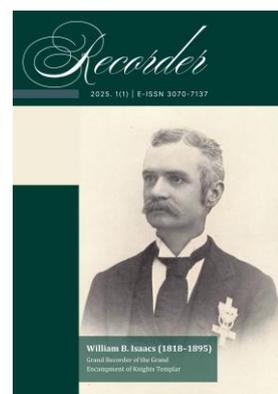


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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,
our journal is published in electronic and printed format.

A reader may wonder why our journal is called Recorder.

The answer is simple: within the Knights Templar Commanderies, the officer known as the Recorder — or the Secretary in Masonic lodges — has traditionally been responsible for maintaining all documentation: from records of membership to official correspondence.

In many cases, Recorders also authored historical or scholarly works about their Commanderies. Thus, the Recorder was not only an administrative officer but also a kind of chronicler and historian, preserving the institutional memory of the Order.

In this same spirit, our Recorder serves as a modern chronicler, dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Freemasonry and the Knights Templar.

Recorder is our attempt to look at the history of Freemasonry (York Rite) through the eyes of a wider audience. This is a historical journal that bridges academic research with accessible storytelling — bringing to light ideas, symbols, and people that have shaped the Masonic world across centuries.

Many of the materials featured in this issue were originally published in specialized academic journals and, for understandable reasons, have remained outside the reach of general readers. We have reworked these studies, preserving their scholarly foundation while removing the excessive scientific apparatus and references. At the same

time, each article includes a reference to its original publication, allowing interested readers to consult the full version when needed.

The research featured in this first issue was prepared by scholars of Cherkas Global University, ensuring that no conflict of interest exists between authors and publisher.

The studies draw upon the resources of The Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar, established on August 1, 2024, in Houston, as well as the university's fundamental library, which holds a remarkable collection of rare books on the history of Freemasonry.

The title Recorder was chosen with purpose. In the Order of Knights Templar, the Recorder is the keeper of knowledge — the one who preserves memory and chronicles events. Our journal seeks to fulfill a similar role: to safeguard historical understanding while presenting it in a form that inspires curiosity and engagement.

The first issue includes the following sections: Anniversaries, In Memoriam, Articles, Uniform (Exhibitions) and Leafing Through Antique Books. In the future, the structure of the journal may expand, reflecting the growing interests of our readers.

Recorder is published four times a year— March, June, September, and December. We invite researchers, collectors, and all those fascinated by the history of Freemasonry to collaborate with us. We hope this journal will find its readers — thoughtful, inquisitive, and passionate about history.

Editor in Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas