE:** *Chawki Sabah brushes a Syriac manuscript before digitization.*

**FACING PAGE:** *Fr. Nageeb shows the HMML team one of the Syriac manuscripts from the Dominican collection in Qaraqosh.*



Middle East. There they learned the basic techniques of manuscript cleaning and care. Walid worked with them on HMML's digitization practices, and they were equipped with new cameras, lights, and computers.

The daily work at the Center is overseen by Nada Ghanem, who lives with three generations of her family near the Priory. Manuscripts are brought in from locations as far away as Baghdad (339 km), cleaned and photographed, studied for basic cataloging information, boxed up and sent back to their owners. Each library receives the full set of images of its own manuscripts (as is done for all of HMML's projects). A second copy remains at the Center, and a third copy is sent to Beirut for onward shipment to HMML. The team has managed to digitize more than 3500 manuscripts in Iraq, and has several more projects lined up for the coming months. Last summer they helped HMML with another project outside of Iraq that will be announced in the near future.

The key to the whole project is Fr. Nageeb himself. Originally trained as an engineer, he later studied patristics at the University of Strasbourg in France, as well as media and communications. A natural

diplomat, he has a ready laugh combined with great sensitivity. His manifest integrity and selfless commitment to the preservation of Iraq's patrimony have won over many a resistant guardian of manuscripts. It was a great pleasure to be with him last July in Malta when we finally announced our partnership to the scholarly world at the quadrennial Syriac Symposium. In a special session of the conference, Fr. Nageeb, HMML cataloger Dr. Adam McCollum, and I provided an overview of HMML's recent work with a special emphasis on Iraq. Fr. Nageeb's eloquent portrayal of the work of his Center, and the obvious camaraderie

among us, made a deep impression on the international audience of scholars and church leaders.

Since my first visit, I've been back to Iraq twice, most recently last summer with Walid and Wayne Torborg, HMML's Director of Digital Collections and Imaging. The general situation in the north has continued to improve, though stability is always provisional and many challenges lie ahead for Iraq and its people. Over the next few years the manuscripts digitized in Iraq will be closely studied by scholars around the world, and we'll be reporting to you on their discoveries.

“The most important thing for us is not to remain alone,

“ The most important thing for us is not to remain alone, closed up in our work as if we were doing it only for Iraq. It is important that this great mass of manuscripts be of service to the whole world, for two reasons. First, to show them our heritage of 2000 years of Christianity in Mesopotamia . . . Second, working all alone is never good. A hand never works alone—and three hands, or four hands are always better than just two. The more that people work together, the better it is for everyone . . . HMML has supported us enormously, on the material level, with technical advice, equipment, our training in manuscript conservation at Kaslik . . . And all of it for the sake of researchers. ”

Qaraqosh, Iraq, June 2012

—Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP  
Qaraqosh, Iraq, June 2012



See the whole interview in French on You Tube at [http://youtu.be/nI\\_lhYnOvjk](http://youtu.be/nI_lhYnOvjk), or by searching under Fr. Nageeb's name.

# Where We're Working

## *Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Homs*

By Adam C. McCollum

The Syrian city of Homs (earlier called Emesa, and in Arabic Ḥimṣ) has been the matrix of several notable authors and the locus of some well-documented historical events. Located midway between the two larger cities of Aleppo and Damascus on the eastern bank of the Orontes, the city rose to an imperial connection with the accession of Elagabalus (Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, r. 218-222) and Alexander Severus (r. 222-235). Later in the same century (272), the city saw the defeat of Zenobia, the Palmyrene queen, by the Roman emperor Aurelian. An early Christian presence can be assumed, but it is especially from the fifth century with the finding of the head of John the Baptist in 452 that that presence is solidified. In addition to John the Baptist, the name of the local martyr Elian (Julian), whose monastery, now Syriac Catholic, is in the neighboring village of Qaryatayn, is especially associated with Homs. The collection of manuscripts in focus here is from the Syriac Orthodox Church of Mary's Girdle (Umm al-Zunnār) in the city, which has been severely damaged in recent fighting.



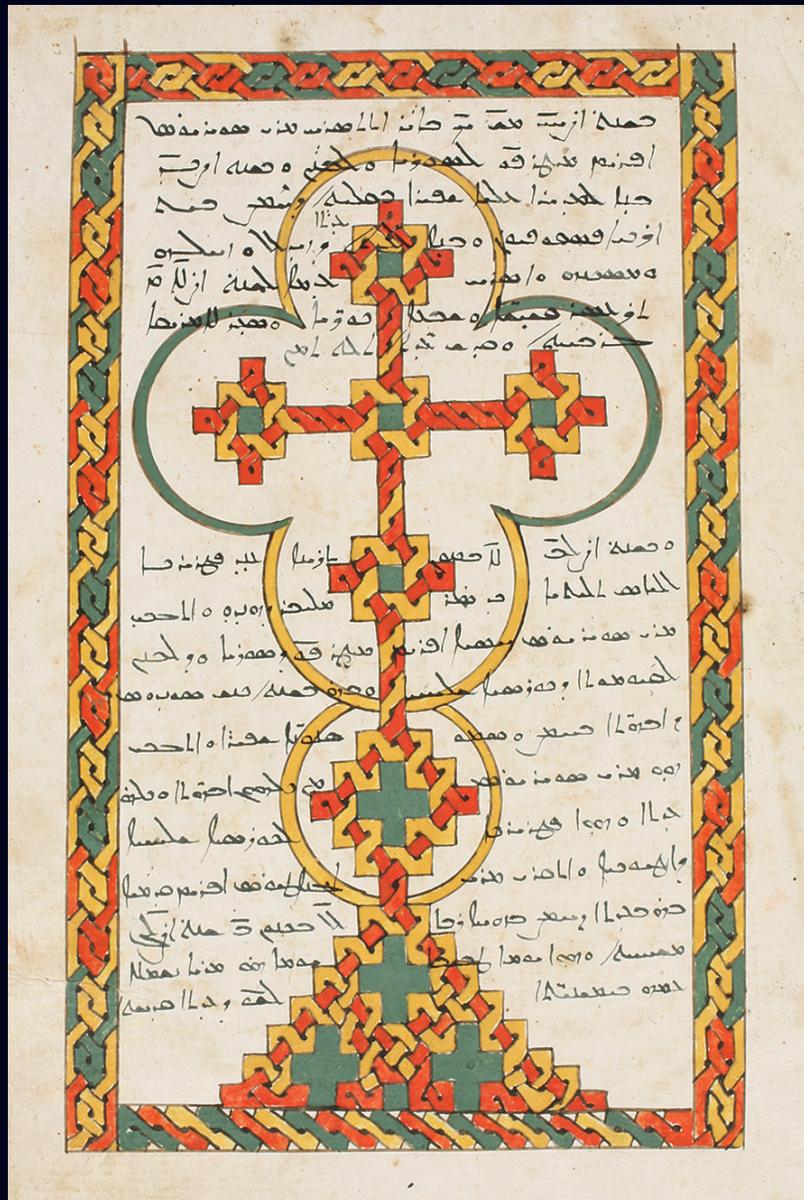
The city has a certain fame not only among Christians, but also among Muslims. After the Battle of Yarmuk in 636, when the Byzantine emperor Heraclius abandoned the city, Muslims took the town in the following year without a fight and the large church of St. John the Baptist became a mosque. The tomb of Khālid ibn al-Walīd (d. 642), a companion of Muḥammad and an early commander of Muslim forces, lends special distinction to the city. Arab geographers, historians, and travelers have recorded the city's happenings, traditions, and importance in their voluminous work. In 1184 Ibn Jubayr traveled there and praised the city's walls and gates, and about a century later (1281) it was the site of a notable battle between the Mamluks and the Mongols, this after the city had suffered under Byzantine-Arab conflicts of the 10<sup>th</sup> century and then during the Crusades.

LEFT: This page comes from a 16<sup>th</sup>-century copy of Eliya of Nisibis' Kitāb al-tarḡamān, a topically classified Syriac-Arabic dictionary. This copy is unique in that it includes a third column in addition to the Arabic and Syriac columns: (on the left side) the Syriac words written with Arabic letters, a kind of reversed Garšūnī.

Among the authors associated with Homs are the following. Eusebius of Emesa, not to be confused with the church historian of the same name, was active in the first half of the fourth century and bishop of Homs shortly after 341. His works (homilies and commentaries) are lost in the original Greek but survive and were influential in Syriac, as well as Latin and Armenian. A little later an author named Nemesius penned an important philosophical work in Greek called *On the Nature of Man*; in addition to Greek, the text survives at least partially in Latin, Armenian, Syriac, and Arabic translations. Notable authors of a later period who are connected with the city include Dawid Puniqoyo (c. 1431-c. 1500) and patriarch Nuḥ the Lebanese (1451-1509).

The Syriac Orthodox patriarchate resided in Homs from 1933 to 1959, then moving to Damascus. The collection highlighted here consists of 383 manuscripts, some from as late as the 1960s and 70s. In terms of genre, as in most Syriac Orthodox collections, Bible, liturgy, theology, and hagiography in Syriac and Garšūnī (Arabic written with

Syriac script) are all well represented, but several works on grammar and lexicography are also present. The collection has thus far been only partly investigated and cataloged, but there are already some finds worthy of mention. Among others, there is a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Gospel lectionary using the Ḥarḳlean translation (the very literal product of the seventh century) copied in 1492/3 CE by a scribe named Basilios, who was bishop of Homs and the neighboring village of Ṣadad; a finely copied Garšūnī/Syriac parallel psalter from the 17<sup>th</sup> century; an early copy of Basilios Šemʿon al-Ṭūrānī's *Book of Theology*, translated from Syriac "into Garšūnī" by his pupil Athanasios Aṣḷān; a 600-page west Syriac synaxarion (a collection of saints' lives in brief in the order of their celebration days) from 1793; and an earlier synaxarion in Melkite script. Many manuscripts in the collection also contain short notes at the beginnings and ends that shed light on the history of the region.



ABOVE: This decorative colorful geometric cross comes at the end of a Gospel lectionary dated 1796. The later writing on top details some activities of Ignatius Afram Barsoum (1887-1957), including his appointment as bishop (1918), architectural projects in Homs (1924), his trip to North America, and his consecration as patriarch (1933).



*HMML Millennium Club and Legacy Society Members\**

# Travel to Malta

*With HMML Executive Director Father Columba Stewart, OSB*

**JUNE 7–JUNE 15, 2013**

*Participants will arrange their own travel to Malta, arriving no later than June 8, and their own transportation between the airport and the hotels. Weather will be warm, and there will be much walking over rough surfaces.*

## —ITINERARY—

**JUNE 7:** Departure from USA, arrival in Malta the next day.

**JUNE 8:** Check into the Phoenicia Hotel, located within walking distance of Valletta's re-designed city gate. Optional evening orientation includes walking through the streets of historic Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage city. Dinner at the hotel.



**JUNE 9:** Experience Sunday in Valletta. Browse the stalls in the Sunday Market. Attend Mass in Maltese at St. John's Co-Cathedral, and marvel at the famous floor made up of hundreds of marble memorial slabs. Visit the Archeological Museum, the Palace and Armories of the Grand Master, the War Museum and the Sacra Infermia. Enjoy a cappuccino in front of the National Library, where HMML microfilmed the Archives of the Knights of Malta. Catch up on culture at Saint James Bastion. Dinner at a restaurant in Valletta.

**JUNE 10:** Rabat/Mdina. Visit the National Archives of Malta, where HMML is digitizing

the records of the law courts of the Knights; the Cathedral in Mdina; the Cathedral Museum; St. Paul's Grotto and the Wignacort Museum. Lunch in Mdina inside the bastions of the city. In the afternoon, tour the Roman catacombs and the Roman house. Stop by Tal 'Qali craft village on the way back to the San Anton Gardens and the hotel.

**JUNE 11:** Tour Malta's pre-historic temples: Tarxien, Ħaġar Qim (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and Mnajdra. View the cave of Ghar Dalam, with its fascinating collection of prehistoric Maltese minifauna. Drive around Dingli cliffs and experience Malta's southern landscape. Visit the Hypogeum, a unique underground temple that is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch and dinner provided en route.



**JUNE 12:** Morning stop at the National Library, then visit with representatives of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at their embassy at St. John's Cavalier. Travel to picturesque Birgu for lunch and then enjoy a free afternoon exploring the Three Cities. Dinner on your own.

**JUNE 13:** Transfer to Radisson Hotel and Spa on Golden Bay. Along the way, see St. Paul's Bay. Golden Bay provides hiking, diving, swimming, and other sporting activities along Malta's northern shore. Lunch and dinner at the hotel.

**JUNE 14:** Travel by bus and ferry to Gozo, the second largest island in the Maltese archipelago. Visit the cities of Rabat/Victoria, and see the National Archives, the Prison Museum, and the Archeological Museum. Enjoy a walk through the Ggantija Temples and Calypso's Cave. Shop traditional Gozitan handicrafts. Lunch in Gozo. Return to Radisson Hotel for farewell dinner.

**JUNE 15:** Departure for USA.

\*Millennium Club members contribute \$1,000 or more annually to HMML. Legacy Society members have made provision for HMML in their estate plans.

### —PRICING INFORMATION—

**\$2,515 per person • \$590 single supplement** *(Subject to Change)*

**INCLUDES:** Meals (except dinner on June 12) and soft drinks with meals; transport on Malta; guides; entry fees; insider access to a fascinating Mediterranean island.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfare to and from Malta; transfer from airport to Hotel Phoenicia, and from Radisson Hotel to airport; alcoholic beverages; dinner on June 12; trip cancellation or other insurance.

### —PAYMENT DATES—

- JANUARY 2, 2013: RSVP to Linda Orzechowski by emailing [lorzechowsk@csbsju.edu](mailto:lorzechowsk@csbsju.edu) or calling 320-363-3514. *(Early reservations are encouraged as trip size is capped at 22 participants.)*
- JANUARY 5, 2013: 50% of trip cost is due at HMML as deposit.
- APRIL 1, 2013: Balance of trip cost is due at HMML.

HMML accepts all major credit cards. Checks should be made out to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.



# HMML News

## HMML Awarded Grant to Develop “Virtual HMML”



The unique manuscript study environment found within the walls of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library will soon be available without the necessities of room, board, and travel expense. Thanks to a generous grant from the Institute for Museum & Library Services (IMLS), HMML can move forward on an idea that has been in the works for quite some time. *v*HMML (virtual HMML) will make the world’s largest collection of manuscript study material even more available online. “We see *v*HMML as the centerpiece of our continuing mission as a research library focused on manuscripts,” said HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB.

HMML’s ultimate goal is to provide wide access to digitized manuscripts, which provide the primary and often sole access to the historic cultures that have shaped the modern world. *v*HMML will help open HMML’s photographic archive of more than 125,000 manuscripts (with some 40,000,000 pages) to undergraduates, graduate students, scholars, library professionals, and anyone interested in manuscript studies. But first, new users of manuscripts need to be educated on how to read and interpret this form of text. Fr. Columba explains, “Recent years have seen a large, and rapidly expanding, quantity of digitized handwritten materials becoming available online or on-demand. This abundance of material has not been met with a corresponding understanding of how best to initiate new scholars into the skills needed for such study.”

*v*HMML will feature a school with online tutorials in paleography and manuscript studies to train a new generation of researchers for work with manuscripts in a variety of languages. Its most innovative feature will be the Scriptorium, an online collaborative workspace allowing scholars in different locations to study, edit, and publish texts found only in manuscripts. In addition it will feature a Lexicon of manuscript-related terminology in several languages, a Library of key reference works, and the Folio Collection, an annotated album of illustrative manuscript images.



*Two of the *v*HMML council members, Joel Kalvesmaki (left) and Scott Johnson, study a manuscript page in HMML’s gallery space.*

*v*HMML’s coverage of manuscript cultures will be inclusive of both western and non-western manuscripts, reflecting more accurately the complex historical realities that shaped the modern world and that are becoming more normative in current scholarship with its emphasis on comparative studies.

“The concept of *v*HMML is frankly brilliant,” wrote Valerie Hotchkiss, director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in her letter of support. “Instead of creating yet another erudite and exclusive project for a particular manuscript collection or within a geographically or chronologically limited scope, the *v*HMML initiative will support a range of users and foster the creation not only of new scholarship, but also new scholars. From beginning paleography students to seasoned scholars, *v*HMML addresses pertinent needs in new and useful ways.”

The *v*HMML Council met in August 2012 to discuss and refine the project specifications. Implementation of the full project will proceed in phases over two years, with all major project development completed by September 2014. Progress will be chronicled on the *v*HMML blog found at [vhmml.wordpress.com](http://vhmml.wordpress.com).

## Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship Established at HMML

Author Rebecca Haile and her husband, HMML board member Jean Manas, have established the Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies at HMML. Named in honor of the late Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, 11<sup>th</sup> President of Saint John's University, the annual research fellowship will benefit scholars who wish to conduct up to nine months of research using the eastern Christian manuscript collections at HMML.

"This is the first time HMML has been able to provide financial support for sustained research on our collections" said HMML executive director, Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. "Br. Dietrich strongly supported HMML's eastern Christian manuscript initiative, and we are thrilled that Rebecca and Jean are helping to ensure that these digital holdings fulfill their transformative scholarly potential."

Applications for the fellowship are currently being accepted. For more information about the award and application process, please visit HMML's website at [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org). Applications for the Academic Year 2013-14 are due December 15, 2012. The decision and acceptance process will be completed by the end of February 2013.

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## Anderson Family Donates Library

The family of the late T.R. and LaJean Anderson of Nisswa, Minnesota, has contributed their parents' personal library of over 5,500 books to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at Saint John's University. The collection contains first editions of books by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Sinclair Lewis, a vast assortment of books pertaining to Minnesota history, and works by early explorers of the region, such as the 1698 account of Fr. Louis Hennepin's travels in the state.

HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, stated, "We are very excited to have a collection of Minnesota-related rare books that will support undergraduate research on our campus and attract regional scholarly interest, introducing new audiences to HMML's resources and variety of research fields."

Longtime friends of HMML and Saint John's University, T.R. and LaJean's remarkable library collections will be cared for by HMML and made available to Saint John's University and College of Saint Benedict students for generations.



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## Minneapolis *Star Tribune* Publishes Op-Ed Article by Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB

The September 17, 2012 issue of the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* daily newspaper published an article entitled "Technology Can Preserve World History," authored by HMML executive director, Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. A link to the article can be found on HMML's homepage, [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org). If you would like to receive a copy of the article, please contact Erin Lonergan by email at [elonergan@csbsju.edu](mailto:elonergan@csbsju.edu) or call 320-363-2095.

## HMML Legacy Society and Millennium Club Members Traveled to Holy Land

This May, a group of 33 HMML Millennium Club and Legacy Society members traveled with Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, to experience the history, culture and heritage of the Holy Land. Highlights can be seen online via slide show by going to our website at [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org) and clicking on the HMML 2012 Holy Land Trip link located on the left hand side of the page.

Each year, Fr. Columba leads a group of HMML Millennium Club and Legacy Society members on an adventure to a HMML fieldwork location and its surrounding localities. Millennium Club members contribute \$1,000 or more to HMML annually. Legacy Society members have made provision for HMML in their estate plans. 2013's trip will be to Malta—see details in this issue.



*HMML travelers walking into Petra.*

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## HMML Hosts Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory

HMML hosted the Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory, a project of the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota, the week of June 3-8, 2012. Every June since 2004 the staff of HMML has taught this week-long intensive seminar to introduce graduate students and advanced undergraduates to the skills required for manuscript research. After attending daily lectures about bibliographic tools, paleography, and codicology, participants then put their knowledge to the test in hands-on workshops using the Library's resources. The week ends with each attendee giving a presentation about a particular manuscript he or she studied during the seminar. The participants this year were Abel Delgado, Eric Dugdale, Adam Grant, Jesse Izzo, Stephen Reed, Melissa Reynolds, Benjamin Smith, and Luo Wang.

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## HMML Attends Conferences in Malta

In July, Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, and Dr. Adam McCollum, Lead Cataloger of Eastern Christian Manuscripts, joined about 300 international scholars on Malta for the 11<sup>th</sup> Syriac Symposium and the ninth Conference on Christian Arabic Studies. In addition to a joint presentation with Fr. Nageeb Michael, OP, in which they shared HMML's latest preservation and cataloging activities, they also each presented their own research in other sessions (Fr. Columba on early Syrian monasticism, Dr. McCollum on a ninth-century Syriac text on rabies), renewed ties with prior friends of HMML, and had discussions with potential catalogers. The several days spent there in such a unique setting were both pleasant and fruitful for sharing HMML's work with other scholars.

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## HMML Presents at UNESCO Conference

Wayne Torborg, Director of Digital Imaging, and Dr. Theresa Vann, the Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center, represented HMML at UNESCO's international conference "The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation" in Vancouver, Canada, in September. More than 500 attendees from 110 countries met to discuss the main issues affecting the preservation of digital documentary heritage, and to develop strategies to protect digital assets. Torborg and Vann presented HMML's transition to digital technology and implementation of low-cost digitization strategies as a model for resource-poor institutions seeking to preserve their cultural assets. Other sessions discussed legal, technological, social, financial, and political issues that needed to be resolved to ensure digital continuity. The conference concluded with the presentation of the Vancouver Declaration, which made recommendations to UNESCO to support the preservation of digital heritage around the world.

# Using HMML's Resources: *The Altar and the Book*

By HMML Heckman Scholar

Andrew J. M. Irving, PhD, University of Notre Dame;  
Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale Institute for Sacred Music

**L**n June 2012, with the generous support of HMML's Heckman Stipend, I was able to undertake four weeks of research in HMML's microfilm collection in the preliminary stages of a multi-year research project on developments in the format and organization of the missal in the 12<sup>th</sup> century entitled *The Altar and the Book – Material Transformations of the Twelfth-Century Missal*. My project explores the relationship between the material format of the highly complex and extremely widely used 12<sup>th</sup>-century book product, the missal, and the texts that this product contained. In particular, it seeks to shed new light on the development and dominance of the plenary missal in the context of broader transformations in contemporary book technologies.



The breadth of HMML's unique collection of microfilms of medieval liturgical manuscripts and of manuscript library catalogs from across Europe in a single site enabled me to make significant progress towards the completion of the first stage of my project: a comprehensive census of all extant sacramentaries and missals produced between 1050 and 1200. In only four weeks I was able to undertake detailed preliminary examinations and descriptions of over forty 12<sup>th</sup>-century missals currently located in libraries across Austria, Northern Italy, and Spain—a project which would have been otherwise infeasible and impracticable at this early stage of the project. By means of these preliminary soundings, I was rapidly able to gain a sense of the project's dimensions and identify problems and potential lines of enquiry before undertaking expensive and time-consuming research on-site in Europe. On the basis of the census begun at HMML, I shall select a smaller corpus of manuscripts for later examination in situ.

It would be difficult to name a more useful research center for this stage of my project in North America. It is perhaps even harder to conceive of a more helpful and friendly research team. My time at HMML was both enjoyable and immensely productive: I cannot wait to return!

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## Heckman Stipends

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