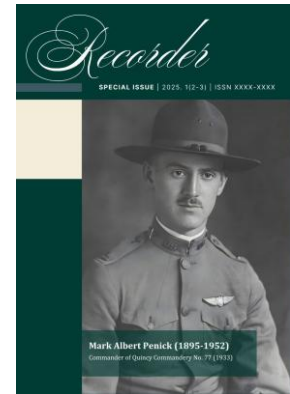


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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

We are preparing this Editor-in-Chief's column on the eve of Christmas, and on behalf of our entire team we would like to wish you happiness, peace, prosperity, and the fulfillment of your wishes. Merry Christmas!

Traditionally, the final days of December are a time to take stock. In 2025, the editorial team of our journal accomplished a great deal. We published five issues—two regular and three special—amounting to more than 300 pages, and released 37 articles representing a wide range of genres and approaches.

We would also like to inform our readers that beginning next year the journal will be published in January, April, July, and October. This change will allow our special issues—a practice we plan to continue—to be released as soon as they are ready, rather than being tied to the schedule of the first regular issue, which in 2025 appeared in March.

Now, a few words about the present special issue.

It is an honor for our team to present the third and final special issue of 2025. With this publication, we conclude a cycle of original research devoted to the Commanderies of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar in Quincy, Illinois. Across three special issues, we have explored: the major milestones of the 50-year history of the city's first commandery, Beauseant Commandery No. 11; the brief yet vivid 29-year history of El-Aksa Commandery No. 55; and the more than 110-year-long, still-unfolding history of Quincy Commandery No. 77.



Over the course of more than 160 years, hundreds of Knights have passed through the city's Commanderies, each leaving a distinctive trace: group photographs, participation in conclaves, Christmas, Easter, and other services, charitable work, as well as patriotic and youth-oriented activities. Behind these events—sometimes seemingly modest in themselves—there lies, in the personal memories of those who have been part of the brotherhood of the Order of Knights Templar, an entire world: a world of Faith and Art, a world in which Charity and Virtue are valued as highly as Fidelity to their time-honored Banners.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas