

ILLUMINATIONS



1965-2015: Preserving and Sharing



HML School Menu

Classical Antiquity: Paleography

Section 1: Overview — Cursives and Capitals

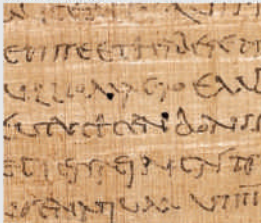
INTRODUCTION

Roman Cursive: Two varieties of informal script were used in the Roman period: a majuscule script known as **Older Roman Cursive** (also called **Ancient Roman Cursive**), which was used at least from the first century BCE through the third century CE, and a minuscule script known to scholars as **Later** (or **New Roman Cursive**), which succeeded Older Roman Cursive as the script of Roman imperial administration.


Roman Capitals: Two formal, majuscule scripts are very widely attested in Roman inscriptions, but in books, they survive only for a comparatively small number of very high-grade books. These are **Square Capitals** and **Rustic Capitals**. Despite being rare in manuscript in antiquity, these scripts have a very long after-life and huge influence. Both were used as **display scripts** throughout the Middle Ages, and **Square Capitals** give us our modern upper-case alphabet.

Click the images below to explore and compare these scripts before we discuss them in detail.

Older Roman Cursive



Later Roman Cursive





Illuminations

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ON THE COVER:

TOP: *Manuscript preservation then and now. Left: Microfilming team at work in Salzburg, Austria in the 1960s. Right: Digital photography team at work in Iași, Romania in 2007.*

BOTTOM: *Scholarly access to manuscript surrogates over the years. Left: Roland Behrendt OSB examines a microfilm at HMML in the 1970s. Right: Paleography lesson in vHMML's online manuscript school.*

THIS PAGE:

Fifty years of collecting information about the manuscripts that HMML preserves.

TOP: *Oliver Kapsner OSB, types bibliographic information about a manuscript prior to photography.*

BOTTOM: *Creating inventory records for manuscripts imaged at the Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux (CNMO) in Qaraqosh, Iraq.*

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 Lebanon, Iraq, Jerusalem, Egypt, Mali, and Malta. These resources—available through HMML's online catalog, OLIVER, image database, *Vivarium*, and recently-launched vHMML, which will introduce a new generation of scholars to manuscripts—have become essential tools for global manuscript research.

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 Spectrum Marketing Services, printer
 Set in the Junicode typeface.

Dear Friends,

These days HMML feels more and more like a technology company. We're working on several interconnected digital projects that will make us the go-to place for online manuscript study. As a result, I often feel like the mythological Roman figure Janus, facing toward past and future simultaneously. Preserving and describing ancient texts requires some understanding of the cultures that produced them, even as making them available to scholars worldwide keeps us peering ahead at new ways to do it better. As challenging as this binocular gaze can be, it is also exhilarating. Every day we have to reach deep into the scholarship that has always been HMML's hallmark while being mindful of the way scholars work now and equally aware of what other libraries are doing to make their resources known and available.

When people ask me how important these digital projects really are, I tell them that our online presence will be HMML for 99.9% of those who use our collections. Those who come to Collegeville with one of our fellowships or stipends will have a remarkable experience, but they are few. Having burst the print barrier with our online catalog fifteen years ago, and then the microfilm barrier with digital imaging a few years later, we're ready to bring down the last of the walls between scholar and manuscript as we prepare to put all of our digital collections completely online.

With both past and future to occupy us, we need to keep an eye on the present moment as well. We continue to work in areas in which violence, refugee crises, and tremendous uncertainty are part of daily experience. Cultural heritage is being destroyed in real time, with cynical manipulation of the media to flaunt barbaric acts. At HMML, in the best Benedictine tradition of wise use of the latest technology, we're doing the opposite, bringing to your screens the best of the past for the sake of learning our way to a better future.

Sincerely,



Columba Stewart OSB
Executive Director



Columba Stewart OSB and members of the HMML Board traveled to Austria in 2015 to visit the places where HMML's first microfilming team worked. Here, Fr. Columba holds a reel of microfilm at the Abbey library in Melk, where HMML filmed over 1100 manuscripts. Carefully stored and in perfect condition, HMML's films are still in use after a half century.

Launching *v*HMML

By Fr. Columba Stewart OSB

Those who study manuscripts have consistently been early adopters of new technology. Because they work with documents that are one of a kind, scholars need to *see* the manuscript, which is not always possible in person. Portions of manuscripts began to be published using metal engravings in the 17th and 18th centuries, but these were limited to snippets. Lithographed facsimiles of complete manuscripts

began to appear in the 19th century and, finally, full black-and-white photographic reproductions in the 20th. Complete color facsimiles became more common as printing techniques improved, but these were typically high-end collectors' items. For large-scale reproduction of documents, HMML's use of black and white and, very occasionally, color microfilm in its first decades was state of the art. Microfilm was

EDUCATION

SCHOOL offers lessons in paleography, codicology, and transcription. FOLIO provides annotated manuscript pages for study and practice in transcription. LEXICON explains terms used in manuscript studies. REFERENCE contains bibliography and links to digitized print resources.

RESEARCH

READING ROOM will launch in early 2016 with thousands of digitized manuscripts in several languages. New search tools will be supported by a completely rebuilt manuscript catalog. Until then, HMML's existing catalog OLIVER and other finding aids will help you find what you need.

Read about our future plans for development and improvements for *v*HMML...

School | Folio | Lexicon | Reference | Manuscript Catalog

funded in part by ARCADIA, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Henry Luce Foundation, Saint John's University

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Home screen of *v*HMML.

HMML School Menu Help

Syriac: Serto

Section 2: Mardin, CFMM 310, p. 62 (8th C.)
Canons

Lesson Index
Mardin, CFMM 310
← all lessons

Mardin, Church of the Forty Martyrs, CFMM 310, p. 62. All rights reserved. Image provided by HMML.

Syriac script lesson in vHMML school.

a durable but limited medium. The film itself could be viewed at HMML, it could be duplicated for use somewhere else, or individual frames could be printed. In each case someone or something had to travel to and from Collegeville. But first they had to learn what we had, for without an adequate catalog there was no way to know which reel of film had something of interest. And so HMML printed and mailed out many printed handlists and catalogs to alert the scholarly world of the treasures in the films.

The dawn of the internet in the 1990s provided a golden opportunity for HMML. A grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported the creation of an online catalog that finally went live to the world in 2001 with 30,000 records and quickly expanded to encompass all of HMML's legacy microfilm collection. With the transition to color digital imaging in 2003, HMML began to create new collections of thousands of digital manuscripts. Soon the online catalog contained links to sample images from each digitized

manuscript, providing valuable additional information for researchers trying to find the text they needed. A few years later, it became possible for scholars to request online access to manuscripts of interest to them, and within a day or two they could see their desired texts in a password-protected private gallery.

This was great progress from the days of microfilm and printed catalogs, but it wasn't enough. The explosion of information on the Web has raised expectations about ease of access. Any restriction or delay has begun to seem like a needless barrier to research, and a hindrance to the discovery of new and unexpected treasures that comes only with the freedom to roam through complete libraries. For many of HMML's manuscripts, especially from recent projects in war zones, the digital version is the *only* access to the manuscripts, even for those living very close to the owning libraries. Lowering barriers as much as possible has become an urgent ethical as well as intellectual imperative.

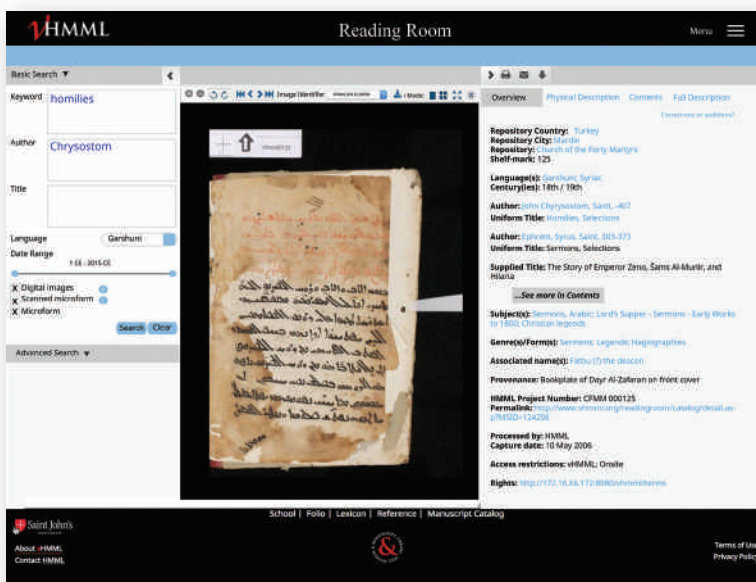
Meanwhile, another challenge was emerging, and responding to it has taken HMML into the field of education about manuscripts. Reading an ancient document requires skills beyond those needed to read a printed edition. The quirks of handwriting styles through the centuries, customs of abbreviation to save time and valuable parchment, and other peculiarities of manuscript texts have to be mastered before these venerable books yield up their secrets. In an era of straitened finances even at major universities, training in the science of paleography (the study of ancient writing) has become an endangered and often extinct academic subject.

Conscious of these two imperatives — providing the easiest possible access to manuscripts and helping to develop the skills needed to read them — HMML has undertaken a major expansion of its digital initiatives. Thanks to a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, work began in 2012 on a *virtual* HMML, now called *v*HMML, that would train new readers of manuscripts and eventually provide access to HMML’s tens of thousands of digitized manuscripts, as well as scans of microfilms. The first phase of *v*HMML launched on October 5, and it is beautiful.

Visitors to www.vhmmml.org will find a **School** in which to learn paleography. Already there are lessons in Latin and Syriac, soon to be joined by Arabic, Ge’ez (Ethiopic), Armenian, Greek, and other languages. Exercises in transcribing manuscripts test and sharpen the budding paleographer’s abilities. A searchable **Lexicon** of terminology used in the


study of manuscripts and the cultures that produced them, and a searchable and exportable **Reference Collection** of important works about manuscripts, with links to digitized versions where available, provide support for ongoing research. **Folio** is set of richly annotated sample pages, a digital version of the traditional paleographical album, created in partnership with scholars at the University of Kentucky. Together, these make for the richest trove of educational resources about manuscripts to be found in the vast online world. **School** and **Folio** showcase many manuscripts from HMML’s projects as well as important examples from leading libraries around the world that have generously allowed images of their manuscripts to be used in this path-breaking initiative.

As dazzling as *v*HMML already is, even better is coming. Phase two in early 2016 will bring **Reading Room**, soon to be the world’s largest online collection of manuscripts. A completely rebuilt manuscript catalog, funded by the Mellon Foundation, will enable the user to explore all of HMML’s manuscript collections with much more accurate information and much easier searching. Manuscripts with color digital images (more than 50,000 will be available) or scanned black and white microfilm (thousands more) will be viewable in the state-of-the-art Mirador environment, with very responsive panning and zooming tools. To access those manuscripts, users of Reading Room will be asked to register, just as they would when visiting a major library. This one-time, no-cost, registration will unlock the doors to unimaginable riches. Stay tuned for more!



Prototype of a manuscript view in the forthcoming vHMML Reading Room. In Reading Room researchers will find a completely rebuilt online catalog, rich search tools and complete manuscripts available for study with a state-of-the-art image viewer.

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Awarded \$4 Million Grant From Arcadia Fund

 In September 18th, 2015, at HMML's 50th Anniversary celebration, executive director Columba Stewart OSB announced the single-largest gift to HMML in its 50-year history. Arcadia Fund awarded a \$4 million grant to the HMML that will support digitization, archiving and cataloging of endangered manuscript collections through 2021. In addition, Arcadia's funding will make these digitized materials freely available through HMML's online Reading Room. The recently-launched vHMML will provide access for scholars throughout the world to the digital images and related cataloging.

Since 2009, HMML and its partners have digitized over 5,000 manuscripts in Iraq. From 2004-2012, HMML digitized almost 3,000 manuscripts in Syria until conditions made further work impossible.

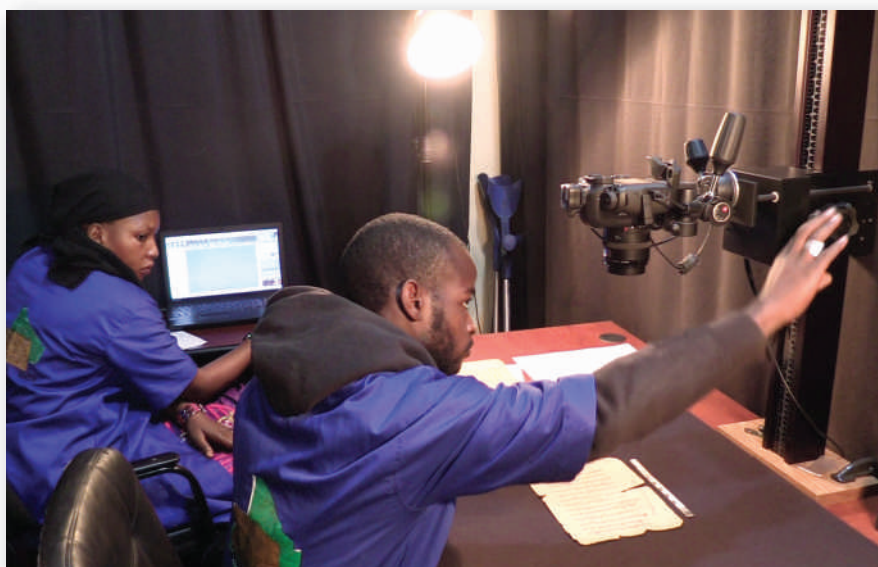
“As the Islamic State escalates its war on culture, HMML's manuscript preservation mission has never been more urgent,” said Fr. Columba.

“Thousands of precious manuscripts have been destroyed in Iraq alone. In addition to threats from extremist groups, traditional communities are threatened by emigration and rapid political and economic change, placing centuries-old manuscript collections at risk. Arcadia's support means the contents of thousands of unique, handwritten books will now be preserved in high-quality digital form for future generations.” Fr. Columba noted that some of these manuscripts date back to the first millennium, and many of them have been previously unknown to western scholars. Many of these works

document the dialogue and debate between Christians and Muslims. This valuable evidence about historic modes of cultural engagement can inform the decisions we make today about dialogue among different religions and peoples.

This is the second major grant HMML has received from Arcadia. A \$3 million grant was awarded in 2011 and was designated for manuscript preservation over a five-year period. Currently, HMML is preserving manuscript collections at sites in Lebanon, Iraq, the Old City of Jerusalem, Egypt, Mali and Malta.

Arcadia is the charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing. Arcadia supports charities and scholarly institutions that preserve cultural heritage and the environment, and promote open access. Since its inception in 2002, Arcadia has awarded more than \$331 million in grants.



Camera technicians digitize Timbuktu's historic manuscripts at the Arcadia-funded HMML/SAVAMA-DCI project in Bamako, Mali.

1965-2015

Fifty Years, 150,000 Manuscripts *One Mission*

By Wayne Torborg

PROLOGUE

What can we learn from studying the ruins of an ancient fortress? We can survey and map the site. We can examine the building materials and speculate on the construction techniques. Architectural and artistic details can be noted. If the right materials are found, we might determine a timeframe.

But there is only so much that ancient walls can tell us. Who were the builders, and what was their life like? What did they believe in, what was their social structure, their laws, their history? Who were the walls built to keep out, and why? On questions like these, the mute stones withhold their secrets.

We long to understand the people who came before us. We want to know their stories, their customs, their understanding of the cosmos. We want to know their *mind*. But you cannot learn about hopes and dreams from rocks, nor from pottery shards, old weapons or even gold coins. To learn these things, you need *words*.

The written word is a miraculous thing. It allows human thought to escape the bounds of physical mortality. It is a bridge to people from different places and cultures across chasms of centuries. It is the closest thing to a time machine that we may ever have.

Preserving the written word is the mission of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.



One of the carved stone pillars of Göbekli Tepe, an important archaeological site northeast of the city of Şanlıurfa, Turkey. In the absence of inscriptions or a written record, the enigmatic symbols raise more questions than they answer.

celebrating 50 years

BEGINNINGS

For 1500 years, members of the Order of Saint Benedict have worked to preserve human thought and culture. They created communities of work and worship, fostered learning, and built great libraries.

In this same period, the European continent has endured the destructive forces of nearly five hundred armed conflicts, ranging from localized disputes to world wars.

In the years following the Second World War, a stunned humanity struggled to comprehend its loss. Along with the millions who perished, there was a tremendous loss of art, books, and cultural material. It was as if the war, in addition to destroying human life, attempted to erase the collective memory of humankind. People wondered: If a third world war came, would anyone or anything survive?

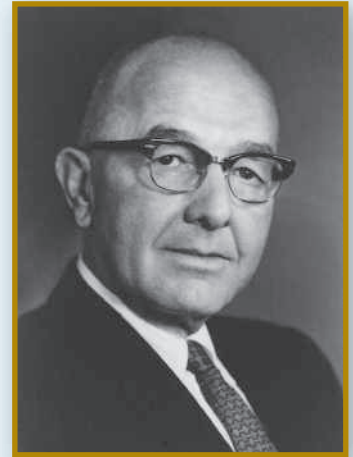
These concerns were shared by a group of Benedictines on the other side of the world. In the early 1960s Colman Barry OSB, the president of Saint John's University, conceived of an ambitious plan. Copies would be made of the precious hand-written manuscripts held in European Benedictine libraries. These would be brought to Saint John's for safekeeping and made available to scholars for research.

From Antiquity through the Middle Ages, the way to make a copy of a manuscript was to painstakingly create a word-for-word duplicate by hand. Monks had done this for centuries, copying books and disseminating knowledge. But the Benedictines are



Colman Barry OSB became president of Saint John's University in 1964. Inspired by a project in the 1950s to microfilm a selection of the Vatican's manuscripts, he envisioned Saint John's as a safe repository for microfilms of manuscripts held in Benedictine libraries from across Europe.

Al Heckman, director of the Hill Family Foundation at the time of HMML's founding. His work to provide initial funding for the microfilm project was crucial in getting things started. His legacy lives on in the Heckman Stipends that are awarded to researchers wishing to come to HMML for study.



not trapped in a medieval mindset; for this project they would employ the latest technology for copying and preserving texts: Microfilm.

With microphotography, large original materials could be optically reduced in size, allowing a huge manuscript book to be preserved on a small reel of film. Newspapers, banks and governments used microfilm for their archiving needs—now this modern technology would be applied to the preservation of ancient texts.

Before any of this could happen, there were a number of hurdles to overcome. Funding was one of these, and a gift of \$40,000 from the Hill Family Foundation under the direction of Aldred Heckman was instrumental in getting things started. Technical support for the project was another—this was provided by Eugene Power, the founder of University Microfilms Incorporated.

Next, Saint John's would need to find willing partners among the Benedictine libraries of Western Europe. Agreements would have to be signed and logistical challenges solved. To handle this, they chose Fr. Oliver Kapsner OSB, a trained librarian with the necessary language skills and European experience. In the autumn of 1964, Fr. Oliver left for Italy to begin his "prospecting."

It did not go smoothly. As he traveled across Italy, Switzerland and Austria, Fr. Oliver encountered indifference, government red tape, and even an informal agreement between libraries not to allow their manuscripts to be copied. While the Monastic Manuscript Project, as it was christened, was being touted in news releases back in Minnesota, the project was going nowhere in Europe.



During the Spanish Civil War, Complutense University in Madrid was subjected to intense bombing and artillery fire. 80,000 books were lost, including most of Madrid Codex 31, one of the oldest Latin versions of the complete Bible. Almost 75 years later, a complete microfilm of this work was found at HMML.



LEFT: Front-page story in the October 29, 1964 issue of the Minneapolis Star announcing the start of the microfilming project.

RIGHT: Oliver Kapsner OSB poses with Eugene Power, the founder of University Microfilms, Inc. and the chief technical advisor to the microfilming project.



SIE WERDEN IN KREMSMÜNSTER ANFANGEN

Things finally changed for Fr. Oliver upon his arrival at Kremsmünster Abbey in northern Austria. Preparing himself for more bad news, he instead received a message from the abbot translating to, “Welcome to Kremsmünster. You will begin your work here.”

Why did Albert Bruckmayr OSB, the abbot at Kremsmünster, defy the informal agreement of his peers to allow the project to begin? It might have been a sense of monastic kinship and an appreciation of Saint John’s other good works. It also could be that he was keenly aware of Austria’s geopolitical situation as a neutral country sandwiched between the growing arsenals of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Soon afterwards, other monasteries agreed to work with the Saint John’s team, who traveled from place to place carrying their bulky equipment in a Volkswagen minibus. Over the next seven years, Fr. Oliver and his successor, Urban Steiner OSB, supervised the filming of over 30,000 manuscripts in Austria, forming the basis of what became known as the Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Library (MMML).



TOP: Getatchew Haile examines Ethiopian manuscripts and prayer scrolls from MMML’s collection. A MacArthur Fellow and winner of the Edward Ullendorff Medal, Dr. Haile spent his career at MMML researching and cataloging the EMML manuscript collection.

ETHIOPIA

MMML’s success was noticed by others. In the early 1970s, His Holiness Abuna Theophilos, leader of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, had similar worries about the safety and future of his country’s rich manuscript holdings. Ethiopia’s manuscript tradition was unbroken from the beginning of Christianity to the present, but was threatened by souvenir hunters, an active black market in antiquities, and the lack of proper library facilities. He expressed these concerns to Prof. Walter Harrelson, former dean of the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University, who was in Addis Ababa conducting manuscript research.

Harrelson returned to the US and contacted Julian Plante, then the director of MMML at Collegeville. Securing initial funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the planners put together a partnership between MMML, Vanderbilt University and the Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate. The project was called the Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library (EMML) and received the blessing of Haile Selassie, Ethiopia’s emperor. Microfilming began in September of 1973.



Sergew Hable Selassie and Abuna Theophilos inspect manuscripts brought to Addis Ababa for filming.

Just as the project got underway, Ethiopia descended into chaos. In 1974, Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries deposed and imprisoned the emperor, who later died under mysterious circumstances. In 1978, the field director for the EMML project left the country. In 1979, the Ethiopian Orthodox patriarch was arrested and executed. Twelve more years of civil war were still to come.

Miraculously, the project survived. With funding from the Ford Foundation, manuscripts continued to be brought to Addis Ababa for filming. Communication between the project workers and their American sponsors became sporadic, but the EMML camera team continued working until 1994, by which time over 9000 manuscripts had been photographed.

Further funding from the NEH provided HMML with the means to hire people to begin the monumental task of cataloging the thousands of manuscripts. One of these was Dr. Getatchew Haile, a former professor in Addis Ababa and member of the Ethiopian Parliament who had survived an armed attack by forces of the new regime. He spent the rest of his career at HMML, expertly documenting the handwritten heritage of the country from which he was exiled.

EXPANSION

MML's early successes brought new preservation opportunities. In 1973 with Joseph S. Micallef KMOB, Honorary Consul General of Malta Saint Paul/Minneapolis, MMML founded the Malta Study Center. This small island nation, once ruled by the Knights of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Malta, and Rhodes, played an important role in the history of the Mediterranean since the twelfth century. In 1973, MMML began filming the extensive manuscript, music and archival document holdings at the Cathedral Archives of Malta. In 1989 filming commenced at the National Library with the preservation of the Archives of the Order of Malta. The project eventually microfilmed over 22,000 items.

MMML, now renamed The Hill Monastic Manuscript Library (HMML) continued expanding its coverage, eventually working in Germany, Spain, Portugal, England, Switzerland, South Africa and Sweden. By the end of the 20th century, more than 90,000 reels of microfilm filled HMML's vault.



Processing microfilm in 1973. At the Conventual Priory in Rabat, Malta, Louis Calleja OFM Conv. prepares the specialized film developing machine.



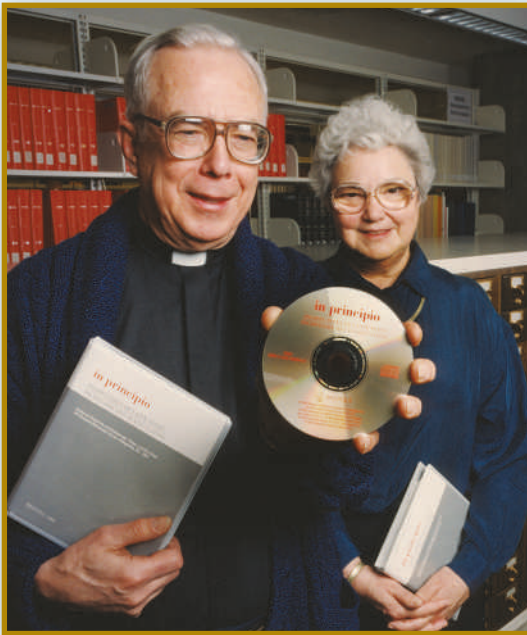
April 8, 1975: Groundbreaking ceremony for the new microfilm library. Pictured are Michael Blecker OSB, Julian Plante, Al Heckman, Abbot John Eidenschink OSB, Roland Behrendt OSB, and Kieran Nolan OSB.

DIGITAL

During the 1990s, the technologies of information storage and dissemination were changing once again. Electronic databases, computer networks and digital media were replacing index cards and reels of film.

Once again the Benedictines adapted. In the mid-1990s, work began to convert the information from index cards and printed catalogs into computerized records. Data that once occupied dozens of cabinet drawers could now be contained on a CD-ROM disc. Eventually, these efforts created a master HMML manuscript database which was soon made available to the world via the Internet.

By this time, microfilming had ceased, and HMML's efforts centered on cataloging its vast collection. As the 21st century began, the question at HMML was, "What's next?"



Medieval texts enter the digital age. Peregrine Berres OSB and Wilma Fitzgerald SP pose with a copy of In Principio, an index of Latin manuscript incipits on disc. The project was a cooperative effort between HMML and the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes in Paris . The CD-ROM contains as many records as are in the card catalog behind them.

Columba Stewart OSB, HMML's new director, had bold plans for a new direction for HMML. Attention would shift from Western Europe to the near and Middle East, where traditions going back to the beginning of Christianity are threatened by political instability, radical fundamentalism and an exodus of community members to the West.

Methodology would also change. Microfilm had served its purpose admirably, but advancements in digital photography now made it possible to capture high-resolution color images of manuscript pages using cost-effective, durable equipment. Moving forward, HMML would employ digital imaging.

But first, Fr. Columba would have to make the same sort of pilgrimage that Fr. Oliver had made decades earlier. Traveling across Turkey, he encountered small groups of Christian families, the sole caretakers of once-vibrant communities that were decimated in the violence of the early 20th century. In Lebanon, he found a melting pot of eastern Christian cultures, a haven for refugees from other Middle East "hot spots." In India, he was shown piles of inscribed palm leaves, the slowly decaying historical record of churches dating back to the apostle Thomas.



Cal Sixta of ColorMax, a digital services vendor contracted by HMML, demonstrates a microfilm scanner to library technician Kassabun Temesgen at the National Archives and Library of Ethiopia. HMML traveled to Ethiopia in 2005 to obtain scans of EMLL microfilms that had never been sent to America due to Ethiopia's civil war.

Gaining the trust of these diverse communities required diplomacy and careful negotiation. In early 2003, HMML's first digital preservation project was launched at the monastery of Our Lady of Balamand in northern Lebanon.

The timing was ominous. Days after the first digital studio was installed, the United States and its allies invaded Saddam Hussein's Iraq. The region has been subject to continuing unrest, sectarian violence and civil war continuing to this day.

Through all of this, HMML gained new partners and expanded its operations, at one point having twenty studios operating across the region, each operated by local technicians. As HMML reached its fiftieth anniversary, it had collected digital copies of over 50,000 manuscripts.



Michelle Busuttill taking the last picture of the MCC AO Digitization Project, June 2015. The project was initiated in 2007 between the National Archives of Malta and HMML.



In the first years of HMML's digital preservation initiative, manuscript images were sent to HMML on DVD-ROM discs. After collecting over 8500 of these, HMML switched to hard disk drives. All data has since been backed up to archival tape and secondary hard drives.



Volumes of the Magna Curia Castellaniae, Acta Originalia (MCC AO), at the National Archives of Malta in Mdina. HMML recently completed the seven-year project of digitizing this large and important collection of Maltese court records.

THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Looking forward to the next fifty years, HMML continues to expand the scope of its operations both in the field and at home.

In recent years, new preservation initiatives are broadening the scope of HMML's holdings. The addition of the famous manuscript collections of Timbuktu, Coptic manuscripts from Egypt, and manuscripts from private Islamic libraries in the Old City of Jerusalem will attract a

wider range of scholarly interest and foster cross-cultural study and understanding.

HMML has also launched projects that aim to make its resources available to more scholars worldwide and to allow collaborative research using HMML materials. HMML stands as the largest repository of manuscript surrogates in the world and strives to become a premier center for their study and interpretation.

Much has been accomplished, and more work is still to come. As HMML looks forward to its 100th anniversary, the primary sentiment is, "What's next?"



LEFT: Over 20,000 reference books were removed from HMML and stored offsite in preparation for its renovation in 2014.

BOTTOM: A portrait of Oliver Kapsner presides over HMML's new conference room. Along with a new public reading room, scholar offices and state-of-the-art classroom, HMML's new facilities are ready for the next fifty years. Photo by Fred J. Fuhrmeister



Dumbarton Oaks to Host Four-Week Syriac Summer School at HMML Summer 2016

Dumbarton Oaks in collaboration with the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) announces a new intensive four-week introductory course to Syriac language and paleography in summer of 2016. The program, sponsored and funded by Dumbarton Oaks, will be hosted at HMML, on Saint John's University campus in Collegeville from July 10 through August 6, 2016. The summer school will include a long weekend in Washington, DC to visit Dumbarton Oaks and other institutions in the area to learn more about their resources for Byzantine and Eastern Christian studies. The audience is doctoral students or recent PhDs who can demonstrate a need to learn Syriac for their research.

Approximately ten places will be available. All costs apart from travel to and from Saint John's University (nearest airport: Minneapolis-St. Paul) will be covered by Dumbarton Oaks including tuition fees, housing and meals. Travel expenses to Washington DC, accommodations, lunches, and entrance fees will also be covered by the program.

The Summer School will consist of morning and afternoon sessions Monday-Friday, complemented by guest lectures and other learning opportunities, as well as social events and enjoyment of the beautiful 2700-acre campus with woods, lakes, and notable architecture.

Each morning session will be devoted to the study of the Syriac language. The first two weeks will focus upon J.F. Coakley's sixth edition of *Robinson's Paradigms and Exercises in Syriac Grammar* (Oxford, 2013). Classes will entail grammatical instruction and review of forms. Prior familiarity with basic Syriac grammar is not a prerequisite but would be advantageous. The second two weeks will concentrate upon in-class reading of Syriac prose texts from the Peshitta New Testament, supplemented with short selections

from Aphrahat, Ephrem, and Jacob of Serugh.

Each afternoon session will provide orientation in the reading of Syriac manuscripts of all periods from the major script-types. It will incorporate Syriac language learning alongside instruction in paleography and codicology. Examples will be drawn from HMML's vast collection of digitized Syriac manuscripts. Students will have the opportunity to hone and challenge the language skills acquired in the morning sessions by reading brief excerpts of text, including colophons, while gaining a foundational experience in deciphering Syriac manuscripts from various communities and time periods.

Following this intensive course, students will be fully equipped to continue reading on their own or to enter Syriac reading courses at other institutions. The program welcomes international applicants but does not sponsor J visas. For application procedures and deadlines visit: <http://www.hmml.org/doakshmml.html>.

Knights, Memory, and the Siege of 1565

An Exhibition on the 450th Anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta

On September 9, the Malta Study Center opened a month-long exhibition marking the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta at HMML. The exhibition "Knights, Memory, and the Siege of 1565" featured over twenty rare books and manuscripts narrating the military history of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and the Ottoman Turks from the 1480 Siege of Rhodes through the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. Items on display came from the James Ford Bell Library and O. Meredith Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, the Rare Books and Special Collections of the Catholic University of America, and the Malta Study Center Collection at HMML. Highlights from the exhibition included two fifteenth-century publications recounting the 1480 Siege of Rhodes, Pierre Gentile de Vendôme's earliest history of



Rare books and manuscripts on display in the Reading Room at HMML, including works from the University of Minnesota, The Catholic University of America, and The Malta Study Center Collection.

the Great Siege of 1565, and Mederico Blondel's notes on the construction of the fortifications of Valletta. The exhibition, curated by Dr. Daniel Gullo, Joseph S. Micallef curator of the Malta Study Center, was on display from September 9th through November 10th in the newly renovated exhibition space in HMML's Reading Room. To open the exhibition, Dr. Emanuel Buttigieg of the Department of History at the University of Malta provided a public lecture titled, "The 1565 Great Siege of Malta: Knights-Maltese-Memory." The well-received talk began with a historic overview of the Great Siege, then focused on how the Order of Saint John and later the Maltese people remembered the siege as part of their cultural heritage. The exhibition opening was preceded by a reception at HMML, along with interviews of Drs. Gullo and Buttigieg broadcast by Mario Xuareb of TVM, National Television of Malta.

The Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM) Conference held at HMML

The Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM) Conference was held October 8th-10th, 2015 at HMML. The conference, themed "Medieval Diversity: Other Lives, Other Voices, Other Stories," included a keynote presentation by HMML's executive director, Fr. Columba Stewart OSB, entitled "HMML's Role in the World Today." The other keynote speakers

were Lisa Fagin Davis (Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America), who spoke on "The Manuscript Road Trip: Documenting Electronic Access to Medieval Manuscripts," and William F. Hodapp (College of St. Scholastica), who spoke on "Liberal Learning and the Roman Goddess Minerva in the Middle Ages: A Case Study in Medieval Classicism."

MAM is the leading society for medieval studies in the Midwest, founded to promote the study, criticism, research, and exchange of ideas related to all aspects of the medieval period and to articulate the specific needs of medievalists in the Midwest. The presence of thirty professionals at the conference marked in some way a "return" to Saint John's University for MAM. While MAM had never convened at Saint John's University, first discussions about founding the organization took place here in Spring 1975.

The 2015 conference was organized by Dr. Matthew Z. Heintzelman, curator for the Austria/Germany Study Center and Rare Books at HMML.



Prof. Peter Gaffney of Hiram College presents a session on traditional parchment making at the Medieval Association of the Midwest conference held at HMML in October.

HMML Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library celebrated its 50th anniversary with Millennium Club and Legacy Society members on Friday, September 18th 2015 at the Minneapolis Club. Over 150 attended the dinner event. An after dinner program titled “A Conversation with Fr. Columba” featured Fred de Sam Lazaro interviewing Fr. Columba. de Sam Lazaro is director of the Project for Under-Told Stories, at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, in the Twin Cities and Winona, Minnesota. The hour-long interview included stories of HMML’s past and present worldwide manuscript preservation projects. A link to the video of the program can be found at <https://vimeo.com/142652006>.

In the first week of November, HMML hosted a series of events at Saint John’s University and College of Saint Benedict to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Highlights included a HMML open house, behind-the-scenes vault tours of *The Saint John’s Bible*, and a lecture by Fr. Columba: “Guardians of Memory: HMML’s Race to Preserve our Handwritten History.” All events were open to Saint John’s University and College of Saint Benedict faculty, students and staff.



At the HMML 50th anniversary celebration in Minneapolis, Fr. Columba is interviewed by Fred de Sam Lazaro, director of the Under-Told Stories Project at St. Mary’s University in Winona, and regular contributor and substitute anchor for PBS’ Religion and Ethics Newsweekly.



Guests at HMML’s 50th anniversary celebration view a small exhibition of art objects from HMML’s Arca Artium collection.

HMML Completes New Strategic Plan

In fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015) the HMML staff and Board of Overseers completed an internal review and strategic planning process. (HMML's last internal review and strategic planning process took place in 2010–2011 as preparation for its \$16.2 million Capital Campaign.) HMML retained the services of MacCallum Ross to facilitate the process. Based in Minneapolis, MacCallum Ross is a collaborative team of professionals with extensive experience in planning strategies for higher education and nonprofits.

HMML's new strategic plan is well-defined and leverages its strengths to position HMML as a world leader in digital manuscript preservation, the development of digital manuscript catalogs and finding aids, and international scholarly discourse and engagement in the humanities.

In sum, HMML's new strategic plan outlined three major initiatives:

- 1 Provide ongoing support for HMML's leadership in the digitization of manuscripts.** This will build upon HMML's unparalleled ability to identify, digitize, archive and share endangered and inaccessible manuscripts, especially in at-risk areas, and maintain current level of activity and areas of focus for the next five years.
- 2 Significantly enhance HMML's fostering of ground-breaking research by becoming a leader in digital humanities.** Position HMML for a leadership role among the national and international institutions developing the tools and systems that empower researchers to use technology to work with digital manuscript materials remotely.
- 3 Strengthen opportunities for researchers, students and the general public to engage with HMML-based research.** Develop new programs for manuscript scholars, more fully integrate HMML into undergraduate education and research, and strengthen engagement with the general public. Programming will be based at HMML, the Twin Cities, and beyond including: hosting students from other colleges and universities, Road Scholars, and scholar seminars.

The plan includes year-by-year estimated costs for operating and capital projects, and a plan to implement the initiatives.

You will read more about these initiatives in upcoming issues of *Illuminations*.

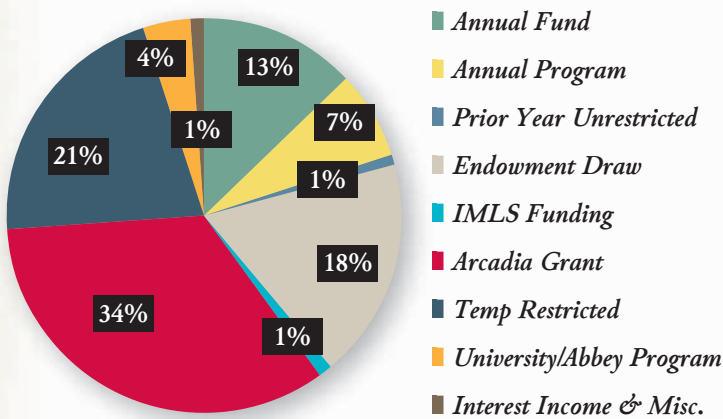
Philanthropy Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

HMML has made it a priority to preserve manuscript collections belonging to communities that are swiftly disappearing from their indigenous environments. By preserving manuscripts that witness to human creativity and cultural identity, HMML is safeguarding the memory of threatened communities. We are able to do this because individuals, organizations, foundations, governmental organizations and corporations support our work. HMML gratefully acknowledges the support of all who contribute to our manuscript preservation work.

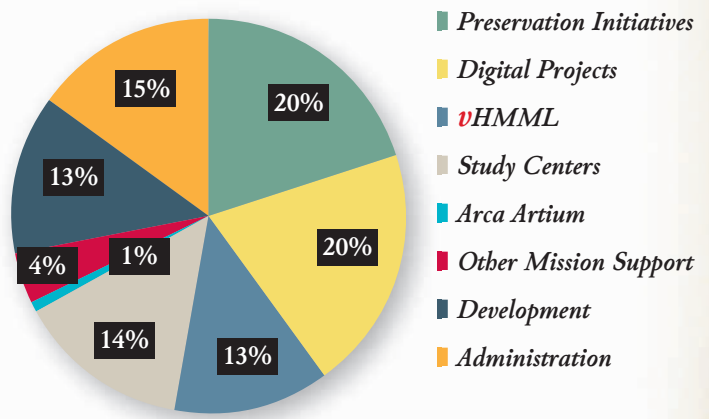
HMML Revenue by Source

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



HMML Expenses

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



The HMML Campaign

*July 1, 2008-June 30, 2015**

HMML is part of the \$160 million fundraising campaign for Saint John's University that continues through June 30, 2017. HMML has been counting gifts toward its \$16.2 million campaign goal since July 1, 2008. To date, HMML has raised a cumulative total of **\$13,467,647** (83% of \$16.2M goal).

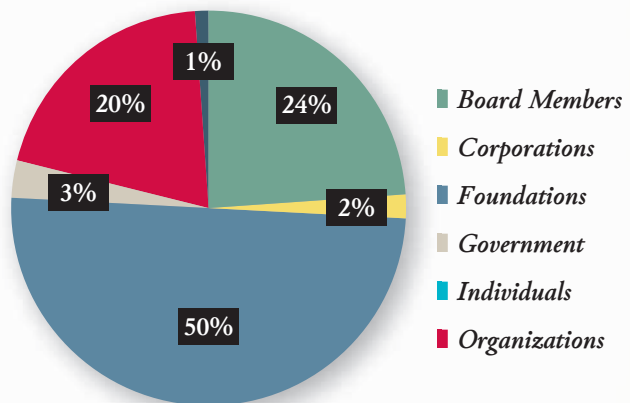
Visit hmml.org/campaign for details on progress toward campaign goals.

**Does not include the \$4 million Arcadia grant that was announced in September 2015.*

\$13,467,646

HMML Campaign Contributions by Source

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2015



Board Members Celebrate HMML's 50th Anniversary in Austria

Retracing the steps of HMML's founder, Fr. Oliver Kapsner

In June, 26 HMML Board members spent a week in Austria visiting the Benedictine monastic libraries where Fr. Oliver Kapsner began the Monastic Microfilm Library's (now HMML's) historic manuscript preservation work in 1965. The group was warmly greeted at the Abbeys of Göttweig, Melk, Saint Florian, Kremsmünster, Saint Peter's (Salzburg), and Admont where HMML microfilmed collections in the mid-to-late 60s and early 70s. Fr. Oliver's work was remembered during each of the library visits.



Saint Florian is the largest monastery in Upper Austria and is dedicated to a fourth-century saint whose grave lies beneath the monastery. It was also the home of the composer Anton Bruckner for many years. Pater Karl Rehberger, who knew Father Oliver Kapsner during HMML's microfilming project in the 1960s addressed the group before our tour.

A river cruise from Krems to Melk in the Wachau region of the Danube River provided opportunities for sightseeing and photography. In Vienna, the group enjoyed a tour of the Austrian National Library, located in the Hofburg palace which was home to the Habsburg dynasty that ruled Austria until 1918. While in Salzburg, the group took a guided walking tour of the city that included Mirabell Palace, the Getreidegasse (famous shopping area) and the 900-year-old Fortress Hohensalzburg, the biggest and most fully-preserved fortification in Europe.



Along the way, there were several opportunities for group members to spend time on their own—exploring famous historical landmarks like Mozart's birthplace, enjoying Sachertorte in one of many charming outdoor cafes, and soaking up Austrian culture.

Kremsmünster Abbey's magnificent monastery library was built between 1680 and 1689 by Carlo Antonio Carlone. It is one of the great libraries of Austria and contains about 160,000 volumes. The Abbot of Kremsmünster was the first to give permission to microfilm their manuscript collection. Here the librarian is showing a ninth-century illuminated manuscript.

HMML Hosts Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory

HMML hosted the Minnesota Manuscript Research Library, a project of the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota the week of June 7-12, 2015. Since 2004, HMML has hosted this annual week-long intensive seminar to introduce graduate students and advanced undergraduates to the skills required for manuscript research. After attending daily lectures pertaining to bibliographic tools, paleography and codicology, participants put their knowledge to the test in hands-on workshops using HMML's vast manuscript collections and resources. There were six graduate students participating in this year's program from the University of Minnesota.



Carin Ruff points out codicological details to students at the 2015 Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory held at HMML in June.

HMML Scholars

ANTONELLA SANNINO

Associate Professor of History of Medieval Philosophy, University of Naples, Italy

Nicky B. Carpenter
Fellowship in
Manuscript Studies

Project title: William
of Auvergne, Treatise
on Faith and on the
Laws: Studies of the
Sources and Selected
Critical Edition

August 5-September 14



GREGORY MYERS

Independent Musicologist, Center for Advanced Study, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dietrich Reinhart
OSB Fellowship in
Eastern Christian
Manuscript Studies

Project title: Music and
Urban Liturgical Ritual
in Slavia Orthodoxa,
11th – 15th Centuries:
the Triodion and
Pentecostarion

Fall 2015



Heckman Scholars

June 1- December 31, 2015

SHANNON TURNER — PhD Candidate,
History, Ohio State University, Columbus
Project title: Irimbert of Admont's Sermon-
Commentaries and his Exegetical Collaboration
with the Admont Nuns in the Twelfth Century
Visiting Scholar: July 19-31

ALISON ALTSTATT — Assistant Professor
of Musicology and Music History, School
of Music, University of Northern Iowa
Project title: Sancti Spiritus assit nobis
an Rex omnipotens: Mapping the
Transmission of Medieval Sequence
Visiting Scholar: July 19-31

YOSEF DEMISSIE DEGEFU — Ethiopian
National Archives, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Project title: Describing and Cataloging Manuscripts
from the Collections of the Ethiopian National
Archives and Library Agency (ENALA)
Visiting Scholar: July 26-August 8

EDWARD HOLT — PhD Candidate, History
Department, Saint Louis University, Missouri
Dissertation title: Liturgy, Ritual and Kingship in the
age of Fernando III of Castile-Leon (r. 1217-1252)
Visiting Scholar: August 1-21

RICHARD ALLINGTON — PhD Candidate,
Medieval History, Saint Louis University, Missouri
Dissertation title: Prayer Warriors: Crusading
Piety in Rome and the Papal States 1187-1291
Visiting Scholar: August 10-28

YOHANNES TEKLE GIDEY — PhD
Candidate, Department of Philology,
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Project title: The Ethiopic Book of Esther:
Critical Edition, Analysis, Annotated
Translation and Commentary
Visiting Scholar: October 15-November 13

ADAM FRANKLIN-LYONS — Assistant Professor
of History, Marlboro College, Vermont
Project title: Famine and Food Supply in
Catalonia After the Black Death
Visiting Scholar: December 6-16

Visiting Scholars

Mark Johnson, Associate Professor, Department of
Theology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Jacob Baum, Assistant Professor of History,
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Kevin Stanford, Columbus State University, Georgia

Zachary Yuzwa, Associate Professor, Department
of History, Saint Thomas More College,
University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Charles Hilken, Saint Mary's College,
Marago, California

Chris Schabel, Associate Professor of Medieval
History and Chair of the Department of History
and Archaeology, University of Cyprus

Monica Brinzei, Centre national de la recherche
scientifique, Institut de recherche et d'histoire
des textes (CNRS-IRHT), Paris, France

Micah Kiel, Associate Professor and Department
Chair, Saint Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa

Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, Glenstal
Abbey, County Limerick, Ireland

Scott Bruce, Associate Professor, Medieval
Europe, University of Colorado, Boulder

George Greenia, Professor of Hispanic Studies,
Modern Languages & Literatures, College of
William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

Sharon Kinoshita, Department of Literature,
University of California, Santa Cruz

Brian Catlos, Department of Religious
Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

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