

# Donation of the Month

## Knights Templar Bicorn Hat

M-148.3

Museum Purchase



Belonging to an organization for philanthropic reasons or business networking was popular in the early 20th century. Groups such as the International Order of Odd Fellows, Masons and Knights of Columbus boasted hundreds of members. Today, many of these same organizations are still around, but their membership levels have fallen. Each group has their own symbolism, rituals and uniforms. Uniforms are usually worn just for rituals or parades.

This bicorn hat, a style used from 1790 to 1915 for military officers especially naval officers, is part of the Knights Templar uniform. We aren't talking about the ancient order of Knights Templar who protected travelers to the Holy Land, but a branch of the Masons. Any member of the Masons can choose to join the Scottish or York rite. Each of these rites provide further recognition within the Masonic order. The York rite is divided into three branches, one of which is Knights Templar. Once a member in full standing a uniform identifying your membership can be worn, which includes the bicorn hat or a faille cap, sword, and sash.