

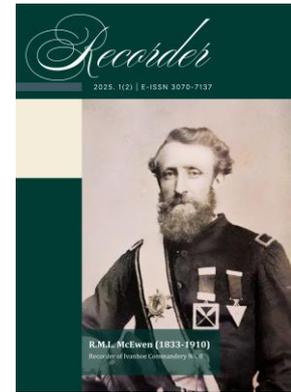
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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

you are holding the second issue of our journal Recorder. In this edition, we continue to publish materials devoted to the history of Freemasonry (York Rite).

Here you will find research about one of the Recorders of the Knights Templar — Sir R.M.L. McEwen from St. Louis, Missouri, as well as original articles, reports, and materials about The Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (Houston) and its exhibitions of historical uniforms.

This issue presents materials from five exhibitions held between February 28 and April 9, 2025. Special attention is given to the black and white uniforms of the Knights Templar from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, representing several commanderies: Trinity Commandery No. 1, St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, De Witt Clinton Commandery, and Pilgrim Commandery No. 19. In addition, this section includes a group of knights in Regulation Fatigue Coats from the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

In the section “Leafing Through Antique Books”, we continue to introduce our readers to excerpts from Thomas S. Webb’s *The Freemason’s Monitor or Illustrations of Masonry* (1816 edition). In this issue, we present the 6th Chapter – “Charges and Regulations for the Conduct and Behaviour of Masons”, and the 7th Chapter – “Prerequisites for a Candidate”.

This section also features a short work by the 6th Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, the prominent American statesman Benjamin B. French — *A Letter and Short Poem on the Death of Abraham Lincoln* (1870 edition).



We have also added a new section to the second issue — “New Publications.” It features the book published in 2025, “History of Bethany Commandery No. 28, Knights Templar (Mendota, Illinois).”

The editorial board of Recorder invites all interested authors to contribute. Reviews, letters, and research materials may be sent to the official email address of the editorial office.

We hope that this issue will also attract the interest of our readers and continue to inspire those who study and appreciate the history of Freemasonry.

Editor in Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas