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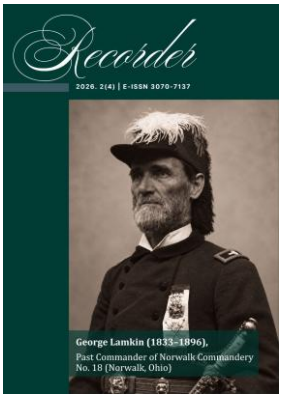


MUSEUM, ARCHIVE, AND LIBRARY NEWS

# Most Notable Acquisitions of the Museum, Archive, and Library: July–September 2026

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**Abstract**

This report presents the most significant recent acquisitions of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (MHAKT CGU), the Archive CGU, and the P.A. Cherkasov Fundamental Library. These institutions are structural divisions of Cherkas Global University.

During the reporting period from July through September 2026, a substantial number of new museum artifacts, archival documents, and books were acquired. This report highlights only the most noteworthy additions.

**Keywords:** Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar, Archive CGU, P.A. Cherkasov Fundamental Library, Cherkas Global University, collections, museum artifact, archival document, book, Knights Templar history, July–September 2026.

The MAL (Museum, Archive, Library) project was launched at Cherkas Global University in 2025. Its purpose is to introduce the academic community and the general public to the most valuable acquisitions of our museum, archive, and library.

This report presents the most significant additions to the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (MHAKT CGU), the Archive CGU, and the P.A. Cherkasov Fundamental Library during the most recent quarter, from July through September 2026. It should be noted that all three institutions are structural divisions of Cherkas Global University (Houston, USA).

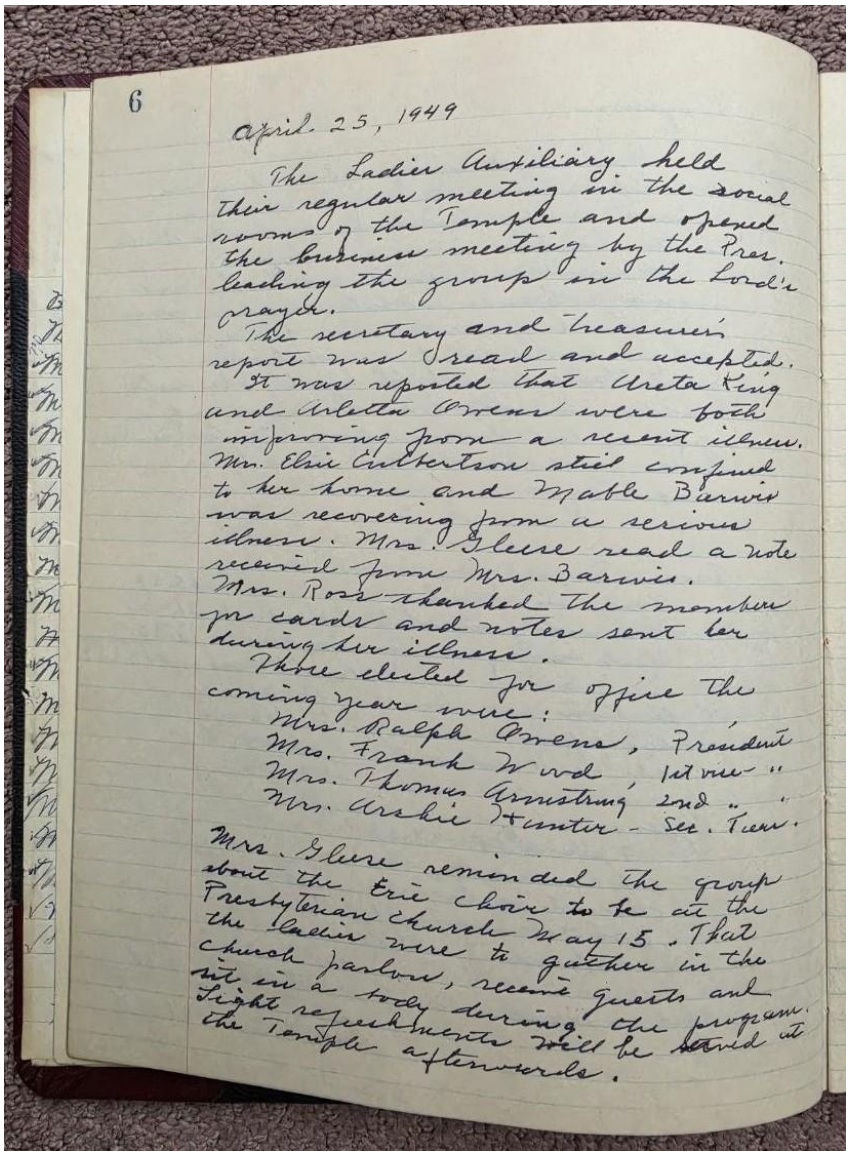
The most notable acquisitions made in July 2026 were as follows.
Museum (July 2026) (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Set of 14 of the 15 officers' jewels from a Knights Templar Commandery.

In July 2026, the Museum acquired a remarkable set of 14 of the 15 officers' jewels from a Knights Templar Commandery, preserved together with its original presentation case.

Archive (July 2026) (Fig. 2).



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April 25, 1949

The Ladies Auxiliary held their regular meeting in the social rooms of the Temple and opened the business meeting by the Pres. leading the group in the Lord's prayer.

The secretary and treasurer's report was read and accepted.

It was reported that Greta King and Arletta Owens were both improving from a recent illness. Mrs. Elsie Culbertson still confined to her home and Mable Barnes was recovering from a serious illness. Mrs. Gleese read a note received from Mrs. Barnes. Mrs. Ross thanked the members for cards and notes sent her during her illness.

Those elected for office the coming year were:

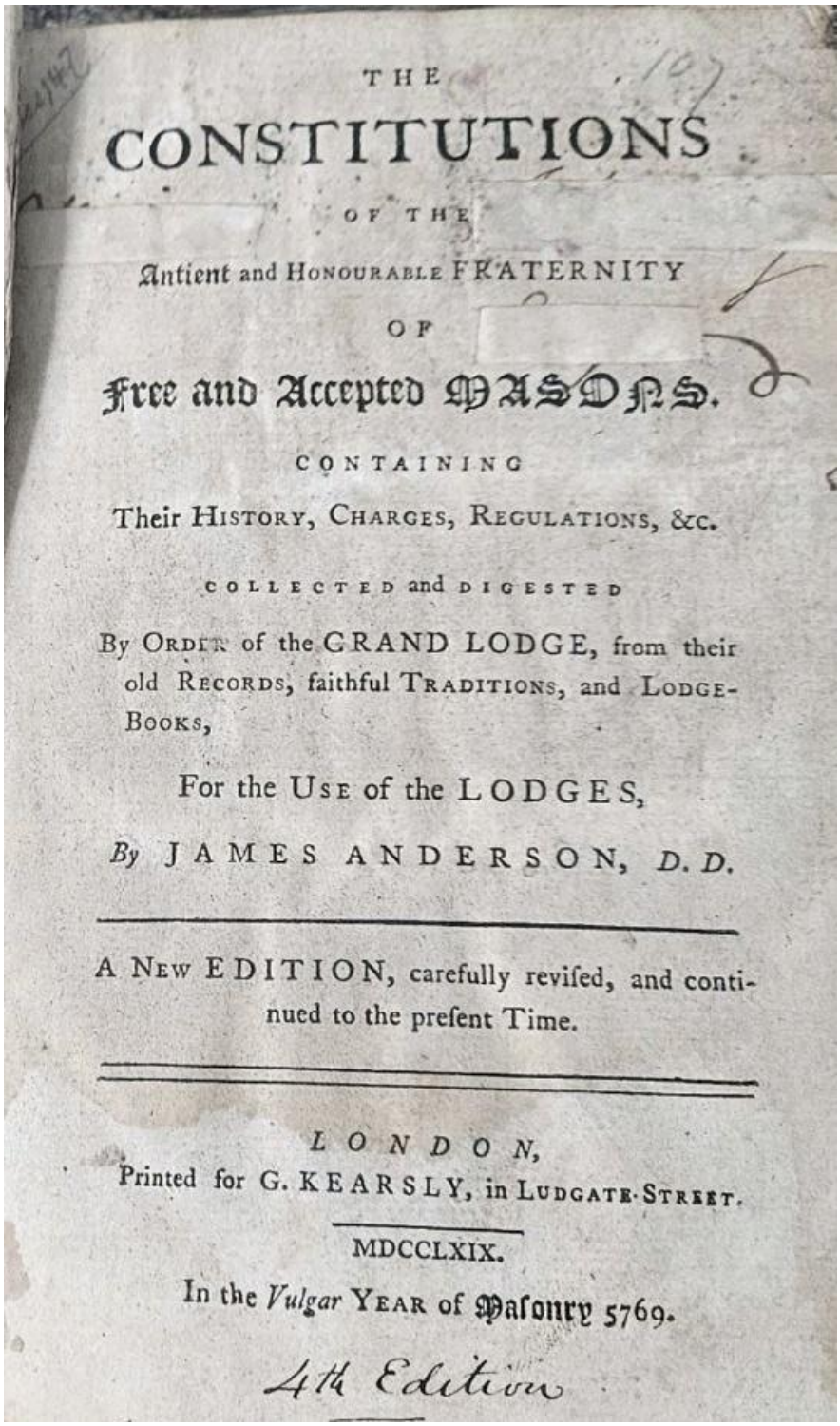
Mrs. Ralph Owens, President
Mrs. Frank Wood, 1st vice "
Mrs. Thomas Armstrong, 2nd " "
Mrs. Archie Hunter - Sec. Treas.

Mrs. Gleese reminded the group about the Erie choir to be at the Presbyterian church May 15. That the ladies were to gather in the church parlors, receive guests and sit in a body during the program. Light refreshments will be served at the Temple afterwards.

**Fig. 2.** Minute Book of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63, 1949–1962.

The Archive acquired the Minute Book of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63, Knights Templar (Pennsylvania), covering the period from 1949 to 1962.

Library (July 2026) (Fig. 3).



THE

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

Antient and Honourable FRATERNITY

OF

Free and Accepted MASONS.

CONTAINING

Their History, Charges, Regulations, &c.

COLLECTED and DIGESTED

By Order of the GRAND LODGE, from their old Records, faithful Traditions, and Lodge-Books,

For the Use of the LODGES,

By JAMES ANDERSON, D. D.

A New EDITION, carefully revised, and continued to the present Time.

LONDON,

Printed for G. KEARSLY, in Ludgate-Street.

MDCCLXIX.

In the *Vulgar* Year of Masonry 5769.

4th Edition

**Fig. 3.** James Anderson's *The Constitutions*. 1769.

Among the Library's most significant acquisitions is the fourth edition of James Anderson's *The Constitutions of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*, published in London in 1769. This edition circulated among Freemasons in British America and is considered an exceptionally rare and historically significant artifact.

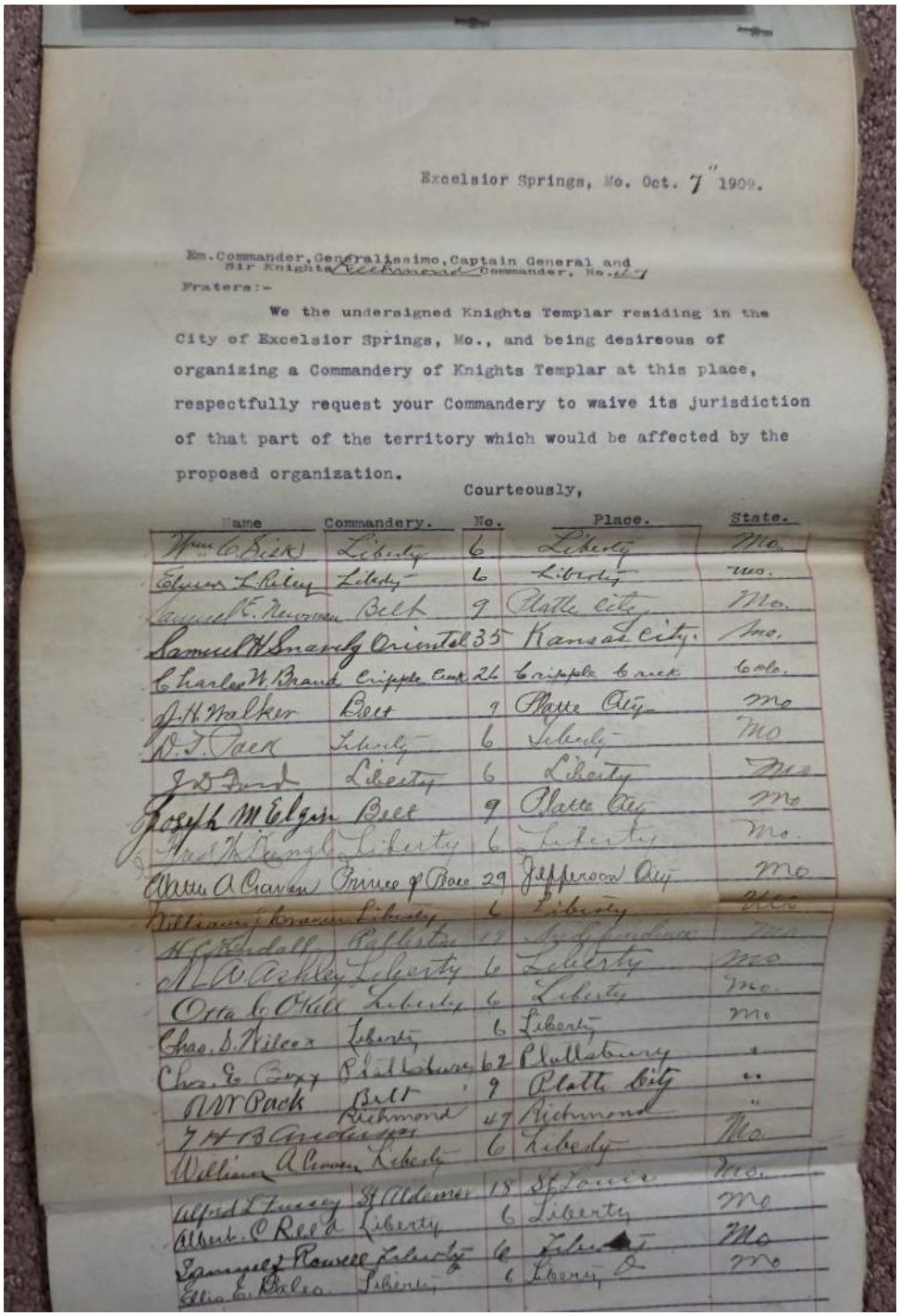
The most notable acquisitions made in August 2026 were as follows.
Museum (August 2026) (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4.** Sword of Albert P. Bassett.

Among the Museum's most remarkable acquisitions in August 2026 is the sword of Albert P. Bassett (1850 – June 21, 1931) of Lowell, Maine. Bassett was one of the youngest soldiers from Maine to serve in the American Civil War, enlisting at the age of just 14. He served in the 12th Maine Infantry Regiment of the Union Army and was later a member of Lewiston Commandery No. 6, Knights Templar.

Archive (August 2026) (Fig. 5).



Excelsior Springs, Mo. Oct. 7" 1909.

Em. Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Sir Knights Richmond Commander, No. 47

Fraters:-

We the undersigned Knights Templar residing in the City of Excelsior Springs, Mo., and being desireous of organizing a Commandery of Knights Templar at this place, respectfully request your Commandery to waive its jurisdiction of that part of the territory which would be affected by the proposed organization.

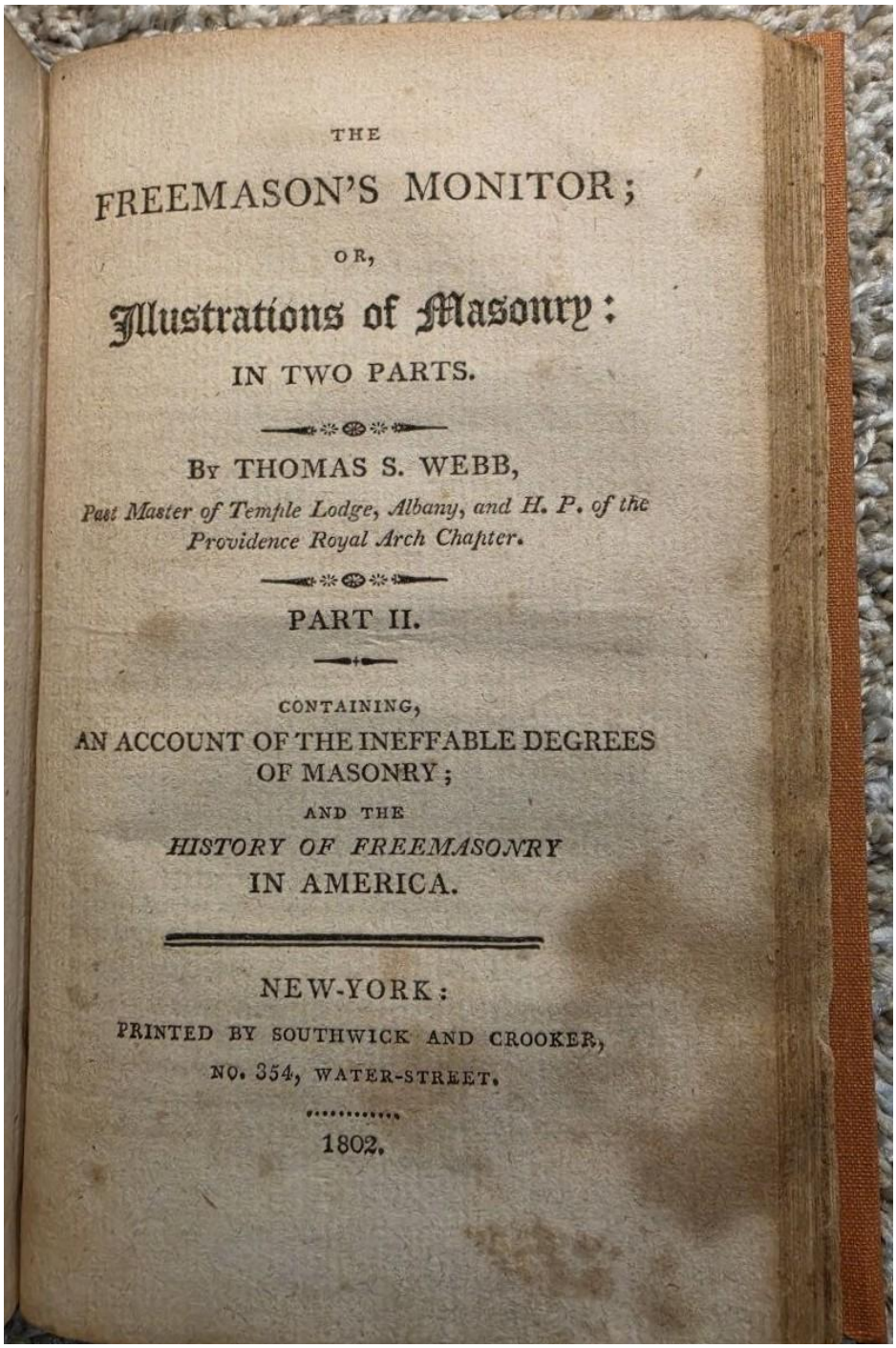
Courteously,

| Name | Commandery. | No. | Place. | State. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wm. C. Sisk | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo. |
| Elmer L. Riley | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo. |
| Samuel E. Newman | Belt | 9 | Platte City | Mo. |
| Samuel H. Snavely | Oriental | 35 | Kansas City | Mo. |
| Charles W. Brand | Cripple Creek | 26 | Cripple Creek | Colo. |
| J. H. Walker | Belt | 9 | Platte City | Mo |
| D. T. Pack | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| J. D. Ford | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Joseph M. Elgin | Belt | 9 | Platte City | Mo |
| [illegible] | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo. |
| Walter A. Craven | Prince of Peace | 29 | Jefferson City | Mo |
| William J. Craven | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| H. C. Kendall | Palestine | 17 | Independence | Mo |
| M. A. Ashley | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Otto C. O'Kell | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo. |
| Chas. S. Wilcox | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Chas. E. Boxy | Plattsburg | 62 | Plattsburg | " |
| R. W. Pack | Belt | 9 | Platte City | " |
| J. H. B. Anderson | Richmond | 47 | Richmond | " |
| William A. Craven | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Alfred L. Fussey | St. Aldemar | 18 | St. Louis | Mo. |
| Albert C. Reed | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Samuel J. Rowell | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |
| Ellis E. Bales | Liberty | 6 | Liberty | Mo |

**Fig. 5.** A collection of 21 documents. 1909.

The Archive acquired a collection of 21 documents dating from 1909 concerning the issuance of personalized certificates by Masonic lodges, chapters, and commanderies. The collection provides valuable documentary evidence of administrative and ceremonial practices within American Freemasonry in the early 20th century.

Library (August 2026) (Fig. 6).



THE

FREEMASON'S MONITOR;

OR,

Illustrations of Masonry:

IN TWO PARTS.

By THOMAS S. WEBB,

*Past Master of Temple Lodge, Albany, and H. P. of the Providence Royal Arch Chapter.*

PART II.

CONTAINING,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE INEFFABLE DEGREES OF MASONRY;

AND THE

*HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY*

IN AMERICA.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY SOUTHWICK AND CROOKER,

NO. 354, WATER-STREET.

1802.

**Fig. 6.** Thomas Smith Webb's *The Freemason's Monitor*. Second Edition. 1802.

One of the Library's most significant acquisitions is the second edition of Thomas Smith Webb's *The Freemason's Monitor; or, Illustrations of Masonry*. Published in New York in 1802, this early edition of Webb's influential work is a bibliographic rarity and represents an important addition to the Library's collection of early American Masonic literature.

The most notable acquisitions made in September 2026 were as follows.
Museum (September 2026) (Fig. 7).



**Fig. 7.** Knights Templar sword bearing the maker's mark W. H. Horstmann and Sons. 1850s.

The Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar received a Knights Templar sword bearing the maker's mark W. H. Horstmann and Sons, dating to approximately the 1850s. The sword retains its scabbard with two suspension rings. The identity of its original owner remains unknown.

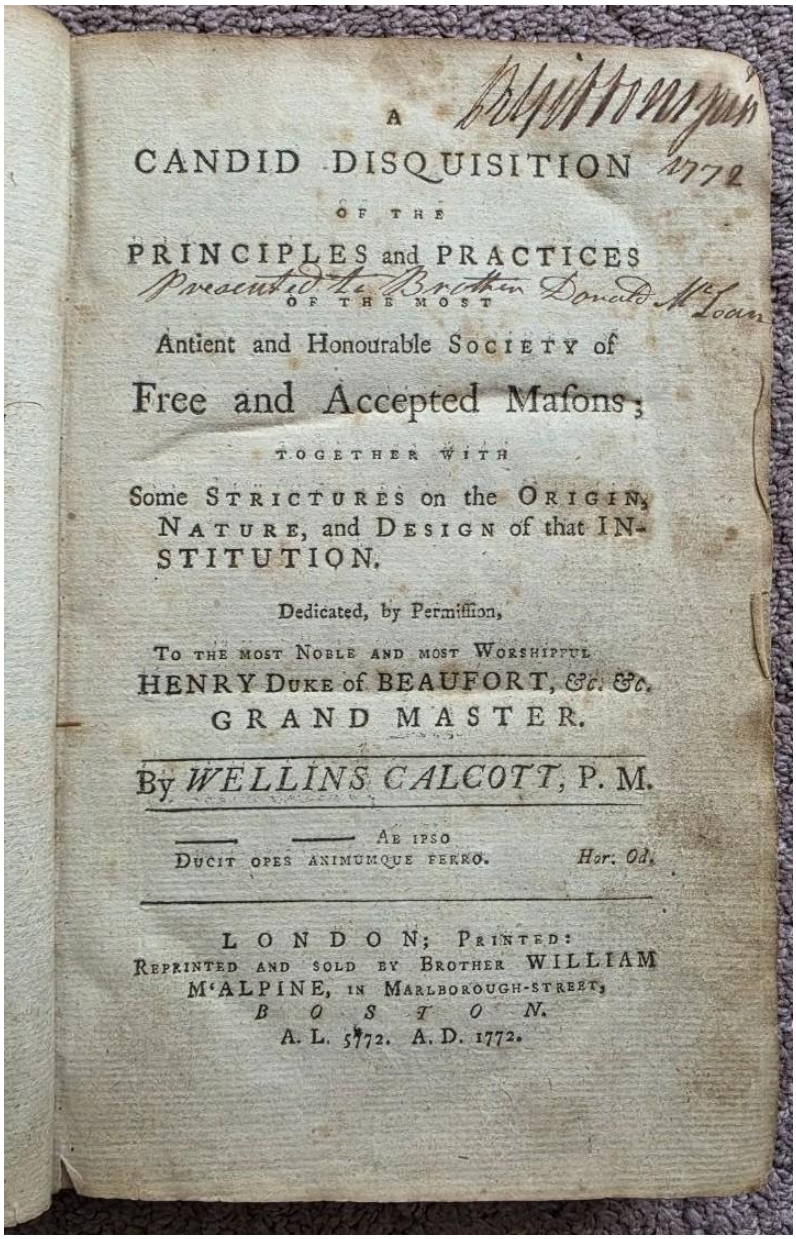
Archive (September 2026) (Fig. 8).




**Fig. 8.** Master Mason's Certificate issued to Henry P. Baker. 1906.

The Archive of Cherkas Global University acquired a Master Mason's Certificate issued to Henry P. Baker on June 20, 1906. The document certifies his membership and good standing in Ancient City Lodge No. 452, Albany, under the Grand Lodge of New York. It bears the signatures of the lodge officers and an embossed lodge seal.

Library (September 2026) (Fig. 9).



A

CANDID DISQUISITION

OF THE

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OF THE MOST

Antient and Honourable SOCIETY of

Free and Accepted Masons;

TOGETHER WITH

Some STRICTURES on the ORIGIN, NATURE, and DESIGN of that INSTITUTION.

Dedicated, by Permiſſion,

TO THE MOST NOBLE AND MOST WORSHIPFUL

HENRY DUKE of BEAUFORT, &c. &c.

GRAND MASTER.

By *WELLINS CALCOTT*, P. M.

—— —— AB IPSO

DUCIT OPES ANIMUMQUE FERRO. *Hor. Od.*

LONDON; PRINTED:

REPRINTED AND SOLD BY BROTHER WILLIAM

M'ALPINE, IN MARLBOROUGH-STREET,

*BOSTON.*

A. L. 5772. A. D. 1772.

**Fig. 9.** Wellins Calcott's *A Candid Disquisition*. 1772.

The P. A. Cherkasov Fundamental Library acquired Wellins Calcott's *A Candid Disquisition* (Boston, 1772). The book examines the principles and practices of Freemasonry, as well as the origin, nature, and purpose of the institution. This copy contains handwritten inscriptions, including the dates 1772 and 1861.