

SPRING  
NEWSLETTER  
2014

# ILLUMINATIONS



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



ON THE COVER: *Abdel Kader Haïdara with hundreds of metal chests full of manuscripts, in a safe location in Bamako, Mali.*

ABOVE: *Contents of one of the chests in Bamako.*

### 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 560 libraries and archives, HMML has photographically preserved over 140,000 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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## Illuminations

### CONTENTS

- 2 Director's Letter
- 3 HMML in Mali
- 7 Where We're Working
- 9 Renovation of HMML: Then and Now
- 11 HMML News
- 14 First Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellows Study at HMML

*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,

For many years I have been aware of the extraordinary manuscripts of Timbuktu, and during the past decade I was occasionally asked if HMML were working there. My answer was always no, with two explanatory comments. First, in the early 2000s there were already many well-funded projects in Timbuktu. Second, the Islamic content of the manuscripts lay beyond the usual scope of HMML's work. Everything changed in April 2012, when armed Islamist forces swept through northern Mali, taking over Timbuktu and the surrounding area, and threatening to continue on to the capital, Bamako, in the south of Mali. The world began to hear stories of destruction of cultural patrimony, first of shrines and art, then of manuscripts. Everything deemed offensive to the invaders' very narrow interpretation of Islam was to be obliterated. At about the same time, HMML was taking its first steps in the preservation of Islamic manuscripts through partnerships with libraries in Ethiopia and in the Old City of Jerusalem. Then we heard the story of the rescue of Timbuktu's manuscripts, and were put in contact with the Prince Claus Fund in the Netherlands. They had supported the heroic efforts of Abdel Kader Haïdara and his team to move the manuscripts from Timbuktu to Bamako. We acted swiftly. Last August, I went to Bamako with our field director from Beirut, Walid Mourad, to meet Abdel Kader and his colleagues at SAVAMA-DCI, the organization representing the family libraries of Timbuktu. We set up a test studio, demonstrated our system, and trained a group of young Malians in the techniques of digital preservation.

In the following months we worked out the details of an expanded project, and returned to Mali in December 2013 with another complete studio. We signed a contract outlining the responsibilities on both sides, and did another round of training. Since then, the two cameras have been producing several hundred images each day.

We're now expanding the project even further, with two additional cameras and more IT infrastructure in Bamako so that they can archive and access the images locally, even as HMML provides long-term archiving and access to the broader scholarly world. The scope of the project is vast, with unknown numbers of manuscripts still packed in boxes in Bamako, and their contents a mystery to be revealed over decades of careful study. We hope to be in it for the long haul, and can do so with the help of you, our friends.

Sincerely,

Columba Stewart, OSB  
Executive Director



*Fr. Columba, HMML Board member Tom Barrett, and field director Walid Mourad with sorted manuscripts from Timbuktu and Banzoumana Traoré of SAVAMA-DCI.*

# HMML's Work in Mali: Preserving the Treasured Manuscripts of Timbuktu

By Nikki Rajala, Photos by Wayne Torborg

The deserts of Timbuktu sound like an exciting setting for a Hollywood adaptation of long-lost treasures and the action-filled race to rescue them from the wrong hands. But this true story has more drama than an Indiana Jones film. After the harrowing rescue by people of Mali of real treasures—a trove of unique Arabic manuscripts—the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library is assisting in keeping them in the *right* hands, and preserving them for centuries to come.

HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, told the story—and explained the role HMML is playing. He named Victoria Coifman, PhD, a professor of African history and African studies in the department of African American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, as an expert in the area who also supports and promotes HMML's work.

“Timbuktu, in its heyday,” Fr. Columba said, “was an important point on the trade route bringing gold from Mali across the Sahara to northern Africa. When trade shifted to the Atlantic coast, Timbuktu got forgotten.”

Coifman agreed. “In addition to trade, Timbuktu was a center of Islamic scholarship with a focus on religion, teachers, writing, and manuscripts. By the time the first European visited Timbuktu in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it had become less storied, with declining trade and encroaching sands.”

The explorers found other wealth—in manuscripts, not gold. For centuries documents had been housed in home libraries in Timbuktu.

“They’re not like libraries we think of,” said Fr. Columba. “Several related families living in the same compound would tuck important papers inside their Quran, like we would a family Bible. Multiply that by centuries. Many families had scholars—trained in law or medicine—who might have studied legal or medical applications of the Quran.

“There are beautiful examples of Arabic calligraphy—which their scribes were famous for—using curved letters themselves as art. Some pages have gold ornamentation or borders with geometric shapes; astronomy or mathematics manuscripts have gorgeous diagrams.”

Timbuktu’s archives contained commentary on the Quran, texts on astronomy, medicine, commerce, diplomatic relations, Arabic linguistics, and even property deeds. All told, there were about 40 large collections of books and papers.



ABOVE: From a poem in praise of the prophet Muhammad.



LEFT: The great Mosque of Djenné, Mali, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the largest mudbrick structure in the world.

BELOW: Catalogers at SAVAMA-DCI in Bamako create an inventory of the manuscripts rescued from Timbuktu.



Mali has been a center of peace until the last few years. According to Coifman, “Beginning in spring 2012 Mali ‘lost’ its northern region to (respectively) a military revolt against the government, the declaration of an independent polity by Berbers in this northern region, and the influx of ‘strangers’ and religious fundamentalists seeking revolution. Resolutions to the instability are being sought now under a newly-elected Malian head of state in a reunited Mali.”

Fr. Columba said it was in 2012 when there were clear signs of an invasion of hard-line Islamists into northern Mali. “Local people began quietly evacuating important family libraries and archives. That rescue is told well in the January 2014 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine. The insurgents arrived in summer 2012 and seized control.”

According to the *Smithsonian* article, the armed group called Ansar Dine banned singing, dancing, and celebrating Sufi festivals. Unveiled women were flogged. Sixteen mausoleums from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, housing the remains of beloved Sufi saints and scholars, were destroyed.

Then, manuscripts in their libraries—symbols of open-mindedness—became targets.

They were at risk, Fr. Columba said, “because these fundamentalist Muslims saw anything other than the Quran—even a commentary on the Quran—as decadent. What we think of as hallmarks of a cultivated civilized people, they consider a distraction from the Quran.

“In January 2013,” he said, “3,500 French paratroopers pushed the fundamentalists out. They’ve faded into the desert but when the French leave, they’ll return. Initial reports said they’d destroyed the manuscripts. By late January 2013, the truth emerged—people had successfully smuggled most of them out. Some were destroyed, but not thousands or tens of thousands.”

The manuscripts had been packed in thousands of metal boxes, moved 500 miles by land and water, and are now stashed in hidden locations in Bamako—Mali’s capital city.



ABOVE: Fr. Columba stands with some of the thousands of metal shipping boxes containing the rescued manuscripts of Timbuktu.



But a graver danger emerged—mildew and mold in the damp storage conditions of Bamako’s tropical climate.

“In May 2013—in the Amsterdam airport,” Fr. Columba said, “I met with a program officer of the Prince Claus Fund which funded the rescue. She put me in contact with the hero of the rescue, Abdel Kader Haïdara, and we started exchanging emails.”

That led Fr. Columba to Mali last August to lay the groundwork for a digitization project.

In December 2013 Fr. Columba departed to Bamako with Wayne Torborg, director of HMML’s digital collections and imaging, and Walid Mourad, HMML’s field director in Beirut.

Ten days later, they returned to Colleville with a signed contract to digitize the 300,000 Islamic documents. They’d set up a studio and trained Malians to do initial cataloging, repair as necessary, and photograph the manuscripts, which will remain in Mali.



**TOP LEFT:** Fr. Columba with Banzoumana Traoré of SAVAMA-DCI.

**ABOVE:** HMML field director Walid Mourad trains technicians from SAVAMA-DCI in Bamako.

**BELOW:** Unpacked, sorted, and labeled manuscripts awaiting inventory.

“This isn’t our first digitizing project of Islamic texts,” Fr. Columba said, “but it’s potentially our largest.”

Torborg was struck by the Malians’ commitment to the project. “They struggled to get these manuscripts to safe places,” he said, “so they’re determined not to let anything happen to them and dedicated to getting them digitized.”

The manuscripts, Torborg said, range from pristine to falling apart to almost dust. “Many exhibit moisture stains, physical damage, or holes from hungry insects.”

HMML’s role could take years, Torborg said. In a few months they will have a clearer idea. “Long-term archiving of the contents of the manuscripts,” he said, “also protects them against other losses, for example, to souvenir hunters or the antiquities market. A manuscript could be lost, stolen or sold to a collector.”

Benedictines are known for their commitment to manuscripts and HMML’s work ensures that the digital images will remain available, hopefully for centuries. Coifman is pleased about HMML’s involvement in

manuscripts of Timbuktu. “Their work brings greater access to and builds up our knowledge of Africa.”

The Malian project and an Ethiopian one that began in the 1970s preserve the extraordinary richness and depth of African documents.

“Like the Bible, which ‘speaks’ to people over time,” Fr. Columba said, “scholars studying these manuscripts will have different issues they want the documents to ‘speak’ to.”

“When scholars study the digitized material, they might recognize a different version of a text, one they’d heard about but never seen.

“That’s where the exciting discoveries are.”

*This story by Nikki Rajala was adapted with permission from a story that originally appeared in The Visitor, the diocesan newspaper of St. Cloud, Minnesota.*



**LEFT:** One of the metal chests full of manuscripts, featuring Abdel Kader’s initials.

**RIGHT:** In Bamako, a conservation technician works on a fragile manuscript. At the preservation center, several workers spend their days carefully cleaning and preparing manuscripts for cataloging and photography.



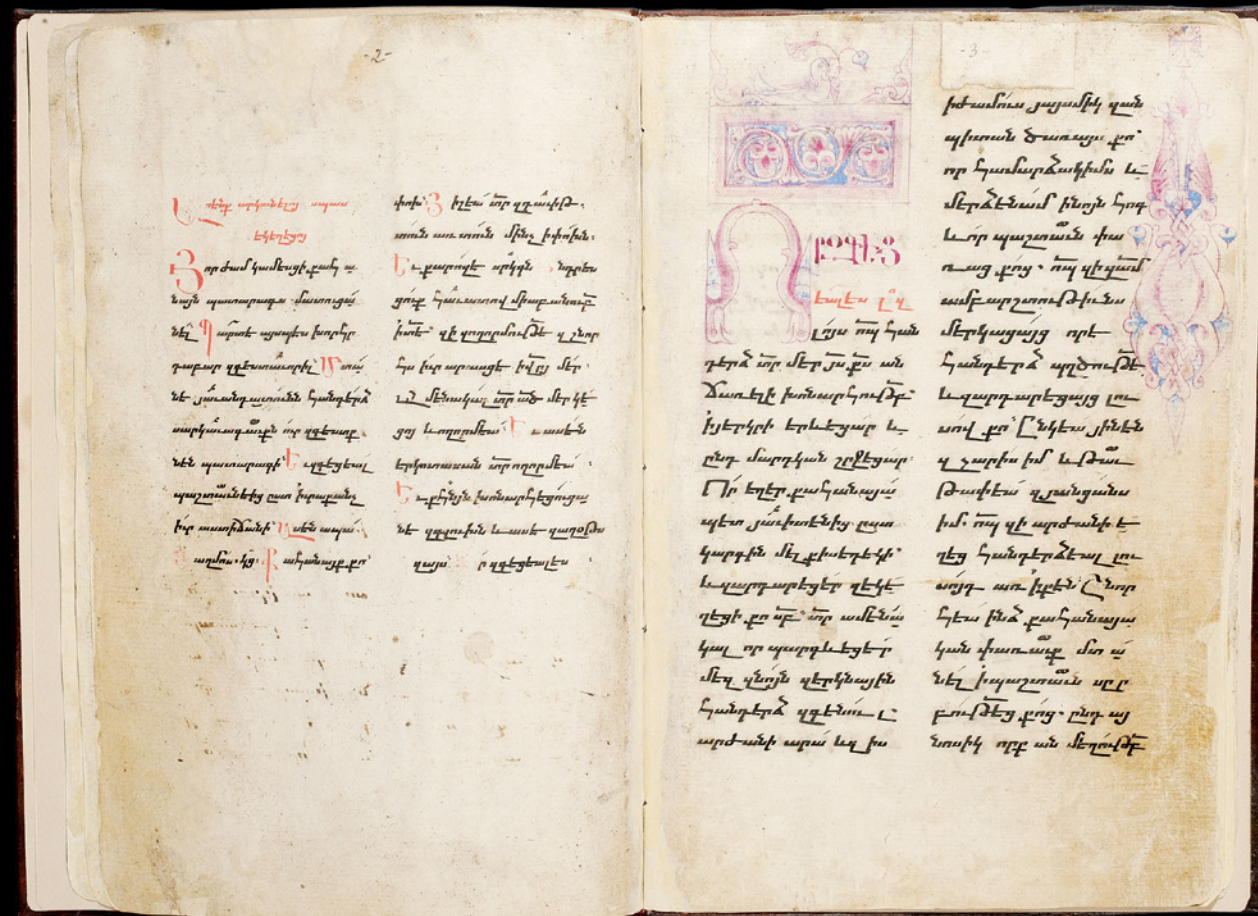
# Where We're Working

Armenian Orthodox Diocese, Aleppo, Syria

By Ed Mathews

Aleppo (Arabic, Ḥalab; Greek, Beroea), located in NW Syria less than 200 miles from Damascus, is the largest city in Syria as well as one of the largest cities in the Middle East—during the Ottoman period it was second only to Constantinople. It is also one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with historical records dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, even serving as capital and/or cult center for several ancient dynasties. Its location at the western end of the Silk Road made it an ideal location for trade between the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Asia.

Aleppo's history with the Armenians can be said to have begun with Tigran the Great who made Syria part of the Kingdom of Armenia for a brief period in the first century BCE. But Armenians began to emigrate more systematically to Aleppo during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries when the mercantile business was at its height. The Armenian cathedral dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, which indicates a large settled Armenian population by that time.



The Armenian Cathedral archives and houses a collection of nearly 200 manuscripts, of which some 145 have been cataloged. Not surprisingly from a cathedral collection the cataloged works comprise almost entirely liturgical and biblical works: fully half of the cataloged volumes are Gospels or *Masthtots*, the Armenian Book of Rituals for clerics. Other significant manuscripts include Psalters, the daily prayer book known as the *Jamagirk*, and *Sbaraknots*, the Festal Book of Hymns. The oldest manuscript is a Gospel dated to 1231, and a number of others date from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is of no little significance that nearly all of the liturgical manuscripts date

from the late 15<sup>th</sup> to the early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the period during which the cathedral was built and the Armenian community of Aleppo was clearly settling in and establishing its religious customs in its new home.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Aleppo became a place of refuge for Armenians fleeing persecution in Ottoman Turkey, a reminder of the precarious status of ancient Christian communities in the region.

FACING PAGE: *Beginning of a Liturgical Missal written in Bolorgir script and completed on September 5, 1665. It was copied by the scribe Astuadzatur who was responsible for a number of surviving liturgical manuscripts in the Aleppo collection.* AODA 124, pp. 2-3

ABOVE: *One of only two Gospel manuscripts in the collection that commence with a series of illuminations of events in the life of Jesus. The two depicted here are the Visitation of the angel Gabriel to Mary, and the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.* AODA 15, pp. 21-22

# Constructing, Destructing, and Reconstructing HMML: Renovation Then and Now

By Current HMML Staff Members



**ABOVE:** HMML's original office space in the late 1960s with the model for new construction.



**BELOW:** Gift Shop in 2013 and temporary offices in May 2014.



**ABOVE:** Demolition before renovation can begin, May 2014.



**ABOVE:** Rendering of the future HMML Reading Room, scheduled to open in August 2014.

As the reality sank in that our current HMML offices we know so well were actually being torn out for a new and improved space, the history of our facility came to mind and photos surfaced from the vault to help put the pieces of our story together.

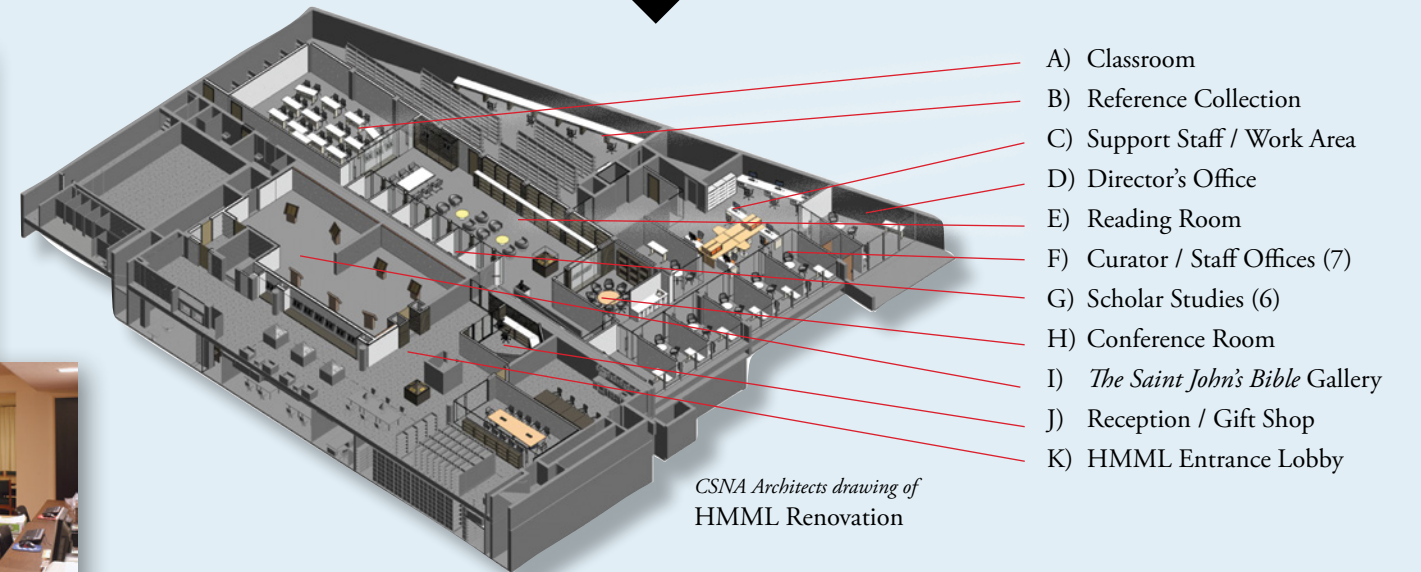
It is a bit ironic that HMML staff will be returning to its "roots" in the basement of Alcuin Library at Saint John's University—where it all began—for three months during this renovation. We won't be in the exact rooms of the old HMML (which now have compact shelves full of rare books), but in the office spaces immediately adjacent to those rooms. Still, the move prompted a documentation of where we started, and where we're heading.

The 2014 renovation will not only rearrange the layout of the space and furniture in HMML, but will add new walls for enclosed office spaces, create clearer boundaries between the public and staff areas of the building, and will open up the separation between Alcuin Library and HMML. This will also provide a more inviting atmosphere that will enhance the interaction between the libraries. And we will have a real classroom!

We're excited to be a part of HMML history, and can't wait to share our new space with our supporters in the fall. Find important renovation information in the HMML News section, and visit [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org) for updates as HMML is rebuilt once again.



**BELOW:** New construction of current HMML space in mid-1970s.



## HMML Accepts SUCCEED Award in Madrid

In April 2014, HMML was named one of two winners of an annual award for organizations that utilize the latest technology and best practices for digital preservation of historical texts and documents by the Support Action Center of Competence in Digitization (SUCCEED).

HMML received the award at SUCCEED's annual international conference on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Madrid, along with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance at the Université François-Rabelais in Tours, France. The two winning libraries were selected from 19 international organizations nominated for the award.

The ceremony was chaired by Nobel-Prize winning author Mario Vargas Llosa, the President of the Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, and representatives of the European Commission and leading organizations in the field of digital preservation.

"We are honored to be recognized by SUCCEED for our innovative and cost-effective approach to digitizing many of the world's oldest manuscripts and archives," said Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, executive director of HMML. "Our mission developed from a desire to build relationships with cultural institutions outside the United States so that they could share their manuscript resources with scholars worldwide. HMML has forged partnerships with libraries, universities and monasteries in Europe, the Middle East, India, and Africa to bring the most traditional kind of information technology—handwritten books—to new audiences. Our latest project with the Timbuktu manuscripts in Mali continues this long-standing commitment."

Funded by the European Union and coordinated by the Universidad de Alicante, SUCCEED is an organization dedicated to pooling efforts by cultural institutions, partnerships between the public and private sectors, and cross-border collaborations. Its goal is to improve the availability of digital tools and resources for large-scale text digitization projects.

## Prince Claus Fund Awards Grant for Mali Preservation

In February 2014, HMML received a timely and generous award of \$38,500 from the Cultural Emergency Response program of the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development, based in the Netherlands.

The grant will help support the first year of our project in Mali to create digital copies of over 300,000 manuscripts from Timbuktu dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The manuscripts, belonging to many of the ancient families of Timbuktu, have been entrusted to SAVAMA-DCI, a non-governmental organization led by Abdel Kader Haïdara, a member of one of the families.

"The Prince Claus Fund introduced us to Haïdara and made this work possible. We are grateful for their investment in this first year of a very exciting project," said HMML Executive Director Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. The project is also supported by the Arcadia Fund of London, principal sponsor of HMML's digital preservation efforts.

Christa Meindersma, director of the Prince Claus Fund, stated, "[W]e are proud to partner with HMML and contribute not only to the immediate safety of these priceless manuscripts, but also to their future."

HMML will oversee the digitization effort and make the images available through its digital platforms. HMML will also sustain the digital image collections into the future as a service to the families of Timbuktu.

Based in the Netherlands, The Prince Claus Fund was established in 1996 as a tribute to Prince Claus' dedication to culture and development. The Fund supports the work of innovative and high quality cultural institutions, particularly in places where resources and opportunities for cultural expression, creative production, and research are limited due to conflict, poverty, repression, marginalization, or taboos. It also provides first aid to cultural heritage damaged by man-made or natural disaster. Annually, the fund grants 11 Prince Claus Awards to individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements in the field of culture and development.

## Systems Librarian and Web Developer Joins HMML Staff



HMML is pleased to announce that William Straub has joined us as systems librarian and Web developer.

Straub comes to HMML with many years of experience as a teacher, reference librarian, and programmer. A 1988 graduate of Saint John's University,

Straub went on to earn a master's degree in library and information services from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. For the past three years, Straub worked as a reference and systems librarian for the University of Minnesota, Morris, the flagship liberal arts campus for the University of Minnesota system.

"Straub's background working in the digital humanities, including TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) and Web development projects, will be a great asset for HMML as we further develop our digital collections, finding aids, and presentation tools," said HMML's executive director, Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. "With his background in both technology and education, he will be invaluable in continuing communication with the scholars who use HMML's collections, and with the programmers who create the resources they need."

Straub's major responsibilities include managing the upcoming rollout of vHMML ("virtual" HMML), an online environment for manuscript studies being developed with funding from the Institute for Museum & Library Services. He is also developing the Reading Room component of vHMML, which will provide direct online access to complete manuscript collections.

## New Curator Hired for HMML's Malta Study Center



Dr. Daniel Gullo has been named the new Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. Dr. Gullo will join the HMML staff in June, succeeding the founding curator, Dr. Theresa M. Vann.

Dr. Gullo received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; master's degrees from the University of Toronto (medieval studies) and Saint John's University (theology), and a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. Most recently he has served as an assistant professor in the Department of History and Geography at Columbus State University in Georgia, where he has been co-director of the university's Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program since 2009.

In addition to his experience as a teacher, scholar, and administrator, Gullo has considerable experience cataloging manuscript books and archival materials, and has worked extensively with early printed materials.

"Dr. Gullo's background in Mediterranean studies positions him to deepen the work of the Malta Study Center and its unique collections," notes Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB. "His expertise in cataloging, teaching, and the innovative use of technology will be invaluable as HMML continues to expand access to its manuscript collections through new digital platforms for research in the humanities."

The Malta Study Center supports research about the history and antiquities of Malta, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (popularly known as the Knights of Malta), and the history and antiquities of Rhodes and the Crusades. The Center was established in 1973 in collaboration with the Honorary Consul General of Malta-St. Paul, Joseph S. Micallef, K.M. The center has been a leading force in archival preservation on the island of Malta, working with Maltese officials and scholars to make the historical riches of Malta's many archives better known throughout the world. The Center has also worked closely with the Order of Saint John to preserve the archives of the Order at the Grand Magistry in Rome and elsewhere.

## HMML Renovation Underway

Beginning Tuesday, May 6, HMML is undergoing renovation. Though there will be no access to the current HMML space during the renovation, most services, as well as both digital and microfilm manuscript resources, will be available throughout the process.

Until the new HMML opens in late August, access to HMML's reference collection will be limited primarily to printed manuscript catalogs. HMML staff will be working from temporary offices in Alcuin Library at Saint John's University, and contact information remains the same. Please contact HMML at least three weeks in advance if you would like to use research materials that are only available on-site.

Visit our website at [www.hmml.org/contact.html](http://www.hmml.org/contact.html) for links to information regarding Scholar FAQs, the HMML Gift Shop (which will remain closed until 2015), where to buy merchandise from *The Saint John's Bible*, how to find the interim exhibition of *The Saint John's Bible* in Alcuin Library (shown below), and updates on the progress of the renovation.

Questions? Contact HMML at 320-363-3514. We look forward to sharing our new space in August!



## vHMML Project Update

HMML had an opportunity to share the latest vHMML news with 30 keen medievalists at the Kalamazoo Congress in early May. Both the turnout at our session and the obvious enthusiasm for what we're doing with the project were genuinely gratifying.

Despite a challenging search for developers and some database programming complexities, vHMML is making great progress in each of the project's components.

School, Lexicon, and Library are now all being tested. Content for School is finished and ready to be loaded, and the functionality of Lexicon and Library are being

finalized. These basic components should be available by the end of the summer. Scriptorium and Folio are also being fine-tuned.

A new component to the original schema for vHMML is Reading Room. This will provide registered users access to complete manuscript collections digitized by HMML in recent years, with the long-term plan of adding scanned microfilms from earlier projects. Registration for Reading Room will be free.

Find the latest updates on vHMML on the project's blog at [vhmml.wordpress.com](http://vhmml.wordpress.com).

## HMML Hosts First Recipients of the Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies

In early January, HMML staff welcomed two fellowship recipients who stayed on the Saint John's University campus as resident scholars through April 2014. Each had selected a specific area of focus for their research, supported by our extensive digital collections. They are the first to be awarded the Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies.

The fellowship was established through the generosity of Rebecca Haile and Jean Manas of New York in memory of Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB (1949-2008). Br. Dietrich, 11<sup>th</sup> President of Saint John's University, was a visionary leader who saw HMML as integral to the mission of Saint John's Abbey and University, and enthusiastically promoted HMML's work in the Middle East, Ethiopia, and India.

*Fr. Roger Youssef Akbrass*  
Originally from Lebanon, Fr. Roger came to us from Paris, France, where he received his PhD in Patristics from the Institut Catholique. His education also includes a Master of Arts degree in Theology, Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theology and Philosophy, and the completion of numerous other studies. He has published several articles and received the 2009 Honors of Syriac Writer Award from the Syriac League in Lebanon. During that time he also worked as an instructor at St. Aphrem Theological Seminary in Ma'arat Saydnaya, Syria.



Fr. Roger has long been interested in the works of Philoxenos of Mabbug. While here, he focused his study on the Garshūnī works of—or attributed to—Philoxenos, and became familiar with the Syriac and Arabic manuscripts of HMML's various Middle Eastern collections. He presented a HMML Public Lecture in April entitled, "The Eucharistic prayers (anaphoras) attributed to Philoxenos of Mabbug (†523) in the light of his theology of Eucharist."

In addition to his knowledge on Philoxenos of Mabbug, he has extensively researched Severus of Antioch and Michael the Great, making several presentations on his findings. In the future he would like to return to teaching at Saint Aphrem's Theological Seminary in Ma'arat Saydnaya, Syria.

*Robert A. Kitchen*

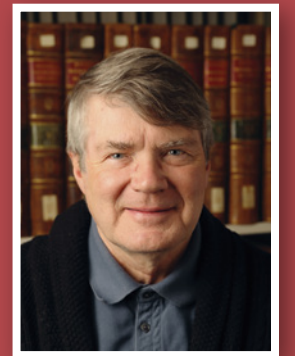
Dr. Kitchen is currently the Minister of Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Regina, Saskatchewan. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, he has held prior pastoral positions in that state as well as in Massachusetts and Minnesota.

His extensive education includes a DPhil degree in Syriac Language and Literature; a Master of Arts degree in Syriac, Semitic Languages; a Master of Divinity degree; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. During his career Dr. Kitchen has authored many publications, held numerous teaching positions, received several fellowships, and contributed to related editorial work.

During his time at HMML, Dr. Kitchen conducted research on Jacob of Serug and presented a HMML Public Lecture in March entitled, "Trying to Be Perfect: The Latest Adventures in the Syriac *Book of Steps*." The manuscripts he needed were in HMML's digital collection from the library of the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Mardin, Turkey (CFMM), including a metrical Life of Jacob.

Dr. Kitchen's specific research interests include "Syriac & Ge'ez (Ethiopic) Patristics: asceticism, prayer and spirituality, Desert Fathers"; and "History of Christian Thought: Christological controversies, Eastern Christian theology."

Hosting scholars and researchers from around the world at HMML continues to be a pleasure. Visit our Scholar Opportunities page at [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org) for information on these and other fellowships and scholarships offered throughout the year.





## HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

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