

THE HILL  
MUSEUM &  
MANUSCRIPT  
LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER

# ILLUMINATIONS

SUMMER  
FALL  
2006





**Front cover:** Professor George Greenia and his students in the Summer Apprenticeship in Archival Skills and Research at HMML study manuscripts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods. This is the sixth year that HMML has hosted the course that is offered through the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

#### HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

In the Benedictine tradition of reverence for human thought and creativity, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) preserves manuscripts, printed books and art at Saint John's University and undertakes photographic projects in regions throughout the world.

HMML is the home of the world's largest collection of manuscript images and of *The Saint John's Bible*, a handwritten, illuminated Bible in modern English.

#### HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

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# Illuminations

## CONTENTS

- 3 Letter from Executive Director,  
Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB
- 4 HMML Welcomes Summer Scholars  
and Researchers
- 6 Where We're Working
- 8 Imaging *The Saint John's Bible*
- 10 *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition
- 12 HMML News

*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 of HMML and *The Saint John's Bible*,

Forty years ago, the visionary founders of HMML looked back at two world wars, looked ahead to the possibility of the Cold War becoming a nuclear conflagration, and vowed to ensure that the precious handwritten heritage of humankind would be safe no matter what time and fate would bring. As we prepare this issue of *Illuminations*, news from the Middle East reminds us daily of the urgency of HMML's work, both in that region and anywhere that manuscripts are endangered or inaccessible.

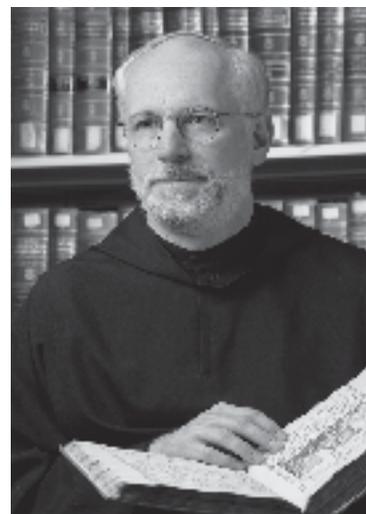
We often describe our work at HMML as consisting of two major tasks: preserving manuscripts through photography, and providing access to the manuscript images and to related collections for the sake of research and education. In this issue we highlight the scholars who bring manuscripts to life by their study, teaching and writing. Throughout the year, but especially in the summer, HMML welcomes individuals and groups who come to spend time with our collections of microfilmed and digitized manuscripts, rare books (both handwritten and printed), calligraphy and religious art. As you will see, many of these visitors are budding scholars whose energy and enthusiasm remind us that the legacy of the past has a great future. We hope that you will enjoy learning about some of these individuals. Many of them were able to come to HMML only with the support of the A.A. Heckman Fund, which provides grants to those in the early years of their scholarly career.

This summer we have been working hard on our strategic plan for the full range of HMML's activities, with a special emphasis on preservation of manuscripts. Several fronts for future activity have emerged in the past year, including the strong possibility of beginning work in Eastern Europe in 2007. To finish our work in the Middle East and to move into a vast but important new region, we will continue to need the help of our friends. In the next issue of *Illuminations* we will present key priorities for HMML's next five years. I think you'll be excited!

With best wishes,

*Columba Stewart, OSB*

Father Columba Stewart, OSB



# HMML Welcomes Summer Scholars and Researchers

They come from places like Alabama, Scotland and Ethiopia with interests as varied as the collections they are prepared to explore. Studying the origins of Gregorian chant or homeopathic cures in 17<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe, or the history of the book itself, manuscript experts and medievalists converge at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library to access the largest collection of manuscript images in the world.

Despite HMML's reputation and electronic catalogue, few fully appreciate the extent of the library's holdings at the outset of their research. One scholar recently remarked that he was "greatly rewarded" by the access to multiple microfilmed libraries in Europe, which allowed him to study documents he previously did not know existed.

The research experience at HMML is more than microfilm reels, however. James Mixson, profiled on the next page, reflected that HMML's "people are as marvelous as its texts." Researchers benefit greatly from studying in an environment populated with people who are passionate about and committed to preserving and studying manuscripts.

Visiting scholars and researchers sustain and inspire HMML's continued work. The following scholar profiles are the first in what we hope will become a tradition in each edition of *Illuminations*.

To read the full profile of each of these recent researchers, please visit our Web site at [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org), and click on "Research."

## ELIZABETH DUNCAN

Ph.D. student at University of Aberdeen, Scotland. The title of my dissertation is 'Eleventh- and Twelfth-Century Gaelic Book-Production'.

Hometown: Barnstaple, North Devon, UK



*Current research at HMML:* I am searching Austrian and German libraries (particularly those which are only partly catalogued) for Gaelic manuscripts. In the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, a number of monasteries (the so-called Schottenklöster) were founded in parts of Germany and Austria by Gaelic exiles. I am looking for manuscripts and fragments written in Gaelic script or by Gaelic scribes. I am also examining particular texts produced in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries in these monastic establishments to act as a point of reference in my work on Gaelic book-history.

*What is the most surprising thing you've uncovered in your current research?* It is striking to me how little scholarly work has been carried out on the 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-century Austrian and German collections as a whole, in terms of analyzing script and manuscript preparation methods. It has struck me that a lot of interesting work could be done in this area. It seems to me that there are certainly patterns in terms of script (and probably codicological methods too, but this is hard to see from microfilm) assignable to particular monastic centres.

*Why did you decide to come to HMML for this particular research?* The fact that the material is preserved in one place saves time and money. It is unlikely I would have had the resources to visit each library's collection that I was able to peruse with such ease.



**JAMES MIXSON,  
PH.D.**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of History,  
University of Alabama

Educational Background:  
B.A., History, University  
of Georgia (1991); Ph.D.,  
Medieval Studies, University  
of Notre Dame (2002)

*Current research at HMML:* Evidence, from Austrian monastic manuscripts, of 15<sup>th</sup>-century debates over the meaning of ownership and the ideal of Christian community in a monastic setting.

*Why are you interested in this topic?* Late-medieval monks and nuns, canons and friars were, in one sense, to retreat from the world and embrace religious poverty. But they lived in often massively wealthy corporations, and they often enjoyed that wealth in visibly personal ways—through personal cash incomes, comfortable apartments and so on. I wanted to understand how they reconciled their wealth with their way of life, and how their way of life reflected broader changes in European economy and culture.

*What is the most surprising thing you've uncovered in your current research?* One text in a manuscript from Melk describes how monastic reformers adapted procedures of inquisition, backed by territorial princes, to enforce their vision of monastic community.

*What can we learn from that?* It is a reminder that modern minds tend to separate religious ideals, law, economy and politics in ways that medieval people did not. It is also a reminder that religious ideals are always subject to contest and negotiation in particular historical settings.

**MIKE RYAN,  
PH.D.**

Assistant Professor  
of History, Purdue  
University

Hometown: New  
Port Richey, Fla.



Educational Background: B.A. University of Florida (1995); M.A., Western Michigan University (1998); Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (2005). All three degrees were in history.

*Current research at HMML:* I am working on late medieval astrology, divination, prophecy, expectations of the End Times and Apocalypse, and magic.

*Why are you interested in this topic?* While researching the effects of the Black Death in Rome, I came across a reference to a late-medieval Catalan translation of a prophetic work by a Franciscan from Aquitaine, Jean de Roquetaillade. I decided I wanted to work on that topic, on expectations of the arrival of the Antichrist among members of the populace in the Crown of Aragon in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. As I delved deeper into the subject, I became aware of the various ways that people constructed their systems of knowledge and how astrology, magic and the so-called “occult” figured in that heavily.

*Why did you decide to come to HMML for this particular research?* Specifically, I wanted to consult the holdings of the Diocesan Archive of Barcelona, which are microfilmed. I wanted to see if people were being brought before the bishop because they sought to divine the future. However, I've been greatly rewarded by microfilmed holdings from other libraries in Barcelona, such as that of the Cathedral, as well as libraries from other parts of Spain (Tarazona, Toledo, Vich), and other European libraries (Vienna, Salzburg, Shlägl).

# Where We Are. What We've Preserved: *HMML's Current Projects*

by Columba Stewart, OSB

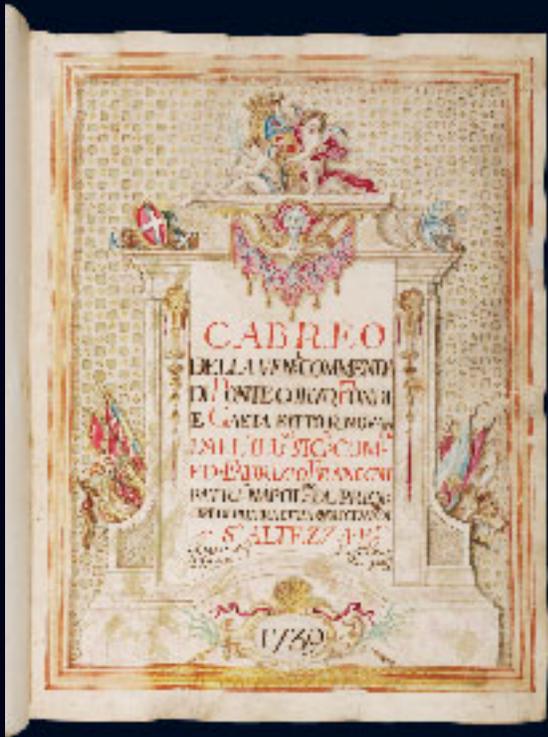


19<sup>th</sup>-century Karshuni manuscript of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Kaslik, Université du Saint-Esprit, OLM 322 fols 15r-14v.

## Kaslik, Lebanon. 2000+ Syriac, Arabic, and Karshuni manuscripts.

The Université du Saint-Esprit (University of the Holy Spirit) in Kaslik, Lebanon, is one of the largest and most successful higher-education institutions in the country. Under the sponsorship of the Lebanese Maronite Order, the University at Kaslik has become a major center for the study of Syriac Christianity. Syriac is a Christian dialect of Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke, and has been a Christian literary language since at least the third century. Syriac Christians lived in both the

Roman and Persian empires, giving rise to several different churches and sending missionaries as far as China and India. The Maronite Catholic Church has its origins in Syria but its followers have been centered in Lebanon for more than a thousand years. Since at least the 12<sup>th</sup>-century it has been in formal communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Its liturgy, though now celebrated largely in Arabic, belongs to the Syriac family of rites. The manuscript tradition is rich, consisting of texts in Syriac, Arabic and Karshuni. Karshuni is Arabic written in Syriac script, and may have originated among Christians



SMOM Cabreo 36, *Cabreo della venerabile commenda di Ponte Corvo, Fondi e Gaudea fatto rinovare dall'illustrissimo Signore Commandatore F. D. Franconi Patrizio Napolitano*. 18<sup>th</sup>-century illustrated land survey of the Commendary of San Giovanni a Gaudio di Ponte Corvo, Fondi e Gaeta. Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Rome.

as a means to write Arabic before the Arabic script was finalized. In later times, Karshuni enabled Christians who used Arabic in their daily life to preserve at least the script of their ancient liturgical language, Syriac. This technique could also serve as a form of encryption for Christian texts in a largely Muslim environment. The manuscript illustrated is a well-known 16<sup>th</sup>-century western text, translated from Latin into Arabic and then written as Karshuni.

The Lebanese Maronite Order is the largest of the Maronite monastic orders of men. At Kaslik, the Order has built a magnificent, state-of-the-art library with a rare book vault, conservation studio, and photographic studio where the manuscripts from the various monasteries and churches of the Order are being brought for digitizing. HMML has been working with the team at Kaslik since 2004, when the University ended a previous partnership

with Brigham Young University. BYU has sent copies of the manuscripts photographed before HMML took over the project so that HMML's holdings will be complete. The final size of the collection can only be estimated, as manuscripts continue to be brought to Kaslik for digitizing and deposit in the vault. Professional cataloguing of these previously uncatalogued manuscripts will be the next step.

#### Rome, Italy. Archives of the Knights of Malta.

HMML has been working with manuscripts and archival materials related to the Knights of Malta, historically known as the Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem and more recently as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, since the 1970s.

Over time, the collection has grown into the largest such concentration of materials in the world. The Malta Study Center at HMML provides resources for scholars and interested members of the general public through its curator, Dr. Theresa M. Vann, and its Web site, accessible through [www.hmml.org](http://www.hmml.org) (click on "Learn").

The Knights have had a priory in Rome since 1214. The Priory of Rome housed the headquarters of the Order after their departure from Malta in 1798. In 2004, HMML formed a partnership with the Grand Magistry of the Order to digitize all materials in the archives of the priory of Rome pre-dating 1904, including materials specific to the activities of the priory itself and to the Order as a whole since its relocation. Among these holdings are records of property owned by the Order, diplomatic correspondence between the Grand Master and European heads of state, and the genealogical proofs of nobility, often illuminated, required of candidates to the Order in demonstration of their suitability. HMML is providing equipment, technical support, and cataloguing expertise for the project. Cataloguing data related to the collection is being added to HMML's electronic catalogue, and images are being uploaded to Vivarium, HMML's online digital image collection.

# Striving for Perfection: Imaging *The Saint John's Bible*

From the project's conception to the day it will be bound and on permanent display at Saint John's, a span of nearly 20 years, no element of *The Saint John's Bible* has been or will ever be just "good enough."

Likewise, nothing but the best technology and methods are appropriate for the digital imaging of *The Saint John's Bible*. In a unique way, the work of imaging the original is its own artistic and logistical achievement.

Planning for the digitization project began long before the first images were captured in June 2002. Having neither a studio nor the necessary equipment when the project began, HMML contracted with ColorMax, an industry-leading firm in Paynesville, Minn, to provide digital services for the imaging work.

The photographer was ColorMax employee, Wayne Torborg, who brought 25 years of professional photographic experience to *The Saint John's Bible* imaging project. Wayne and his colleagues assembled a custom studio for this once-in-a-lifetime project, including the finest digital photography equipment and special fixtures designed by Torborg to hold the calfskin vellum pages as flat as possible.

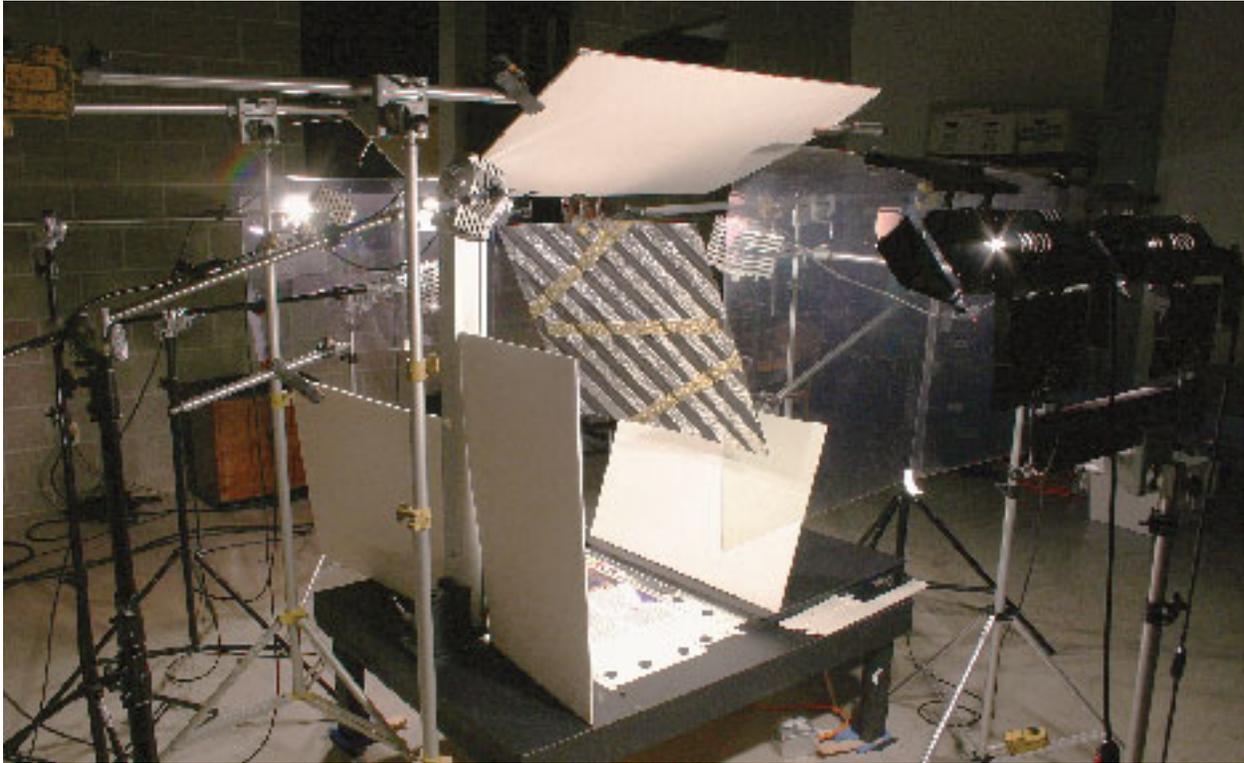
A digital camera, essentially a high-resolution scanner, is used to capture 700-megabyte images. Capturing, transferring and storing the image data requires powerful computers, capacious hard drives and a high degree of patience. "Photographing the Bible pages requires photographic skills and a knowledge of how the material behaves," said Torborg. "I've heard curators describe vellum as a living material."

"This is pretty accurate; from the moment a page is placed under the camera, it starts losing moisture and essentially starts to move. After a half hour or so, the page is usually too wavy or rumpled to photograph and has to go back to the stack of other vellum pages, where it re-hydrates and flattens out again. You don't have forever to get your lighting figured out and scan the page."

He continued, "The lighting might at first seem to be nothing more than simple copy lighting, but there's more to it than that. Besides capturing the calligraphy and the rich colors, there are metallic

## Hard to believe? Look at the numbers...

1,150	Total number of pages to be digitized
20-28 minutes	Time to photograph a page
8 pages	Number of pages photographed on a "good day"
700 megabytes	Digital file size for a page of the <i>Saint John's Bible</i> (16-bit-per channel color, RGB).
(36 megabytes)	Digital file size for a typical quality 8x10 print (at the same bits-per-channel setting).
68-75 degrees	Temperature range required for <i>Saint John's Bible</i> page photography
50-60% relative humidity	Moisture level needed in studio; dry air causes the vellum to lose moisture and become wrinkled
Only 1	Opportunity to image the Bible before it is bound



Surrounded by a tangle of photographic gear, a page from the *Prophets* volume of *The Saint John's Bible* becomes a digitized image of 700 megabytes. To bring out the textures and qualities of the various metallic inks and foils, supplementary lights or reflectors are needed.

inks, gold leaf, various other metals and a myriad of subtle textures. We have to replicate the wonderful play of light across these materials in a static image, which requires extra accent lighting and some experimentation. I've needed all of my skills on this unique project."

HMML was so pleased with Torborg's work on the first two volumes that they hired him as full-time employee in March 2004. As director of digital collections and imaging for HMML, Wayne and his assistant, Kelly Booth, used the equipment at ColorMax to image the third volume, *Psalms*, that summer.

Now they can do it without leaving Collegeville.

In order to bring the imaging process home to Saint John's University for its completion, HMML obtained the Bible imaging equipment from ColorMax, and converted a storage space in the basement of the Peter Engel Science Center at Saint John's into a permanent, climate-controlled imaging

studio during the summer of 2006.

"Imaging the volumes on campus allows HMML to keep and care for the original pages in a way that was not previously possible," says Carol Marrin, director of *The Saint John's Bible*. Marrin continued, "Onsite imaging opens an opportunity to involve undergraduate students and to advance HMML's own technological capabilities."

As crucial as the photographic work is, it is only the first step in making the images ready for publication. HMML continues to work with the experts at ColorMax, who spend hours working on each photograph to ensure that the digital surrogate captures as much of the original wonder of the page as possible. Such attention to detail makes this contemporary masterpiece available in extraordinary detail to the world through fine art prints, modestly-priced trade edition reproductions, and the exclusive, full-size, Heritage Edition (see pages 10-11).



photo by Michael Freeman

# *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition

by Craig Bruner, Director of Heritage Program

In anticipation of the completion of *The Saint John's Bible* in 2008, Saint John's University and Abbey proudly announce publication of the Heritage Edition, an exclusive, full-size reproduction of the handcrafted masterpiece.

## **BIRTH OF A MASTERPIECE**

In 1998, world renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson joined with the Benedictine monks of Saint John's University and Abbey to create his life-long dream: the first handwritten, illuminated Bible commissioned since the invention of the printing

press. The first words were penned in March 2000, marking the beginning of this monumental project.

Created in a scriptorium, as a Bible would have been copied in ages past, *The Saint John's Bible* uses ancient materials and techniques to create a contemporary masterpiece that brings the Word of

God to life for the modern world.

At more than two feet tall and nearly three feet wide when open, and with 1,150 pages and more than 160 illuminations across seven magnificent volumes, *The Saint John's Bible* is truly a monumental manuscript, in the tradition of the great Bibles of the Middle Ages. In a manner similar to its medieval predecessors, *The Saint John's Bible* will endure for centuries to come—a lasting legacy to the glory of God.

## CONTINUING A 1,500-YEAR TRADITION

Saint Benedict taught that all tools, however humble, should be handled with the care given to the sacred vessels of the altar. For centuries, this ethic has been embodied in Benedictine life and work. Benedictine monks of the Middle Ages faithfully preserved the best of classical culture by copying manuscripts, many of which survive to this day.

In 1965, Saint John's University and Abbey revived the Benedictine tradition of manuscript copying by establishing a library dedicated to the photographic preservation of rare documents. Forty years later, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library holds in trust the largest collection of manuscript images in the world.

By commissioning *The Saint John's Bible*, the University and Abbey brought 1,500 years of Benedictine religious and creative experience together with their conviction that manuscripts are uniquely privileged media for expressing humankind's deepest memories and aspirations.

## BRINGING THE WORD TO THE WORLD



Creation of the full-size Heritage Edition has involved the finest printing experts to ensure faithful representation of the original manuscript. Archival-quality paper, fade-resistant

permanent inks and metallic foils containing genuine gold have been used to approximate the look and feel of *The Saint John's Bible*.

Bound in handcrafted leather, the Heritage Edition is offered in the same seven volumes as the original. A special eighth volume of commentary will accompany each set, presenting the inspiration for the illuminations and a guide to understanding their imagery. The Heritage Edition will be limited to 360 full sets. Each will be numbered and will include a certificate of authenticity.

Proceeds from the Heritage Edition will ensure that ancient manuscripts throughout the world are preserved for future generations, will help to create a permanent home for *The Saint John's Bible* and will support study and teaching at Saint John's University about the relationship between religion and the arts.

## BUILDING A LEGACY

These volumes make the perfect cornerstone or capstone for a collection of fine art or books.

They are a wonderful gift from individuals or groups to their church or synagogue. The Heritage Edition is a superb addition to any college, university or seminary library, reminding all who see the volumes of the long history of both Bible and book, and of their eternal significance.



The Heritage Edition offers a link to the original masterpiece for those who wish to bring the beauty and spiritual and historic significance of *The Saint John's Bible* into their lives. A work of art in its own right, the Heritage Edition will ignite the imagination as it imparts the Word of God.

To discuss subscription and reservation of a numbered set, contact Craig Bruner at 320-363-2771.

# News from HMML

## THIRD MILESTONE REACHED FOR \$2.25 MILLION NEH CHALLENGE

In June, HMML exceeded the \$600,000 third-year fundraising goal set by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in a challenge grant to raise \$2.25 million that will endow the Malta Study Center. As part of a four-year fundraising effort that began in 2003, the NEH provides a \$1 match for every \$4 raised by HMML for the Center. To be eligible for the matching dollars, HMML must meet the fundraising goals for each year set by the NEH. August 1, 2006 began the final fundraising year of the grant, in which \$450,000 must be raised. The endowment will establish a permanent curator for the collection and fund a full complement of activities including digital preservation of valuable documents, cataloguing, research, book acquisition, fellowships and conferences.

To make a matching gift, visit our Web site or contact HMML development director, Erin Lonergan, 320-363-2095, or [elonergan@csbsju.edu](mailto:elonergan@csbsju.edu).

## MINNESOTA MANUSCRIPT RESEARCH LABORATORY WORKSHOP

HMML hosted the second annual Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory Workshop the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>. The intensive week-long workshop, conducted in partnership with the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota, introduced students to methods of working with medieval manuscripts. The faculty, which included professors Diane Warne Anderson and Theresa Vann, outlined the basics of manuscript studies, including how to find and cite unpublished manuscripts, an overview of medieval scripts, and codicological terms.

HMML worked with Susan Noakes, director of the Center for Medieval Studies, to create the workshop as part of the Center's Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory. The purpose of

this workshop is to help train the next generation of scholars to evaluate scholarly arguments based upon manuscript evidence and to develop research programs using manuscript materials. The workshop, nicknamed "paleography bootcamp" by HMML staffers, introduces students to the wealth of HMML's holdings. While it is not possible for students to learn all the subtleties of paleography, codicology, or diplomatics in one week, the workshop does help prepare the students for advanced work in those disciplines. Enrollment in the workshop is open to University of Minnesota graduate students and to anyone interested in the topic.

## FROM BOOKS TO BYTES

HMML's curator of the Joseph S. Micallef Malta Study Center, Dr. Theresa Vann, has heard more than once that today's young people are different from their elders—not because of their politics, music, or fashion sense, but because computer games and the Internet have rewired their brains. All of her research, teaching, and hours of mindless computer-assisted diversions, however, have led her to suspect that young people today are not that much different from those who lived through the 15<sup>th</sup>-century printing revolution. She has proposed a new course, called "From Books to Bytes," which will examine the history of books and readers from manuscripts to the Internet. The course will feature guest lecturers from HMML staff and feature items from the special collections of Saint John's University. It will be offered in the spring semester 2007.

## HMML HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE

HMML invites you to its Annual Open House during Saint John's Homecoming, Saturday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop down to see the latest display of pages from *The Saint John's Bible*, including the first public showing of

# NEWS FROM HMML

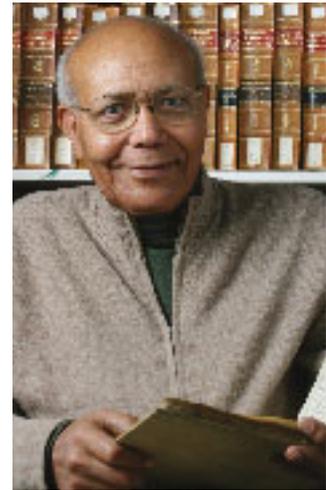
pages from the just-completed *Wisdom Literature* volume, and view selections from the library's Malta collection. Enjoy a delicious selection of appetizers and treats, and take time to browse through the gift shop for unique items and merchandise from *The Saint John's Bible*. For a preview of available items, check HMML's Web sites at [www.hmml.org/storenew/](http://www.hmml.org/storenew/), and [www.sjbible.org/store.html](http://www.sjbible.org/store.html). Remember, HMML donors at the \$250 level and above receive a discount on items in the gift shop, including merchandise from *The Saint John's Bible*. For further information, contact 320-363-3514.

## WISDOM LITERATURE VOLUME COMPLETED FOR THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

The latest completed volume from *The Saint John's Bible, Wisdom Literature*, was escorted from the scriptorium in Wales to Saint John's University in July by Carol Marrin, director of *The Saint John's Bible*, and Tim Ternes, director of public programs and education. Artistic director Donald Jackson is scheduled to meet with the Committee on Illumination and Text (CIT) in a closed meeting on campus, Thursday, September 28, to present this latest volume formally. As the key committee for *The Saint John's Bible* project, the CIT prepares theological briefs for each volume. It reviews Donald's sketches, works with him as illuminations develop, and formally accepts his work once completed. *Wisdom Literature* is the fifth volume completed of the seven volumes in *The Saint John's Bible*.

## DR. GETACHEW HAILE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HMML

On June 1, 2006, Dr. Getatchew Haile, Regents Professor of Medieval Studies and cataloguer of Oriental manuscripts, celebrated 30 years of service to Saint John's University and HMML. During



his tenure at HMML, much of Dr. Haile's work has been focused on the preparation of HMML's internationally-acclaimed, *A Catalogue of Ethiopian Manuscripts Microfilmed for EML and HMML*. This multi-volume catalogue opened up the resources of over 6,000 Ethiopian manuscripts to the world of scholarship. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles and book reviews. Much of the current work about Ethiopia's history and culture cites Dr. Haile's catalogues and published research. His presence on campus has served as a source of enrichment for both HMML and the broader Saint John's community. He is a friend and adviser to Ethiopian students at both Saint John's and Saint Benedict's, and is never too busy to meet with a student or scholar who has questions about Ethiopia or African history and culture. Dr. Haile's life and abundant achievements exemplify HMML's and SJU's pursuit of intellectual excellence and respect for past cultures and traditions.

# NEWS FROM HMML

## SUMMER APPRENTICESHIP IN ARCHIVAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH

In July, HMML and Saint John's University hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Summer Apprenticeship in Archival Skills and Research, a course offered through the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. George D. Greenia, professor of Hispanic studies at the College of William & Mary, and founder and director of the Summer Apprenticeship, instructed five graduate students in an intensive program on manuscript culture, codicology, paleography, illumination and the interpretation of medieval book culture.

The interests of the graduate students who come from around the country are as varied as the history of costume, medical treatises translated from Greek into Latin in the 10<sup>th</sup>-century, the intellectual shifts produced in mathematics by the introduction of the Arabic numerals that replaced Roman ones, and the history of plough types in illustrations of farming from ancient Greece and Rome to modern South Dakota.

At the end of their month-long session, Dr. Greenia said, "The young scholars who come for the apprenticeship will become leaders among the next generation of teachers, artists, museum curators and librarians, but the best immersion experience they undergo is neither technological nor medieval. It's the community of scholars that HMML brings together in a kaleidoscope of talent from around the globe, ever changing, endlessly enlightening. Becoming part of this community is perhaps the most transformative aspect of their visit."

## HMML EMBARKS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2007-2012

This summer wrapped up a year-long strategic planning initiative that focused on refining the mission of HMML and establishing realistic goals and objectives consistent with our mission for 2007 through 2012. HMML employed Azimuth Consultants LLC to facilitate the process, which actively involved HMML board members, donors and friends. Our new plan provides a base from which progress can be measured and ensures the most effective use of our resources by focusing on HMML's key priorities for this five-year period. Formal adoption of the plan will take place in September 2006. Further information about the plan will be shared in upcoming issues of *Illuminations*.

## KACMARCIC COLLECTION AND RARE BOOK CATALOGUING CONTINUES

A 2004 grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation continues to support the electronic cataloguing of major portions of HMML's book collections, including the 9,500 rare books and the exceptional reference collection donated to Saint John's University by Frank Kacmarcik in 1994 as part of *Arca Artium*, his collection of rare books and art. Digital access to significant collections like these held by libraries throughout the world has become vital to scholars and researchers.

# NEWS FROM HMML

## HMML RECEIVES CATALAN *CAPBREU*—A RENT ROLL FROM THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

This summer, HMML was pleased to receive from Professor Agustin Boyer, of the department of foreign languages and literature at Saint Cloud State University, an original *capbreu*, a Catalan document that originates from the Village of Castello de Torella, Catalonia.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, during the month of August, the Catalan notary En García de Molendino recorded the rents that the peasants of the village of Castello de Torello paid their lord. Some peasants paid in cash; some in sheep; some paid in chickens. En García meticulously recorded the legal formula for the payment of each rent and added up the

sums (including the chickens) on four large sheets of parchment, which he then attached together in the form of a roll, creating a type of document called a *capbreu*—a rent roll. This particular *capbreu* survived the centuries until it found its way to a market in Madrid, where it was disassembled to make lampshades. Professor Boyer came into possession of the final segment of the rent roll while he was a graduate student in medieval literature at the University of California in Berkeley. The surviving segment is quite large—30 inches long and 21.5 inches wide, suggesting that originally the *capbreu* was 10 feet long. The document will be a permanent addition to manuscript rolls in our Steiner Collection.



Fr. Columba Stewart, HMML executive director, (left), and Theresa Vann, HMML Joseph S. Micallef curator of the Malta Study Center (far right), accept the Catalan *capbreu* from Professor Agustin Boyer, of the department of foreign languages at Saint Cloud University.

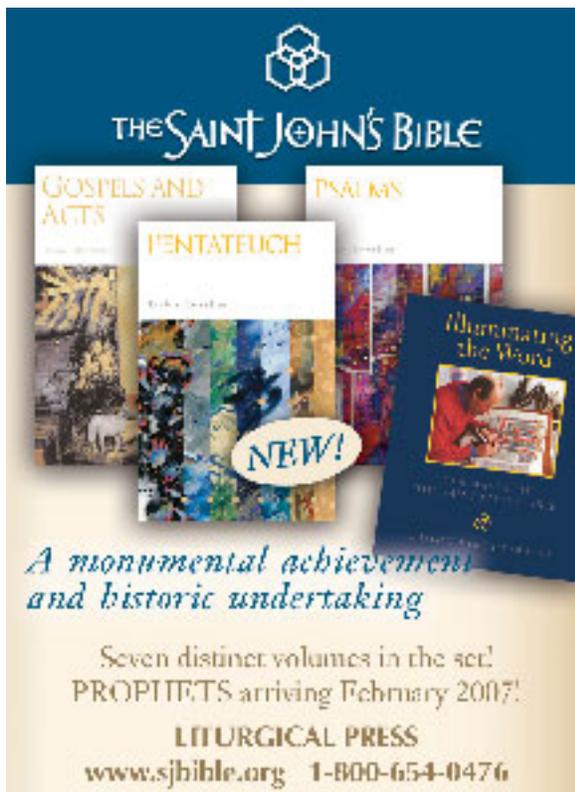
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## *The Saint John's Bible* Exhibition Update

**Library of Congress, Washington, DC**

October 6, 2006 - December 15, 2006

**Naples Art Museum, Naples, Fla.**

January 26, 2007 - April 6, 2007

**Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Ariz.**

December 9, 2007 - March 7, 2008

**Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada**

April 11, 2008 - June 8, 2008

**Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Wash.**

July 11, 2008 - September 5, 2008

**Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Ala.**

October 10, 2008 - April 10, 2009

**Other Exhibition Activities**

**Museum of Biblical Art, New York City:**

September 6 through December, 2006, pages from Prophets

**San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, Calif.:**

July through December 2007, pages from *The Saint John's Bible* will be featured in an exhibition on the Dead Sea Scrolls