Giving Voice to Ancient Texts

Digital Preservation and Access for Endangered Manuscripts from Threatened Communities

Columba Stewart OSB
Fr. Oliver Kapsner, O.S.B., and microfilming team, Austria, 1965
Addai Scher, Chaldean Archbishop of Seert, killed in 1915
لا يوجد نص يمكن قراءته بشكل طبيعي من الصورة المقدمة.
Chronicle of Michael the Great, taken to Aleppo in 1922 (SOAA 250)
Ban on bell ringing by Christians because of the Crusader attacks
A view of the Grand Umayyad mosque in Aleppo damaged as a result of the war in Syria.
Mor Gregorios Yuhanna Ibrahim, Metropolitan of Aleppo, kidnapped in April 2013 with his Antiochian (Greek) Orthodox counterpart, Metropolitan Paul Yazigi
With Fr. Nageeb Michael, O.P., above the Nineveh Plain, June 2012
Monastery of Mar Behnam, Iraq, March 2015
Monastery of Mar Behnam, Iraq, December 2016
Khalidi Library

ESTABLISHED
1318 A.H. / 1900 A.D.
Current and Recent Projects

- Iraq
- Jerusalem
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Turkey
- Croatia (&c.)
- Malta
- Ukraine
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Mali
- India
## Digitized Christian Manuscripts from the Middle East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Manuscripts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>35+</td>
<td>4708</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>476</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>21,020</strong></td>
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</table>
## Digitized Islamic Manuscripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Manuscripts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timbuktu</td>
<td>3+</td>
<td>75,000+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>88,500+</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Libraries</td>
<td>Syriac</td>
<td>Ethiopian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMML</td>
<td>13500</td>
<td>11000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arrivées الوصول
• **School**: Paleography and codicology (Latin, Syriac; Arabic, Armenian, Ge’ez, etc.)

• **Lexicon**: key terms

• **Folio Collection**: images with commentary from HMML and other collections

• **Library**: digitized catalogs, reference works

• **Reading Room**: complete mss online
Reading Room is/has:

• image display and navigation in a IIIF-compliant environment (Mirador viewer) with provision for user contributed metadata

• a user management system for account creation, usage tracking and report generation

• a cataloging environment for both literary and archival materials

• a catalog database (MySQL) with ElasticSearch functionality and some export tools
Mar Behnam Monastery, MS 44
Mar Behnam Monastery, MS 44: online in vHMML Reading Room
HMML welcomes corrections, comments, or cataloging information about manuscripts and other items in our collection. Please submit your comments below.

Please choose the category or categories for your comments. This will help us route the information to the proper HMML staff member.

If necessary, may we contact you about this correction/addition?

- yes
- no

Submit
Reading Room is **not:**

- a text corpus
- an environment for transcription or translation
- a fully open IIIF system (most manifests are not published)
As of 2/13/2017:

• 10562 complete digital objects (594 pending)
• 1325 records for unscanned microfilm
• nearly 500 registered users
• new records/objects are uploaded weekly
3.0 Desiderata

• better communication tools for newsfeeds, updates, etc.
• downloading of (some) images, easier user export of metadata
• advanced wildcard searching
• additional hotlinks in metadata display
• export of metadata in encoded formats (METS, OAI, EAD) for other projects