

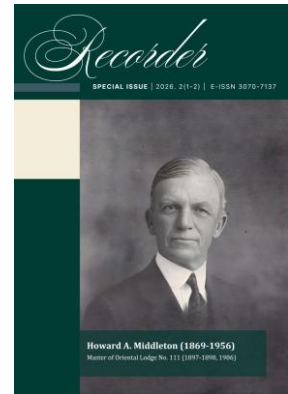
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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Before you is another special issue of 2026 — No. 1-2, which means that eight issues of our journal have now been published. Starting with this issue, we have adopted unified standards for the formatting of scholarly works in accordance with those used by Cherkas Global University Press journals.

The present issue continues our commitment to publishing source-based research that deepens the understanding of institutional life within American Freemasonry. The article by Alexander C. Cherkas offers a detailed reconstruction of the activities of Oriental Lodge No. 111 in Broad Brook, Connecticut, during the years of the Second World War. Drawing upon archival materials introduced into scholarly circulation for the first time, this study exemplifies the methodological rigor and documentary foundation that define the profile of our journal.

What makes this contribution particularly significant is its focus on the microhistorical level. By examining the internal dynamics of a single lodge, the author demonstrates how local fraternal institutions functioned under the pressures of global conflict. The research convincingly shows that even in wartime conditions, the lodge maintained continuity in its ritual practices, administrative structure, and social functions. At the same time, it actively engaged with broader national processes through charitable initiatives, support for servicemen, and participation in patriotic campaigns.

This study also highlights an essential feature of Masonic history: the interplay between tradition and adaptation. Oriental Lodge No. 111 emerges not merely as a ritual body, but as a resilient community capable of integrating external challenges into its established framework. The preservation of memorial culture, the emphasis on mutual assistance, and the sustained practice of initiation all point to the enduring strength of fraternal institutions in times of crisis.

For our readership, this article offers both a valuable case study and a methodological model. It demonstrates how archival sources—particularly lodge minutes—can be used to reconstruct complex social realities and to contribute meaningfully to the broader historiography of Freemasonry.

We trust that this issue will stimulate further research into local Masonic history and encourage scholars to engage more actively with primary sources. The continued expansion of such studies is essential for advancing our understanding of Freemasonry as a living historical phenomenon.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas