

SPRING  
NEWSLETTER  
2017

# ILLUMINATIONS



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

# Illuminations

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## ON THE COVER:

*A technician prepares a manuscript for digitization at the Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts, or CNMO), HMML's partner in Iraq. The CNMO team digitized the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon (CPB) collection, the subject of this issue's Where We're Working feature. This and other location photos supplied by CNMO.*



## 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, Iraq, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, 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 new HMML Reading Room at [vhmml.org](http://vhmml.org).

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

## LEFT:

*An Old Testament lectionary from the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon collection. Syriac. Gissa, Turkey, 19<sup>th</sup> century. HMML Project Number CPB 00123. Find it on HMML Reading Room by searching "CPB 00123" in the HMML Project Number field.*

*Illuminations is a publication of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library and is published for scholars and friends of HMML twice a year.*

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# Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you just days before returning to Iraq for my annual visit to see Father Nageeb and his team. In this issue we feature another tribute to their outstanding work in the face of challenges that we can hardly begin to imagine. The manuscripts of the Chaldean Patriarchate typify the story of Syriac Christians in Mesopotamia, with many of the books having at one time been in the Turkish cities of Diyarbakir and Mardin, former centers of Chaldean and other Christian church life that now have a mere handful of people from those communities.

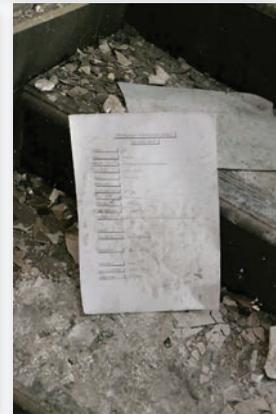
The patriarchal collection was in Mosul for many decades, moving to Baghdad in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The move saved it from the recent destruction of so much cultural heritage in Mosul, but exposed it to other dangers, as you will read. Now it has moved north again to Ankawa, a suburb of the Kurdish capital of Erbil where many Christians and Yazidis have found refuge since the rise of ISIS. With most of their villages now liberated they can begin to think about returning, but much was damaged and the long-term security outlook remains uncertain.

Before our very eyes, in real time, we are seeing the disappearance of an ancient Christian culture from its homeland. Their manuscripts, treasured and cared for, moved often in search of safety, are a powerful demonstration of the depth of their history and intellectual culture. They are beginning to appear online in vHMML Reading Room, available to scholars around the world as well as to the diaspora of Chaldeans and other Christians originally from the land "between the rivers," the Euphrates and Tigris. With your help, their memory will endure.

Sincerely,

*Columba Stewart, OSB*

Columba Stewart OSB  
Executive Director

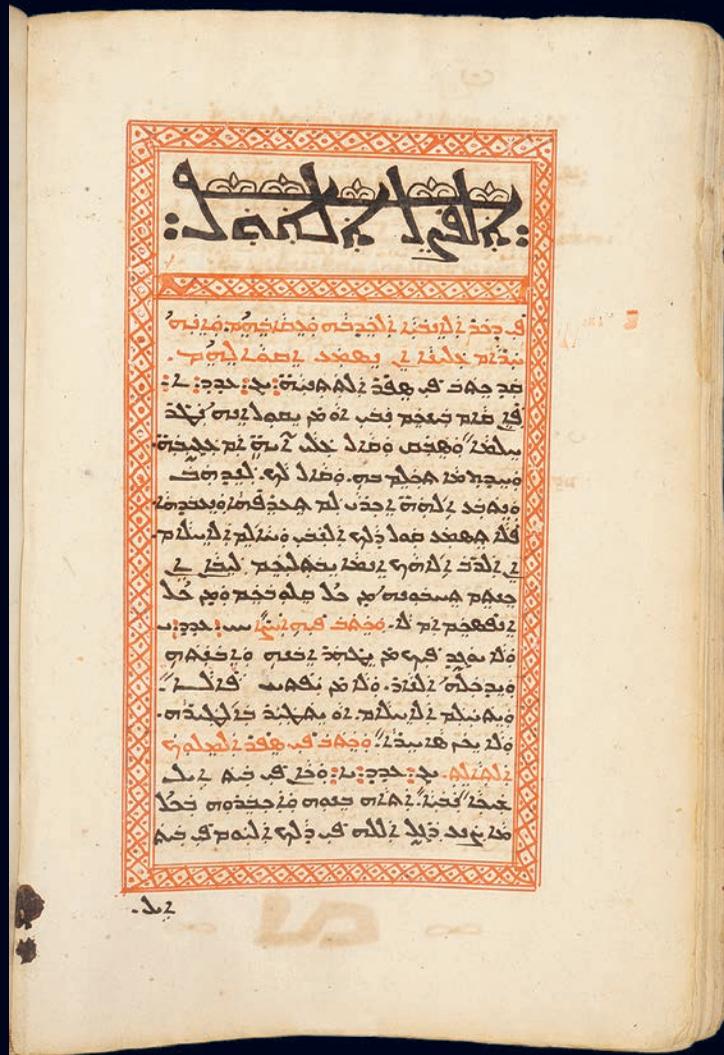


*Here are a few snapshots from my May visit to Iraq, including me walking near the area of Mosul University, a close-up picture of a metadata sheet in what remains of CNMO's studio in Qaraqosh, and me with HMML Field Director Walid Mourad. I'm holding a fragment of a burned book at Mor Girgis Church in Qaraqosh.*

# Where We're Working

## *Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon, Iraq*

By Elizabeth Reisinger

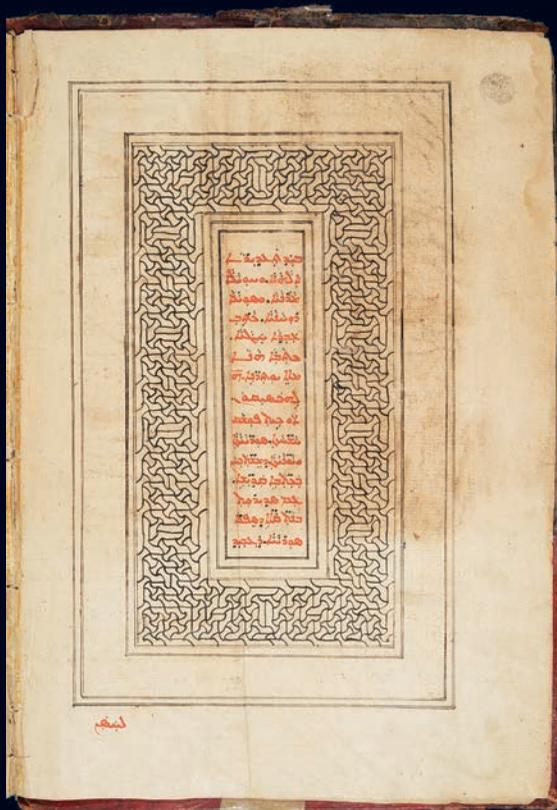


ABOVE: *A theological treatise, written in Arabic Garshuni from Alqūsb (Alqosh), Iraq, 19<sup>th</sup> century. HMML Project Number CPB 00125. Find it on vHMML Reading Room by searching “CPB 00125” in the HMML Project Number field.*

Turkey in 1915 was volatile and violent. World War I had begun, the Ottoman Empire was crumbling, and violence permeated every aspect of daily life. The Chaldean Bishop of Mardin, Israel Odo, took to the page that year and began writing, penning a rare eyewitness account of persecutions against Christians in Turkey. His account, filling several pages, would eventually find its way into a diverse collection of manuscripts, nestled amongst liturgical documents, poetry, history and expositions on canon law in what is now known as the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon collection (CPB). And, like many manuscript collections, the texts reveal more than just the words on the page. The manuscripts show researchers how intellectual traditions evolve; how languages develop; and how geopolitical forces influence history, customs and the migration of peoples.

### Chaldean Church in Iraq

HMML's work in Iraq is a result of a partnership with Father Nageeb Michael, O.P., and his Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts, or CNMO). CNMO was founded by Father Nageeb in Mosul, Iraq in 2003. In 2009, HMML joined CNMO's effort to digitize the manuscript heritage of ancient Mesopotamian Christianity. To date, HMML's and CNMO's collaboration to preserve Iraq's cultural patrimony has resulted in over 5,000 digitized manuscripts, including those of the CPB collection.



The Chaldeans are members of an autonomous Catholic Church that retains a unique liturgy and tradition, while being in communion with other Catholics and recognizing the Pope's authority. The Chaldean Catholic Church, along with the Assyrian Church of the East, is part of the East Syriac tradition. They form the majority of Iraqi Christians, heirs of a religious tradition that has been in Iraq since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, long before

the 7<sup>th</sup>-century rise of Islam. The official name of the Chaldean patriarchate references the ancient city of Babylon, following the ecclesiastical tradition of remembering places of historic significance.

## Scattering and Gathering

Let us fast forward to recent times. The 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the Chaldean collections scattered across Turkey and Iraq is complex: some of the manuscripts were destroyed, others were transferred to different locations and/or merged with other collections. Some, such as those from Diyarbakir and Mardin in Turkey, seemed to have vanished until their current location was discovered by HMML and CNMO.

The manuscripts in the CPB collection were gathered from various libraries, people, and churches. "The Chaldean collections of manuscripts, in general, appeared as an outcome of the efforts of the local bishops to preserve the heritage of the Syriac tradition irrespectively of its actual provenance," said Dr. Grigory Kessel, a researcher partnering with HMML on the cataloging of the CPB collection. "That is why it is not rare to find among Chaldean manuscripts the manuscripts of East Syriac, Syriac Orthodox and Antiochian [Greek] Orthodox provenance."

Kessel is a researcher with double affiliation, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Manchester, and specializes in the study of the literary heritage of Syriac Christianity, with particular

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TOP: *A Syriac Lexicon, Hasan bar Bablul (10<sup>th</sup> century), from Alqosh (Alqosh), Iraq, 1811 CE. HMML Project Number CPB 00212. Find it on vHMML Reading Room by searching "CPB 00212" in the HMML Project Number field.*

RIGHT: *Fr. Nageeb prepares a manuscript for digitization at the CNMO studios.*

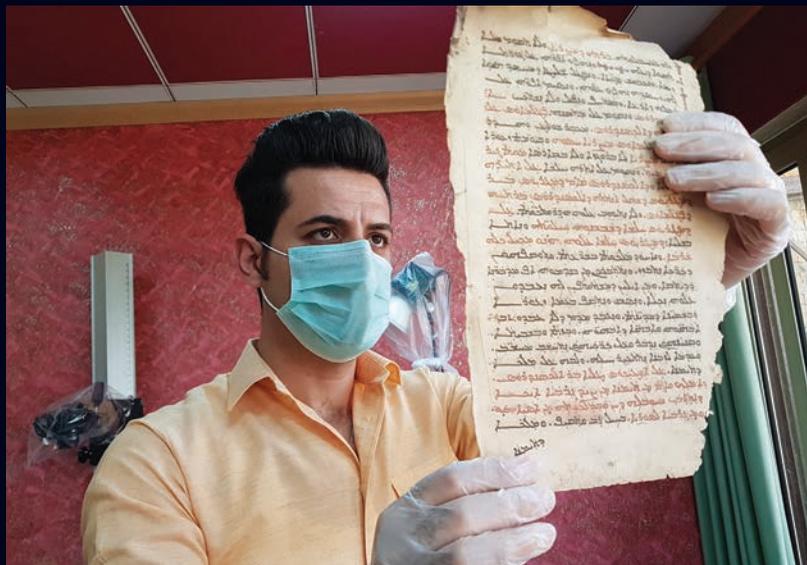


attention to the manuscripts. Besides manuscripts, his publications deal with Syriac medical and monastic texts. Kessel is a participant in a number of cataloging projects besides HMML's, including the Sinai Palimpsest Project.

Dr. Anton Pritula, lead Eastern Christian manuscript cataloger at HMML, notes that "We can see how manuscripts were circulating in this area. There must have been an active cultural exchange, and probably political difficulties - such as massacres, calamities, wars - which caused permanent relocations, some destruction and even disappearances from the collection." Pritula has presented on different manuscripts within Chaldean collections, and he has been working with Kessel on their cataloging.

More recent political upheaval, in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, prompted more dislocation. "The collection moved with the Patriarch from Mosul to Baghdad in 1947; and was later transferred to Qaraqosh in 2013 for conservation and digitization," said Fr. Nageeb. In the insecure conditions during and after the invasion of 2003, it seems that some manuscripts may have been lost or hidden away in other locations. After the move to Qaraqosh, the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in 2014 forced a final move to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. When Mosul was attacked that summer, more than one hundred thousand people were uprooted from their towns and villages, and fled to Erbil.

Many of the regional collections Fr. Nageeb and his CNMO team had digitized fell under the control of ISIS, but fortunately the CPB collection was not one of them. CNMO staff managed to evacuate the manuscripts and archives from their base in Qaraqosh, but had to leave behind most of the studio equipment. A grant from the Minnesota-based Patrick and Aimee Butler Foundation replaced cameras, computers, and other equipment, and Fr. Nageeb was able to set



ABOVE: *The CPB collection contains manuscripts of several libraries, churches and peoples. Here, a technician examines a manuscript in preparation for digitization in CNMO's studio in Erbil.*

up a new studio in Erbil. There he trains refugees to digitize the collections. With support from the Arcadia Fund, HMML pays them for their work, the only job they can find in the Kurdish capital.

Some of the manuscripts within the collection are in poor condition: the edges are crumbling, worn through time, inadequate storage conditions, and frequent use. Pieces of pages are missing, manuscripts are incomplete. To digitize the manuscripts, technicians must clean the pages as much as possible, dusting the weathered edges and bindings, handling each with utmost care. The manuscripts are digitized as they are, bearing the traces left by their many readers and the marks of their several relocations.

## The Languages of Many

The languages of the manuscripts reveal much about the people and context in which the manuscripts were created. Most of the manuscripts are written in the traditional liturgical language of Syriac. Syriac is an Eastern form of Aramaic that appeared in the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE in northern Mesopotamia, similar to the language thought by most scholars to have been spoken by Jesus and his disciples in Palestine.

Some manuscripts within the CPB collection, however, are written in Arabic or Garshuni—Arabic texts written in Syriac script.

“Communities became more bilingual in the course of history. By the 12-14<sup>th</sup> century most scholars and communities, especially in large cities, were bilingual in Syriac and Arabic,” said Dr. Pritula. “Maintaining Syriac as the language of the church tradition was central to their spiritual and cultural identity. But in everyday life or regular reading, people were using Arabic texts.” Over time such distinctions began to blur. Translations were made into Arabic, new Christian texts were composed in Arabic, and scribes acknowledged their Syriac tradition by writing in Garshuni. Neo-Aramaic dialects show the endurance of ancient languages as living tongues. Writing in Turkish became more common as the Ottoman Empire expanded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to include Iraq.

## Scholarly Value

“The collection is of great importance for the history of the Chaldean Church and its activity and development. It contains many manuscripts actually written by Chaldean patriarchs as well as their notebooks,” said Dr. Kessel. “There are unique and rare copies of some literary texts that basically no

scholar has ever seen and studied. It also includes many Arabic translations of contemporary Latin theological works and thereby demonstrates how the Chaldean Church was trying to modernize itself.”

The entire collection is 450 manuscripts; many are already available in vHMML Reading Room. Cataloging is ongoing. Manuscripts in vHMML Reading Room can be found by country, repository, author, language, genre, date, features, city or even script. Researchers can access the collection by searching “CPB” in the HMML Project Number field on vHMML Reading Room: <https://www.vhmmml.org/readingRoom/>.

“It goes without saying that the entire scholarly community will welcome the ready availability of that collection and its cataloging,” said Dr. Kessel. “Study of it will definitely bring many important discoveries.”

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*BELOW: Digitization of the CPB collection required careful preparation. Many of the manuscripts had been kept in poor storage conditions for hundreds of years, necessitating cleaning, but are digitized as they are, bearing the traces left by their many readers and the marks of their several relocations.*



# Gratitude in Action

## *How gifts of manuscripts, rare books and artwork have shaped HMML's remarkable collections*

By Elizabeth Reisinger

Over his lifetime, the late Dr. Alexander Paul MacGregor, Jr., a Classics professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, amassed a valuable collection of rare books and manuscripts. That collection included approximately 100 editions of Latin (i.e., classical Roman) literature from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also contained 100 reels of microfilms from manuscripts with works by the Roman author Seneca (the younger), paleography texts, and several parchment documents illustrating examples of early modern handwriting, primarily from Italy.

Upon Alexander's death, his wife, Katherine MacGregor, donated the collections to HMML in accordance with his wishes.

"Katherine wanted her husband's library to be used for research, teaching and exhibition. She knew HMML would provide the care and curation his collection deserves," said Erin Lonergan, director of development

at HMML. "As with all our gift-in-kind donations, HMML has included a bookplate in each book or manuscript identifying the item as being part a gift of 'Prof. Alexander and Katherine MacGregor.'"

Now Professor MacGregor's collections have entered a new chapter. The books and manuscripts are some of the many contributions of manuscripts, books, microfilm and artwork that HMML has received over five decades. These materials are now used by faculty and students across many fields of study at Saint John's University, the College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's Preparatory School; and visiting researchers and scholars from all over the world.

"Most classes will get to see HMML materials from the time and place that they are studying, as well as examples of handwritten materials going back to the Middle Ages," said Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, curator for HMML's Austria-Germany Study Center and cataloger of rare books. "It makes a strong impression on most students when they realize that they are holding a fragment or a book that is 700 years old—or older."

The MacGregor gift complements HMML's existing collections and provides an important overview of early modern work on important Roman authors like Seneca, Ovid and Juvenal, as well as several other famous Latin and neo-Latin authors.

Two collections recently given to HMML included artwork and rare books. The artwork included lithographs, prints, woodcuts, and 61 books illustrated by Fritz Eichenberg (1901-1990) a German-American illustrator and arts educator who worked primarily in wood engraving. Eichenberg's best-known works are concerned with religion, social justice and nonviolence. The donor collected the Eichenberg materials over a lifetime,



*Father Rick LaBrecque from Little River, South Carolina presents HMML Executive Director Father Columba Stewart with a gift in the summer of 2016 of rubbings of a Chinese stele with Syriac inscriptions describing the development of Syriac Christianity in China.*



**LEFT:** *A tiny early modern manuscript on the life of Saint Jerome. This manuscript was part of a large anonymous gift given to HMML in late 2016.*

**RIGHT:** *This 1647 edition of plays by Beaumont and Fletcher includes a work about Malta. The book was given as a part of the same gift to HMML in late 2016.*

creating a valuable resource for study. The Eichenberg materials complement the Arca Artium art and books collection donated by Frank Kacmarcik, Obl. S.B.

In December 2016, a HMML friend who wishes to remain anonymous donated a 29-volume collection of rare books valued at \$91,600. According to Dr. Heintzelman, there are numerous high points in the collection: a 1479 incunable with sermons by Michael de Carcano (Michael of Milan); a 1509 Breviary from Paris; a tiny manuscript detailing the life of Saint Jerome; and a 1647 folio edition of plays by Beaumont and Fletcher.

All gifts, great or small, are well cared-for, studied and appreciated so that students, researchers and the public can enjoy them for years to come.

“Manuscripts and rare books given to HMML provide scholars with the ability to compare our microfilm collections with original documents on-site to aid their research,” said Dr. Daniel Gullo, assistant director of HMML and Joseph S. Micallef curator of HMML’s Malta Study Center. “They also provide opportunities for scholars to work with HMML for potential use in regional, national, or international exhibitions.”

## Giving to HMML

HMML welcomes gifts of artwork, manuscripts, rare books, microfilm and other items that will augment and complement our existing collections. Gifts are accepted with the understanding that they become the property of HMML upon receipt.

HMML accepts donated objects under the following conditions:

- Objects are relevant to and consistent with the purposes and activities of HMML.
- HMML can provide for the storage, protection and preservation of the objects under conditions that ensure their continued availability for HMML’s purposes and in keeping with professionally accepted museum standards.
- There are no restrictions or conditions as to their retention, location, cataloging or other considerations pertaining to their use and disposition.
- HMML does not accept items from donors who do not have clear title of the item.
- HMML does not knowingly accept objects that have been illegally imported or exported as set forth in the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, or subsequent agreements, or applicable state or federal statutes.
- Objects in the collections will be retained indefinitely if they continue to be relevant and useful to the purposes and activities of HMML, and if they can be properly stored, preserved and used.

HMML does not appraise any donations. It is the responsibility of the donor to make arrangements for any appraisals. If you are considering donating an item to HMML, or would like a complete copy of HMML’s Collections Policy, please contact: Erin Lonergan, HMML Director of Development: 320-363-2095, [elonergan@hmml.org](mailto:elonergan@hmml.org)

# HMML News

## HMML in the News

HMML has been featured in several high-profile international news stories this winter and spring, including:

- PBS' *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*, January 27, 2017: "Extended Interview Fr. Columba Stewart OSB." Interview by Kate Olson.
- *The Atlantic*, February 23, 2017: "The Monk Who Saves Manuscripts from ISIS." Written by Matteo Fagotto.
- BBC World Service, *NewsHour*, February 25, 2017. Interview with Father Columba Stewart. Story begins at the 33:10 minute mark.
- NPR's *Here and Now*, March 13, 2017: "This Benedictine Monk Travels the World Helping Preserve Centuries-Old Manuscripts, Cultural Heritage." Interview by Robin Young.
- Australia's *The World Today*, March 27, 2017: "Benedictine Monastery Working to Preserve Ancient Islamic Texts." Interview by Kim Landers.
- The Vatican's *L'Osservatore Romano*, April 4, 2017. "Salvare un Patrimonio Culturale." Interview by Solène Tadié.
- Katholisch.de., April 11, 2017: "Der Manuskriptjäger." Interview by Johanna Heckeley.
- *National Catholic Register*, April 19, 2017: "A Minnesota Monk Takes on ISIS." Story compiled by EWTN/Thomas J. Craughwell.
- Radio New Zealand, April 26, 2017: "Saving Ancient Religious Manuscripts from Destruction." Interview by Jesse Mulligan.

Links to all media stories can be found on HMML's website, [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org).

## Partnership on Zaydi manuscripts in Yemen

In April, HMML announced a partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey to provide open access to approximately 15,000 digitized Zaydi manuscripts from Yemen and neighboring countries. The three-year project will help support and make accessible the Zaydi handwritten heritage—a heritage that is on the verge of destruction in Yemen.

The Zaydi literary tradition is among the richest and most variegated traditions within Islamic civilization and at the same time, one of the least studied. Zaydi scholars produced manuscripts for over one thousand years covering a wide spectrum of traditional disciplines.

The project, "The Zaydi Manuscript Tradition (ZMT)," consists of two components: a digital portal on the website of the IAS, and manuscript images with catalog records in vHMML Reading Room, HMML's online environment for manuscript studies. Through the ZMT Portal and vHMML Reading Room, scholars around the world will be able to access Zaydi manuscripts from libraries in Yemen and neighboring countries, as well as those held by major libraries in Europe and the United States that have generously allowed access to their collections. Prominent among them are hundreds of Zaydi manuscripts microfilmed by HMML at the Austrian National Library in Vienna.



*Arabic commentary on a religious text, on paper, missing the beginning and last leaves (so without an extant title). Most likely dates to around the 12<sup>th</sup> century. From the Maktabat Āl al-Ghālibī in Ḍaḃyān, Yemen. Manuscript status is unknown. HMML Project Number ZMT 00561*



*A collection of doctrinal texts in Arabic, on paper, likely 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. It has a title page with the title "The empty letter," but this is likely secondary and incorrect. Held at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, Austria. HMML Project Number ZMT 00371.*

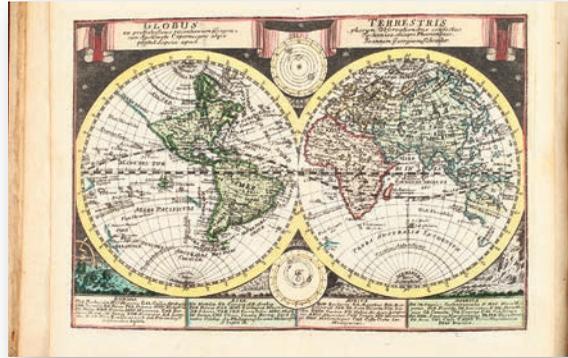
## Collegetville Reading Room exhibition: Terra Incognita

*Terra Incognita: Tracing Western Understanding of the Earth through Maps* was on exhibition in HMML's Reading Room in Collegetville from February to May 2017. The exhibition was curated by HMML's Programming Director, Tim Ternes, and Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, curator of the Austria-Germany Study Center and cataloger of rare books. The maps in the exhibition look foreign to our eyes, due largely to the changing understanding of the world over time and the attempt by early mapmakers to fill in missing data. This "Terra incognita," or unknown land, was often filled with anomalous details - such as California depicted as an island.

The collection of maps illustrates how the conception of the world changed from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Understanding of the world continues to evolve, and the accurately detailed maps available today may become the Terra incognita of the future.

A comprehensive online exhibition showcases all the materials featured in the exhibition in digital format. See the exhibition online at: [www.hmml.org/terraincognitaexhibition.html](http://www.hmml.org/terraincognitaexhibition.html)

**RIGHT:** *Louis Hennepin. A new discovery of a vast country in America, extending above four thousand miles, between New France and New Mexico. With a description of the Great lakes, cataracts, rivers, plants, and animals: also, the manners, customs, and languages, of the several native Indians; and the advantage of commerce with those different nations. With a continuation: giving an account of the attempts of the Sieur de la Salle upon the mines of St. Barbe, &c. The taking of Quebec by the English; with the advantages of a shorter cut to China and Japan. Both parts illustrated with maps and figures, and dedicated to his Majesty K. William. London, Printed for M. Bentley, J. Tonson, H. Bonwick, T. Goodwin, and S. Manship, 1698.*



**ABOVE:** *Johann George Schreiber. Atlas selectus von allen Königreichen und Ländern der Welt : zum bequemen Gebrauch in Schulen, auf Reisen und beij dem Lesen der Zeitungen. Leipzig : [publisher not identified], [ca. 1750?]*



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## vHMML Update

vHMML, HMML's online research environment for manuscript studies, continues to expand in both users and content.

One of six vHMML components that help users understand and interpret manuscripts, vHMML Reading Room allows users to search for manuscripts by country, repository, author, language, genre, date, features, city or even script.

vHMML Reading Room now has over 17,000 active records—manuscripts and archival materials—that can be accessed by the anyone who registers to use HMML's free resource. Cataloged collections from Jerusalem, Turkey, Mali and Iraq and microfilm collections from Portugal, Spain and Italy have recently been uploaded to vHMML. Collections are added as cataloging allows.

vHMML Reading Room is one of the world's largest and most culturally diverse online collections of manuscript images. Learn more at [www.vhmml.org/readingRoom](http://www.vhmml.org/readingRoom).



## HMML at Conferences and Symposia

While on research leave at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, New Jersey, Fr. Columba continued to speak throughout the world about his research and HMML's digital preservation work.

- January 21-27: Annual meeting of the Catholic-Oriental Orthodox Dialogue in Rome, presented a paper on the historical development of the Eucharist
- February 6: Lecture for Fordham University, Bronx, New York: "Out of the Flames: Preserving the Manuscript Heritage of Endangered Syriac Christianity in the Middle East"
- February 7: Graduate seminar at Fordham, "Syriac Asceticism and Monasticism: Re-centering the Traditional Account of Monastic Origins"
- February 15: Maryland Institute for Technology and the Humanities, University of Maryland: "Giving Voice to Ancient Texts: Digital Preservation and Access for Endangered Manuscripts from Threatened Communities," repeated March 13 in the Digital Humanities series at IAS in Princeton, New Jersey
- March 10: Keynote lecture at conference on Medieval Ethiopia, University of Toronto, "The Pioneering Work of the Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library (EMML) and How Its Challenges and Mission Endure in the Digital Age"
- March 14: Medieval seminar at IAS on his translation of the Syriac *Gnostikos*, a text by the fourth-century monk Evagrius Ponticus
- March 28: Lecture at Princeton University, "Egypt, Mesopotamia, and (Pointless) Search for the Origins of Christian Monasticism"
- March 29: Lecture for the Friends of IAS, "What a (Modern) Monk Does: Digitally preserving endangered manuscripts in threatened communities"

HMML's Dr. Anton Pritula, lead cataloguer for the Eastern Christian collection, presented at a March 30 symposium, *Cultural Heritage Across the Christian East*, at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The symposium explored the challenges of preserving the cultural heritage of the Christian East. Dr. Pritula's presentation, "Chaldean Manuscript Collections. 'Adbishō' of Gazarta: Patriarch, Poet, Scribe and Commissioner'," highlighted discoveries within HMML's digital collections.

Dr. Pritula is also a recipient of a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany, conducting research on *'Adbishō' of Gazarta: Chaldean Patriarch, Poet, Scribe and Commissioner* at Georg-August University of Göttingen from May 22-July 28, 2017. Dr. Pritula also presented, "The Syriac Literary Circle at the Mongol Court (late 13<sup>th</sup> century)" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May.

Dr. Matthew Heintzelman, curator of HMML's Austria-Germany study center and cataloger of rare books, presented on vHMML at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May. The presentation was entitled, "Introduction to vHMML Reading Room: Manuscript Cataloging and Images in One Online Resource."



*In mid-January, Fr. Columba Stewart participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual international joint commission for theological dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches in Rome where he met Pope Francis. The International Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches meets annually.*

## Alcuin Library Renovation, Learning Commons and *The Saint John's Bible* Gallery

Beginning in May 2016, Saint John's University's Alcuin Library began its \$25 million renovation project—the first major renovation to the space since it was built in 1966. During the renovation, Alcuin Library was closed and students and faculty used Clemens Library at the College of Saint Benedict.

On February 20, 2017, the completed renovation was opened to the campus community. The renovation features more open study areas, collaborative space for student group work, and compressed shelving for the library's print collection. The new space also showcases the two concrete Trees of Knowledge, designed by the building's original architect Marcel Breuer, that anchor the main floor of the library.



*An architect's rendering of the new gallery for The Saint John's Bible, set to open on the lower level of Alcuin Library in October 2017.*

"We want to respect, honor and preserve those parts of our history," Saint John's University President Michael Hemesath said, "but do it in a way that recognizes that our students and their parents expect a 21<sup>st</sup> century education."

This fall, the second phase of the project will include two components: a permanent gallery for *The Saint John's Bible*, located in the lower level of Alcuin Library, and the new Dietrich Reinhardt OSB Learning Commons connected to the east side of Alcuin Library.

The new 1,700 square-foot gallery will allow visitors to view 28 original folios of *The Saint John's Bible*, while also featuring displays of the sketches, tools, methods and materials used in creating the sacred work. The opening exhibition will feature a sampling of folios from each of the seven volumes, while future exhibitions may feature one volume at a time. A dedication and opening ceremony for *The Saint John's Bible* Gallery will be held in October 2017.

The new 22,000-square-foot Dietrich Reinhardt OSB Learning Commons will feature flexible classrooms wired with the latest technology, and a variety of informal social learning spaces. When the Learning Commons is complete, Alcuin Library will have over 100,000 feet of space for a myriad of uses. Keep up with the latest news at Saint John's University on their website, [www.csbsju.edu](http://www.csbsju.edu). Find out more information about the Alcuin Library renovation, [www.csbsju.edu/news/alcuinreopens](http://www.csbsju.edu/news/alcuinreopens).

## Introducing: Finds in Arca Artium

Arca Artium is 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. Most of the artworks are prints, ranging from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present, providing a study collection for the history of printmaking in the west. Many are significant examples of 20<sup>th</sup> century religious art. Arca Artium also includes carvings, icons, furniture, metalwork, and fiber arts.

Upcoming issues of *Illuminations* will feature an item from the collection. Katherine Goetz, HMML registrar, profiles the piece. Goetz holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and the University of Leicester. She has worked with several museum collections and is currently writing a book on the history of visual art in Minnesota.

In this issue, we are highlighting:

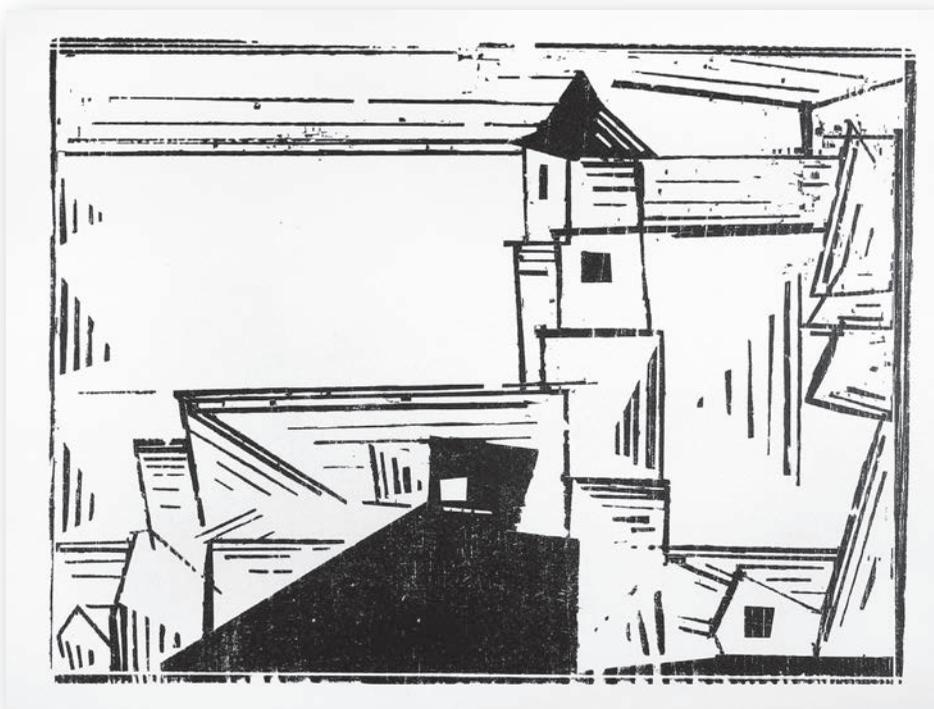
**Lyonel Feininger**  
(American, 1871-1956)  
**Yellow Village Church 3**  
1931, Woodcut on paper

From 15<sup>th</sup> century woodcuts to 18<sup>th</sup> century engravings, older works of art dominate the Arca Artium collection. The woodcut print *Yellow Village Church 3* by German Expressionist Lyonel Feininger is a work in the collection that represents a modernist take on a religious subject.

Feininger was a central figure in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century avant garde art world. He was one of the founders of the influential Bauhaus school; the roughness and simplicity of the woodcut technique used in *Yellow Village Church 3* echoes the Bauhaus aesthetic. The flat planes, blocky shapes, and sharp lines of the woodcut also tie the print to the primitivism and expressionism associated with the equally influential group Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) of which Feininger was also a founder, and to the geometric abstractions of the Cubists.

Der Blaue Reiter dissolved in the trauma of World War I. Feininger then joined three other artists (the Russians Wassily Kandinsky and Alexei Jawlensky, and the Swiss-German Paul Klee) in another group, Die Blaue Vier (The Blue Four). By 1931, the year he created *Yellow Church 3*, Feininger had an international reputation as a major artist.

Two years later the Nazi party came to power and it became dangerous to be a modernist in Germany. Nazi doctrine labeled work like Feininger's as spiritually perverse for its style and content. The state seized many of Feininger's works and in 1937 he became one of the 'degenerate' artists shown in the infamous Munich Degenerate Art exhibition.



# HMML Scholars

CATALIN-STEFAN POPA

PhD in History of the  
Oriental Churches, University  
of Göttingen, Germany

*Project Title: Identity or Alterity?  
Eastern Christianity Perceiving  
Jerusalem (4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*



Swenson Family Fellowship in  
Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, March 1-25

LUSINE SARGSYAN

PhD Student, Chair of Armenian  
Art History and Theory, Yerevan  
State University, Armenia

*Project Title: Lost and Found  
– Armenian Gospel Book and  
Lectionary from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century*



Swenson Family Fellowship  
in Eastern Christian  
Manuscript Studies, March 26-April 14

SHANNON AMBROSE

Associate Professor of English, Saint  
Xavier University, Chicago Campus

*Project Title: Austrian Monastic  
Identities and Visionary Narrative  
Collections of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>  
Centuries: The Evidence of the Visio  
Cuiusdam Pauperulae Mulieris, the  
Visio Wettini, and the Vita S. Fursei*



Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship in Manuscript  
Studies, March 27-April 18

## Heckman Scholars

January 1 – June 30, 2017

Bradley Phillis, PhD Student, Medieval History,  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

*Project Title: Two Murders and a Coronation:  
Crusade and the Counts of Flanders, 1071-1204*

Valeria Vanesio, PhD Candidate in Archival and  
Library Science, Sapienza University Rome  
*Project Title: The Noble Procedures of the Sovereign  
Military Order of Malta: An International  
Organization through its Documents*

Kevin Dumke, PhD Candidate, Department  
of History, Saint Louis University

*Project Title: In Ecclesia Hospitalis; the Religious  
Life of Fourteenth-Century Italian Hospitallers*

Fr. Mebratu Kiros Gebru, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo  
Church, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Toronto, Ontario

*Project Title: Publishing a Critical Edition  
of the Ethiopic (Ge'ez) Book of Hours  
(Mäṣḥafä Sä'atat Zämä'alot Wäzälelit)*

Benjamin Gallucci-Wright, PhD Candidate,  
Medieval Studies, The University of Notre Dame

*Project Title: Benedictine Mass Publicity in an Age of Reform*

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## Visiting Scholars

Nicholas McDermott, PhD Student, History, Cardiff University, UK

*Project Title: The Use of Slaves by the Knights of St John from the Conquest of Rhodes to the Siege of Malta*  
Former Heckman: April 19-May 10

Miriam Wendling, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Musicology, University of Leuven, Belgium

*Project Title: The Plainchant Background to the Early Polyphonic Requiem*

Visiting Scholar: May 1-9

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