

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
announces a Lecture

by

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**From Cold War Europe to Ethiopia, to the Middle East in Crisis
and the Manuscripts of Timbuktu:
the Work of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML)
in Preserving Handwritten Culture.**

This lecture will introduce the work of HMML, which since 1965 has created the world's largest archive of manuscript photographs, comprising more than 145,000 complete manuscripts. Founded in 1965 by the Benedictine monks of Saint John's Abbey in Minnesota, USA, to preserve monastic culture in Europe in case of a nuclear war, the mission of the library has broadened to include non-western Christian cultures in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, and recently Islamic manuscripts from Ethiopia, Jerusalem, and Timbuktu in Mali. HMML has worked extensively in Syria and Iraq, with a particular expertise in cost-efficient, productive digitization projects in challenging environments. In service to researchers around the world, HMML is currently developing VHMML, which will provide a complete online environment for manuscript studies, including access to tens of thousands of complete manuscripts digitized in HMML's recent projects. This presentation will review the guiding principles and results of HMML's fieldwork, as well as describe the digital tools currently in development.

Thursday, 22 January 2015 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC