The Schoenberg Institute
for Manuscript Studies

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES

Annual Report
September 1, 2015, to November 1, 2016

Guided by the vision of its founder, Lawrence J. Schoenberg, the mission of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at Penn is to bring manuscript culture, modern technology and people together to bring access to and understanding of our intellectual heritage locally and around the world.

Contents

Introduction

In its third year the Schoenberg Institute has continued to grow its programs, to move projects forward, and to reach new audiences and constituencies. We have been particularly successful in raising our profile through digital and print publications, promotion, and the advancement of our projects at local, national and international levels. This year, to choose just two highlights, we have begun a new peer-reviewed journal and we are playing a central role in a CLIR-funded effort to catalogue and digitize all of Philadelphia's manuscripts.

As our programs have grown, so has our staff with the recent addition of Nicholas Herman as Schoenberg Curator of Manuscripts and Erin Connolly as CLIR fellow in Medieval Data Curation. Our plate is full, but thanks to our new staff member, and to the quarterly review process established in 2015 in which we review results, costs, and goals, we not only manage our workload but continue to sharpen our identity and viability as a center of research and innovation in the field of manuscript studies.

We could not do this without the gift of Larry Schoenberg's collection and legacy and the continued support of Barbara Brizdle and Penn Libraries. However, government support has also been central to our success. The recent changes in the political landscape could very well limit the scope of government-funded grant opportunities in the short and long term. This is but one possible manifestation of a threat to our mission and to organizations like ours working to preserve our shared cultural and intellectual heritage. We must be prepared to face and overcome these challenges as we move forward into our next year.

This year, we welcome new members to this committee. For their benefit, we wish to review SIMS's goals as outlined in our 2015 Strategic Plan. They are:

- To promote pre-modern manuscript studies at Penn.
- To create opportunities for scholarly material and digital research.
- To become a global leader in and exemplary resource for open data.
- To stay current with innovative digital access & research in a rapidly changing technological environment.

William Noel
Director, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies

2015-2016 Staff

William Noel, Director

Matija Budisin, Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts NEH Project Assistant (as of April 2016)

Emma Cawlfield, Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts Project Assistant

Erin Connolly, CLIR Fellow in Medieval Data Curation

Jessie Dummer, Digitization Project Coordinator

Doug Emery, Digital Content Programmer Analyst

Benjamin V. Fleming, Indic Manuscripts Global Access Project Cataloger

Mitch Fraas, Curator, Digital Research Services

Benjamin Heller, Project Programmer, Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts

Nicholas Herman, Curator of Manuscripts (as of September 2016)

Amey Hutchins, Manuscripts Cataloging Librarian

Susanne Ryuyin Kerekes, Graduate Student Fellow

David McKnight, Director, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

Dennis Mullen, Digitization Specialist

Dot Porter, Curator, Digital Research Services

Lynn Ransom, Curator, SIMS Programs

Programs

In 2016-2017 SIMS continued with its roster of programs designed to engage our local, regional, national, and international constituencies. These include fellowships, publications, and the Schoenberg Symposium. We were especially pleased this year to launch the first issue of *Manuscript Studies: The Journal of the Schoenberg Institute*.

Fellowships
Visiting Research Fellowships
The SIMS Visiting Research Fellowships encourage junior, senior, and independent scholars to conduct research at SIMS relating to our pre-modern manuscript collections. Fellows are encouraged to interact with SIMS staff, Penn faculty and students, and other medieval and early modern scholars in the Philadelphia area, and they are expected to present their research at Penn Libraries either during the term of the fellowship or on a selected date following the completion of the term.

2015-2016 Fellows:
- Tekla Bude, Newnham College, Cambridge University (August 2015)
  Mathematical Theologies: Rethinking Mathematical Pedagogy in Europe 1100-1500
     Outcome: Lecture presented at the Fall 2015 meeting of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association.
- Angelo Piacentini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan (January 2016)
  Italian Humanistic Manuscripts in the University of Pennsylvania Libraries
     Outcome: Lecture presented at the Kislak Center in partnership with the Department of Italian Studies, February 10, 2016.
- Jeffrey C. Witt, Loyola University Maryland (May 2016)
  The Abbreviatio *of William of Rothwell: Integrating UPenn MS Codex 686 into the Sentences Commentary Text Archive and SCTA Image Viewer*
     Outcome: Lecture presented at the Fall 2015 meeting of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association. Promoted and is collaborating with 2016-2017 Graduate Student Research Fellow Daniel Mackey.

2016-2017 fellows are:
- Aleksandra Bunčić, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (October 2016)
  Illuminating the Skies: Jews, Science and an Astronomical Anthology (LJS 57) in Medieval Catalonia
  Outcome: Working public seminar with LJS 57, Vitale II Media Lab, Kislak Center, October 27, 2016
- Justine Walden, University of Toronto (March 2017)
  Europe's Roots: Religious Others in Late Medieval Christian Europe

- Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia Library (May 2017)
  Manuscripts of Sir Thomas Phillipps in Philadelphia

Graduate Student Fellowship

2015-2016 Fellow: Susanne Ryuyin Kerekes, PhD candidate, Department of Religious Studies, Penn. Project title: *Siamese Sampler: 19th-century Manuscripts of Scripture, Poetry, and Decree*.
This project focused on five Thai manuscripts in Penn's collection, three of which are rare and have never before been translated. The manuscripts include: (1) a royal decree that mentions the renovation of the temple Wat Pho; (2) an elementary Thai lesson book; (3) a Thai translation of the Gospel of Matthew; (4) fragments of a horoscope manuscript; and (5) a volume from *Phra 'Aphamanī*, an epic poem written by Thailand's "Shakespeare", Sunthorn Phū.

Outcomes:

1) Exhibition and Conference: *Siamese Sampler: 19th-century Manuscripts of Scripture, Poetry, and Decree* (August 8 – October 7, Snyder-Granader Alcove, Kislak Center. Conference held September 6, 2016. Conference and exhibition were featured in Penn's *Almanac* (Vol. 63, No. 4, page 7, Sept. 6, 2016):
http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v63/n04/thai-manuscript.html

2) Participation in the 8th Annual SIMS Symposium (Nov. 12-14, 2016. Talk entitled, "Tying Together the Various Traces of Thai Manuscripts" (174 views on SIMS' YouTube channel as of Nov. 3, 2016.

3) Preparation of translation of the royal decree manuscript for publication in *Manuscript Studies* (Fall 2017).

2016-2017 Fellow: Dan Mackey, "Digitally Documenting Aristotle Commentaries," Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies, Penn.

Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies & Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Distinguished Fellow in Jewish Manuscript Studies

We reported in last year's annual report the start of a new fellowship program in collaboration with the Katz Center. To review, in the summer of 2015, SIMS-Katz fellow, Professor Tzvi Langerman, Professor of Arabic, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, spent two weeks studying a recently acquired medical miscellany UPenn MS Codex 1649.

Outcomes:
1) Public sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, September 3, 2015
2) Slides posted to Academia.edu. Seen and discussed by over 150 members of Academia.edu

2) Preliminary research on UPenn MS Codex 1649 published in the first issue of *Manuscript Studies*

3) A MOOC on the manuscript to be first in a series of similar short instructional videos entitled "History through Jewish Manuscript Studies": https://www.edx.org/course/history-medieval-medicine-through-jewish-pennx-katz1-1x. Statistics: 1,434 students from 90 countries. Completion rate was low: only 5% of students who viewed the course completed the follow up quiz.

Following on this success, SIMS and the Katz Center formalized the fellowship to continue it for three years. Each year we will invite a distinguished scholar to work with our Hebrew manuscript material. The fellowship provides up to $3500 in travel and accommodation and an honorarium of $2500. In exchange we ask the fellow to 1) be onsite for up to 9 days; 2) present a public lecture sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, 23 film a short MOOC to be distributed on the Ed.X platform in the "History through Jewish Manuscript Studies" series, and 4) publish findings in either *Manuscript Studies* or *the Jewish Quarterly Review*.

The 2016-2017 fellow will be Alessandro Guetta, Faculty member, INALCO Paris, Departement d'études hebraiques et juives. He will be in residence from February 4-11, 2017. His public lecture will take place February 9, 2017. His research will center on a copy of Malkiel Aschkenazi's *Tavnith HaMishkan* and *Chanukath HaBayith* (now CAJS Rar Ms 460), produced in Mantua in the early 17th century. It contains two texts on the construction of the Tabernacle in the desert and the Temple in Jerusalem. In addition to the above requirements, Professor Guetta will teach an online seminar based on this manuscript to international and local students.

Publications

Manuscript Studies: The Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies
With the support of Penn Libraries, SIMS expanded its publications program by entering into an agreement in April 2015 with the University of Pennsylvania Press to publish a semi-annual journal. *Manuscript Studies* is a scholarly journal that will bring together scholarship from around the world and across disciplines related to the study of pre-modern manuscript books and documents. Volume 1.1 and 1.2 featured essays from the 2013 and 2014 Schoenberg Symposia respectively, and were published in April and October of 2016.

Forthcoming issues include a special issue devoted to a survey of collections of Thai manuscripts, guest-edited by Professor Justin McDaniel, Department of Religious Studies at Penn (Spring 2017) and another special issue devoted to the Galen Palimpsest, edited by Will Noel (Spring 2018). We have received and are peer reviewing 12 submissions for Fall 2017. We have received a proposal for a third special issue focusing on manuscript culture in early modern India from Arthur Dudney and Neeraja Poddar. They will submit a formal proposal in early 2017.

Statistics:

34 subscribers (16 institutional); 41 ProjectMuse downloads from 1.1

Institutional Subscribers:
- Cambridge University Library,
- Bodleian Library
- L'Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici
- MIT Humanities Library
- Cornell University Library
- University of Pennsylvania Library
- University of Iowa - Libraries
- Heinrich-Heine-Buchhandlung
- CNRS - IRHT
- Princeton University Library
- Morgan Library & Museum
- University of Virginia
- St. Louis University
- The Huntington Library
- Stanford University
- University of California

Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age
Convened: The 8th Annual Schoenberg Symposium, "Picking up the Pieces," held November 12-13, 2015. 18 speakers presented on aspects of fragmentation and reconstitution of manuscripts, collections, and our shared cultural heritage. For the full program, go to: http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/ljs_symposium8.html

Organized: The 9th Annual Schoenberg Symposium, "Reactions: Medieval/Modern," to be held November 17-19, 2016. 18 speakers will consider various ways in which people have reacted to the manuscript book, from medieval times to the present. For the full program, go to: http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/ljs_symposium9.html

Projects

Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis (new)

In January 2016, the Council on Library and Information Resources awarded Lehigh University $499,086 for a collaborative project to digitize the western medieval manuscripts in Philadelphia. Hosted at Lehigh University Library and the University of Pennsylvania Libraries and involving fifteen members of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL), the result will be online access to high-resolution images, with metadata, of 159,512 pages of medieval manuscripts from more than 400 codices plus leaves. Images will be released to the public domain for free use by scholars and the general public. Added to existing digitized resources, the project will make the region's medieval manuscripts - one of the largest concentrations in the United States - available worldwide, in their entirety and easily downloadable. Images and metadata will be published in OPenn (see below). By providing unfettered, unmediated consolidated access to such a comprehensive corpus of images and metadata, the project will shape a new understanding of libraries' and archives' role in sharing our historical and cultural heritage.

Principal Investigators: Lois Black, Lehigh University (Lead PI); Dot Porter (SIMS), and Janine Pollock (Free Library of Philadelphia).

The project started April 1, 2016. Through August 2016, the following planning goals have been met:

- Manuscript description: Policies and procedures for combining existing catalog records and other descriptive metadata with new cataloging
- Logistics: High-level planning regarding which libraries to photograph at which point over the course of the project
- Technical procedures: Formats for gathering metadata, guidelines for formatting metadata, technical requirements for imaging
- Software development: Planning for modifications that will be needed to be made to the existing infrastructure at Penn to ensure that we can ingest the BiblioPhilly metadata and images into OPenn

SIMS staff are central to this effort. Not only is Dot Porter the PI, but the technical infrastructure has been developed by Doug Emery. Amey Hutchins, Nick Herman, and Erin Connolly will be providing manuscript descriptions for 500 manuscripts in three years.

The Beehive (new)

The Beehive (Ms. Codex 726) is the commonplace book of Daniel Francis Pastorius, founder of Germantown. It is one of Penn Libraries great treasures. SIMS began work in collaboration with Brooke Palmieri, PhD Student at the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters at University College London and Penn alumna, Ben Albritton at Stanford University, and Doug Emery, to create a Mirador instance of the Beehive, with the aim of annotating it to provide an index to the entire text in order to make it work as Pastorius intended. This work is ongoing.

Paper Sizes (new)

William Noel is working with George Gordon, a part-time employee at the Kislak Center, to develop software that will allow for the diagnosis of fifteenth century paper sizes and formats. In the fifteenth century there were eight different paper sizes, each of which could be formatted in five ways. This means that books could come in 40 different sizes. However, these are difficult to diagnose because frequently books have been rebound and trimmed. This project will result in an online "machine" to help scholars and cataloguers alike categorize a manuscript more accurately by enabling the identification of the paper stock and the original format of a books. The machine is complete, and will be launched in the New Year.

Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts (SDBM)

The SDBM completed its second year of the three-year, NEH-funded project "The New Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts: A Finding Aid for the World's Manuscript Books." The project aims to redevelop the SDBM into an online, user-maintained, open-access, collaborative research tool for finding and indexing the world's manuscripts. In the first year of the project, we were able to build and implement a new web-based data model thanks to the efforts of Jeff Chiu, the dedicated programmer for the project. At the end of the second year in July 2016, we launched the New SDBM in beta (https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/) and convened a final meeting of the New SDBM Advisory Committee before publicly announcing the New SDBM to a global audience (completed in October 2016). We are on track for the final release in Spring 2017. The project will close on June 30, 2017.

User activity highlights since the beta was launched in August 2016:
- 60 new users have registered
- Lisa Fagin Davis and 16 MLS students at Simmons College used the SDBM for a project in her Introduction to Manuscript Studies
- Anna Welch from the State Library Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, began adding new entries to update the existing SLV records
- National Library of Israel and the British Library contacted us to expressed interest in submitting their manuscript data and for possible collaboration

In addition to grant work, the SDBM is one of four institutions represented on a T-AP Digging Into Data Challenge grant submitted by SDBM Advisory Committee member Dr. Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia, to create an open linked data environment for manuscript research. Other institutions are the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, the Semantic Computing Research Group at Aalto University, the Bodleian Library, and the e-Research Centre at Oxford University. Awards will be announced in April 2017.

VisColl: Collation Visualization Project

In the spring of 2013, Dot Porter, Doug Emery, Dennis Mullen, and Alberto Campagnolo (Library of Congress) developed a system for generating visualizations of physical manuscript's collation. Expanding on the proof-of-concept version, they launched the alpha version which involved:

- Developing a form to enable the modeling of a manuscript, based on quires, leaves in quires, and typology for the leaves (original, missing, added, replaced)
- Developing a system for generating visualizations from that model, via another online form
- Developing a system for generating collation formulae using an XSLT stylesheet This improves on the 1.0 version of the system, which relied on generating visualizations from a collation formula using a pipeline of XSLT scripts. In 2.0, the collation modeling is done via a form, and a formula can be generated later. The XSLT pipeline is in a web interface.

Currently the visualization output combines collation diagrams and bifolia views. Sample visualizations are publicly viewable on the development site http://dorpdev.library.upenn.edu/collation/ . The open-sourced code with complete documentation is also available on GitHub: https://github.com/leoba/VisColl.
In 2016 a team led by Alexandra Gillespie at the University of Toronto joined the project. Gillespie received a grant from the Mellon Foundation in support of this work. As we continue developing new visualizations, we will continue to develop the beta which restructures the collation model to support more sophisticated physical structures (e.g., subquires or quires nested within quires, and foldouts) and which will enable the mapping of taxonomies to physical elements. This work will continue in 2017 and we anticipate several conference presentations and publications relating to VisColl.

Kalendarium

Begun in March 2014, Kalendarium is an unfunded, international project to build a crowd-sourced tool for collecting and identifying the world's medieval liturgical calendars. The project includes participants from the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, the Morgan Library, Radboud University Nijmegen, the University of Antwerp, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Kalendarium is intended to aid users in identifying their calendars and to add to a growing database of the world's medieval calendars. In 2015, the project team, building on its past work, extended and refined the list of saints and feasts that will serve as the basis of the application interface. Because the project is unfunded and because the team works on it as time allows, Kalendarium is one of our more fun projects, an opportunity to think carefully about Digital Humanities and the interesting relationship between historical information and application data. As was noted in last year's Annual Report, we continue to assess progress and viability at each project stage.

Collaborators include: Roger Wieck (Morgan Library), Kathryn Rudy (University of St. Andrews), Johan Oosterman (Nijmegen), Mike Kestemont (Antwerp), Ben Albritton (Stanford), Rob Sanderson (Stanford).

DM

DM is a Mellon and NEH-funded project to create a digital environment for the study and annotation of images and texts that provides a suite of tools enabling scholars to gather and organize the evidence necessary to support arguments based in digitized resources. Previously known as Digital Mappamundi and hosted by Drew University, DM was originally designed by Martin Foys (formerly Drew University, now University of Wisconsin Madison) for use with medieval maps, but its functional flexibility has the potential to make it an excellent tool for all image-based objects. In 2016 development on DM was completed, and we are in the process of making the code public. We are also working with Martin Foys to determine the next steps for continued software development. We are especially interested in making DM compatible with the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF).

Manuscript Digitization and Processing

Digitization of Pre-1601 Manuscripts at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

A project is under way to make available digital facsimiles and metadata for **35 pre-1601 manuscripts** housed at the Katz Center available on Penn in Hand and OPenn. SCETI has completed the photography for the project. Amey Hutchins created full catalog records for five manuscripts in Spanish, Latin, or Italian, and minimal records for the manuscripts in Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Ethiopic. Heidi Lerner, Metadata Librarian for Hebraica and Judaica at Stanford University, began creating enhanced catalog records for the **23 Hebrew and Arabic manuscripts** with the expectation of finishing them by the end of 2016.

Digitization of Pre-1800 Manuscripts Added to the Kislak Center Since 2012

The digitization of pre-1800 manuscripts at the Kislak Center was largely accomplished through NEH grants awarded in 2009 and 2011. This year SIMS initiated a project to digitize the approximately 80 manuscripts either newly acquired or newly cataloged from existing collections since 2012. The facsimiles will appear on Penn in Hand and OPenn. Entry of page-level metadata is almost complete and photography by SCETI is in process.

New Manuscripts Processed

Amey Hutchins continues to move acquisitions through processing to make records available in the Penn Libraries online catalogue. The past year's work included the following:

- 1 manuscript fragment added to the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Collection; 1 manuscript fragment separated from the Dr. Daniel and Eleanor Albert Medical Ephemera Collection; and a collection of fragments from a Latin medical manuscript
- 4 pre-modern bound codex manuscripts from the Kislak Center
- 8 pre-modern bound codex manuscripts from the Katz Center and preliminary records for 30 pre-1601 manuscripts at the Katz Center

OPenn

OPenn: Digital Primary Resources Available to Everyone, launched in May 2015, provides open access to selected digital assets in both human-readable and machine-readable formats. OPenn's digital data sets consist of master TIFF files, web JPEG images, thumbnail images, and XML manuscript descriptions. All sets are available as free cultural works and as such are released into the public domain or under Creative Commons CC0, CC-BY, or CC-BY-SA licenses. These licensing structures permit users to have unmediated access to any data we provide, from a single image to the entire data set. OPenn is a major step in the Libraries' strategic initiative to embrace open data. All images and metadata available on this site may be freely studied, applied, copied, or modified by anyone, for any purpose. It is crucial to the mission of SIMS and

the Penn Libraries to make these materials of great interest and research value easy to access and reuse.

As of November 1, 2016, OPenn provides full access to **2584 pre-modern manuscripts** from Penn's medieval collection), including LJS manuscripts (1797), Indic manuscripts (753), and 34 from Thai manuscripts from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

PACSCL Diaries Project on OPenn

Manuscripts available on OPenn through the PACSCL Diaries Project include many previously unknown documents as well as the celebrated Union League's Tanner diary, a firsthand account of events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Currently there are **55 diaries** from **14 institutions**, including Penn Libraries; Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia; Bryn Mawr College Special Collections; Drexel University Archives; Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College; German Society of Pennsylvania; Historical Society of Pennsylvania; J. Welles Henderson Archives and Library of the Independent Seaport Museum; Legacy Center, Drexel University College of Medicine; Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia; Penn Museum Archives; Quaker and Special Collections, Haverford College; Rare Collections Library of the State Library of Pennsylvania; and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Digital Walters on OPenn

In summer 2016, **421 digitized manuscripts** of the Walters Art Museum were added to OPenn. The illuminated manuscripts of the Walters Art Museum, second only in quality to those of the Morgan Library in New York, complement the existing manuscript data on OPenn, which concentrates largely on documents of textual importance from Penn's collection and from the magnificent, largely secular collection of Lawrence J. Schoenberg. The addition of the Walters data showcases the potential of OPenn as a collaborative repository, as the Walters has itself built an interface on top of the data stored in OPenn that adds functionality and presents the information in a form suitable for its audience.

With this addition of the Walters Art Museum manuscripts, OPenn is now home to the products of six National Endowment for the Humanities digitization and access grants and hosts **47 TB of book and manuscript images**. In simple financial terms, leaving aside the investment in unsponsored projects, OPenn presents **$1,800,000 of tax payer investment**, which was matched by the institutions that made the data.

Indic Manuscripts Global Access Project

In March 2014, the Kislak Center received a $240,000 grant from the NEH's Preservation and Access Division to digitize 1728 Indic manuscripts. The Kislak Center houses the largest collection of Indic manuscript in North America. At the time the grant was awarded, 1270 manuscripts were cataloged, scanned, and available for discovery in Penn in Hand. The grant

provided support to catalog and digitize 1728 more manuscripts, bringing the total number of manuscripts online to 3000.

At present, there are 2616 Indic catalog entries in Franklin (Penn's online catalog) and on Penn in Hand. Of these, 2305 have available facsimiles. 1478 manuscripts have been cataloged, rehoused, scanned and made available on Penn in Hand. The remaining 250 manuscripts will be cataloged between November 2016 and March 2017. The grant terminates on June 30, 2017 by which time all of the remaining manuscripts will be scanned and available online for discovery.

The project team includes David McKnight (Principal Investigator), Benjamin Fleming (Cataloger), Amey Hutchins (Cataloging Reviewer) Sarah Reidel (Conservator), Sibylla Benatova (Conservation Technician), Kristen Littles (Conservation Technician), Laura Aydelotte (Data Entry Supervisor), Matthew Chalmers (Data Entry Technician), Mick Overgard (Imaging Manager), and Craig Taylor (Digital Photographer).

The Rāmamālā Library Project
The Rāmamālā digital manuscript collection at Penn Libraries, currently showcased on Penn in Hand, contains **85 Bengali and Sanskrit digitized manuscripts** collected from the Rāmamālā Library in Comilla, Bangladesh. Digital copies of these manuscripts were made as part of a joint project with the British Library's Endangered Archive Programme, the Rāmamālā Trust, and the University of Pennsylvania. The Rāmamālā Library Project was headed by Penn Libraries' Benjamin Fleming along with a team of local Bengali and US based scholars. The project brings to light works of importance to the cultural and religious heritage of Bangladesh, particularly its minority Hindu community. It also highlights points of intersection between Hinduism and Islam and shared practice. Most of the works are from the 18th and 19th centuries. The focus of the collection is diverse and includes regional medical texts, Sanskrit-Bengali grammars, mythologies (such as a 600 folio recension of the Bengali *Mahābhārata*), religious and devotional works, textual amulets (*kavacas*), picture poems, sacred diagrams (*yantras*), philosophy and regionally important commentary traditions in Bengali. In addition to the texts themselves, these works highlight scribal families and scribal practices from the 18th and 19th centuries. Due to copyright issues, the Rāmamālā manuscripts will not appear on OPenn.

Exhibitions

Siamese Sampler: 19th-century Manuscripts of Scripture, Poetry, and Decree. August 8 – October 7, 2016, Snyder Granader Alcove, Kislak Center. Curated by Susanne Ryuyin Kerekes.

Reactions: Medieval/Modern, August 25-December 16, 2016, Goldstein Family Gallery. Curated by Dot Porter,

> A full-color illustrated companion volume exploring the themes of the exhibition will be available for purchase in November 2016. It includes and introduction by Dot Porter, exhibition curator, essays by Bruce Holsinger, Erik Kwakkel, Kathryn M. Rudy, Michael Livingston, Angela Bennett, and an exhibition checklist. Curated by Dot Porter
>
> *Siamese Sampler: 19th-century Manuscripts of Scripture, Poetry, and Decree*, August 8 to October 7, 2016, Snyder-Granader Alcove. Curated by SIMS Graduate Student Fellow Susanne Kerekes.

Teaching & Outreach

SIMS staff continued to be actively involved in teaching and providing support for a number of courses and workshops. SIMS staff taught two Rare Book School classes at Penn Libraries, while the Paleography course, started in 2013, continued for its second year with the support of the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences, which offered the course to graduate students on a noncredit basis similar to summer language courses. SIMS staff also continued to provide teaching support for numerous SAS course visits to view collections.

Local Elementary School Class Visits

Since 2015, Dot Porter and Deborah Bishov, Teaching and Research Technologies Librarian, offers a program for young children to introduce them to the wonders of medieval manuscripts. Dot uses the well-known and beloved children's book Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson (J. Paul Getty Museum, 1999) as the "textbook" to introduce children to the concept of a hand-produced book and get them ready for seeing the real thing.

Schools served this year:

- Penn Children's Center (4-5 year olds, one class), Introducing Medieval Manuscripts (Books of Hours), April 2016 and June 2016 (Dot Porter)

Courses taught by SIMS staff:

- Rare Book School Course: Medieval Manuscripts in the 21st Century. July 2016. Instructors: Will Noel and Dot Porter
- Rare Book School Course: "The Book in Script and Print in the Fifteenth Century." Will Noel and Paul Needham, Scheide Librarian, Princeton University.

- SIMS Manuscript Skills Course: Working with Pre-1600 European Manuscripts. May 24 – June 29, 2016. Instructors: Will Noel, Dot Porter, and Amey Hutchins

Course and student support by SIMS staff:
- Justin McDaniel (Religious Studies, Penn), Buddhist Literature, November 2015
- Catherine Conybeare and Eric Pumroy (Classical Studies and Special Collections, Bryn Mawr), course on transmission of classical texts, February 2016 (Will Noel & Amey Hutchins)
- Ralph Rosen (Classical Studies, Penn), Ancient Medicine undergraduate course, April 2016 (Amey Hutchins)
- Alison Gregory (Libraries, Lycoming College), Medieval Paleography and Codicology independent study students, May 2016 (Lynn Ransom & Amey Hutchins)

Virtual Classroom Visits

In spring 2016, SIMS put out a call for Virtual Classroom Visits, which will start in Fall 2016. Taking advantage of the technology in Vitale II, during a Virtual Classroom Visit, a curator at Penn will display and interact with books from our collection, while the class watches and asks questions via a video feed. This makes it possible for classes from across the country (potentially in other parts of the world) to learn about Penn collections and learn from SIMS curators.

Collections Management

Manuscripts Inventory

In November and December 2015, Amey Hutchins worked with nine other staff members from SIMS, Conservation, and Kislak's Special Collections Processing Center to conduct an inventory of the bound manuscripts in the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Collection and the Kislak Center's Ms. Codex collection. All manuscripts, totaling 2,030, were accounted for. A similar inventory will occur at the end of each calendar year.

Codex Condition Survey

The 2015 inventory of manuscripts offered an opportunity to systematically record obvious condition concerns affecting approximately 20% of the collection. SIMS staff is using this information to work with reading room staff to begin developing policies for cataloging, labeling, tracking, and handling manuscripts with condition issues.

Acquisitions and Deaccessions

Purchases:
- Arabic manuscript chronicle of the history of Islam and the North African Almohads, 15th century.
- Muhammad bin Husayn 'attar Zadah al-Halabi (d.1827*), Bulugh al-Zahir wa al-Nasr al-Bahir fi Fann Rami al-Tubb wa al-Qunbura,* early 19th century.

In April of this year, SIMS helped Penn Libraries purchase these two important Arabic manuscripts at the London sale of Mohamed Makiya's manuscript collection. The first of these manuscripts is a previously unidentified historical chronicle drawing together sources on the history of Islam and political developments in North Africa from the descendants of Noah to the reign of the Almohads in what is now Morocco. The purchase of this manuscript was enthusiastically supported by faculty and offers the opportunity to study a hitherto unknown account of the dynastic history of Islamic North Africa. The second Makiya manuscript is an early 19th-century artillery treatise, written in Arabic in the Ottoman provinces by Muhammad bin Husayn 'attar Zadah al-Halabi. Fitting nicely alongside existing Schoenberg manuscripts on the history of technology, mathematics, and military science, this manuscript digests current Ottoman and western thinking on artillery and provides a series of diagrams and figures to assist the artilleryman.

Gifts:
- Fragment from De mysteriis. Late 11th or 12th century
- [Palm-leaf page from a copy of the Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā, Nepal, ca. 1200]

SIMS was fortunate this year to receive from Barbara Brizdle Schoenberg a leaf from a copy of Ambrose's *De mysteriis*, a collection of didactic Holy Week addresses to the newly baptized, copied in transitional script in the late 11th or early 12th century.

Another Kislak gift which aligns with goals and interests of the Schoenberg Institute in expanding the study of the manuscript tradition. In December, Dr. Ken Robbins of Maryland donated a palm leaf manuscript page of the Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā. The 'Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines' (Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā) is one of the earliest Mahāyāna scriptures. The Penn palm-leaf page, though brief, is one of the earliest Buddhist texts in the Kislak Collection.

Grants

Awarded:

1) Council on Library and Information Resources. "Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis: Toward A Comprehensive Online Library of Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts in PACSCL Libraries in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware" (April 1, 2016, - March 31, 2019). Award to Lehigh University, University of Pennsylvania is a co-applicant. Co-principal Investigator at Penn: Dot Porter. Amount: $499,086

2) Council on Library and Information Resources. Grant to support a data curation fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, in order to develop emerging leaders in the field and to encourage permanent staffing solutions within academic libraries. Erin Connelly. (July 1 2016-June 30, 2018). Amount: $154,800

Active:

1) National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources. Implementation grant for "The New Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts: A Research Tool for Tracking the Current and Historic Locations of Manuscripts" (September 1, 2014, - September 30, 2017). Principal Investigator: Lynn Ransom. Amount: $300,000

2) National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources. Implementation grant for "Providing Global Access to Penn's Indic Manuscripts, ca. 1527-1930 (bulk 1700-1850)" (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2017).
Principal Investigator: David McKnight
Amount: $230,000

Submitted:

T-AP Digging into Data Challenge Grant. Submitted by Dr. Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia and Oxford University. Partnering institutions: The Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, the Semantic Computing Research Group at Aalto University, the Bodleian Library and the e-Research Centre at Oxford University, and the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts. Principal Investigator at Penn: Lynn Ransom. Amount requested: $175,000.

Website & Social Media

The Schoenberg Institute's website continues as one of our leading tools for outreach. In addition to providing information about the Schoenberg Institute activities, the website offers dynamic content through blog posts, a tumblr site, a twitter feed, a calendar of SIMS-related events, and a link to the SIMS YouTube channel.

Web Site

2016	*2015*
60,421 views	23,558 views,
177 posts	120 blog posts,
48 registered followers	30 registered RSS followers

YouTube Channel

2016	*2015*
184 videos in 10 playlists	87 videos
11,049 views	8702 views
193 subscribers	130 subscribers

Twitter:

2016	*2015*
1607 followers	995 followers
3,847 tweets	2488 tweets

Tumblr.com (upennmanuscripts.tumblr.com; started May 2015):

2016	*2015*
1433 posts	482 posts
4408 followers	903 followers
4932 notes (comments & shares)	787 notes (comments & shares)
396 new followers in October 2016	125 new followers

*Tumblr posts are made by Dot Porter and graduate student Mariah Min (University of Pennsylvania) and are cross-posted on Twitter and Facebook.

Facebook

2016	*2015*
1202 likes	907 likes

SIMS Staff Conference Representation and Professional Activity

Conferences:

- 8th Annual Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age, Penn, November 2015 (Doug Emery, Dot Porter, Lynn Ransom)
- Annual Meeting, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Princeton University (Jessie Dummer, Dot Porter, Lynn Ransom)
- 2016 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Boston, February 25, 2016 (Lynn Ransom, William Noel)
- Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Boston, March 31-April 2, 2016 (Mitch Fraas, invited speaker)
- 16th Care and Conservation of Manuscripts Seminar, University of Copenhagen, April 2016 (Jessie Dummer, Lynn Ransom)
- 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016 (Jessie Dummer, Dot Porter, Lynn Ransom)
- 15th Annual TEI Conference and Members, Vienna, Austria, September 26–30, 2016 (Dot Porter as co-convener for Manuscript Special Interest Group)
- Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Conference, "The Pre-Modern Book in a Global Context: Materiality and Visuality," Binghamton University, October 21-22 (Will Noel, Lynn Ransom)
- Beyond Words: A Symposium held in conjunction with the exhibition Beyond Words: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston Collections, Boston, MA, November 3-5, 2016

Keynote addresses:

- William Noel, "It's in your hands: The Future of Manuscript Studies," presented at 2016 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Boston, February 25, 2016
- William Noel, Participant in plenary panel, "Technical Futures in the History of the Book," Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Conference (see above)
- Dot Porter, "What is an Edition anyway? A critical examination of Digital Editions since 2002," Digital Scholarly Editions as Interfaces, University of Graz, September 2016 (text online: http://www.dotporterdigital.org/?p=309)

Professional affiliations:

- Association for Computers and the Humanities (Dot Porter, Vice President)
- Digitizing Hidden Collections, Council on Library and Information Resources (Will Noel, Review Panel)
- Footprints Project: Jewish Books Through Time and Place, Columbia University (Mitch Fraas, Board Member)
- Digital Medievalist (Lynn Ransom, Member, Executive Board Member)
- Digital Scriptorium (Lynn Ransom, Secretary, Board of Directors)
- The Medieval Academy of America, Digital Initiatives Advisory Board (Lynn Ransom, Member)

Affiliations

In addition to the above projects and programs, SIMS continues to form and maintain affiliations with several communities within the University of Pennsylvania and with one outside group. These affiliations provide opportunities and access to groups and events that have shared interests in aspects of manuscript studies.

Islamic Manuscript Association (new)
In the spring of 2015, SIMS became a member of the Islamic Manuscript Association. For more information on this group, visit http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/home.aspx.

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Through Advisory Council member Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, we maintain ties with the Katz Center, which houses an important collection of Judaica in manuscript form.

History of the Material Text Seminar
Directed by Advisory Council member Peter Stallybrass, SIMS staff participate in the weekly meetings of the Seminar.

Sinai Palimpsests Project
Doug Emery continues to hold a position as the data manager and technical lead of the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library's (EMEL) project to digitize and identify 130 palimpsest manuscripts at Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai, Egypt.

Penn Paleography Group
The Penn Paleography Group is a self-directed association of graduate students from a variety of disciplines who meet regularly to further their interests in and study of paleography. It is currently not active.