

BOOK REVIEW

WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

MASONIC RESEARCH LODGES, BODIES AND SOCIETIES

Author: Ken JP Stuczynski, PM

Reviewed by: Dan M. Kemble, Past Master and Fellow, William O. Ware Lodge of Research

Worshipful Brother Ken JP Stuczynski has given Freemasonry an exceptionally useful tool in his book, *Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies*. For the first time, there is an up-to-date and inclusive description of those organizations dedicated to research within the Masonic Fraternity.

W. B. Stuczynski offers snapshots of fifty-three Research Lodges, seven York Rite research bodies, and eighteen non-chartered organizations, all devoted to Masonic Research.

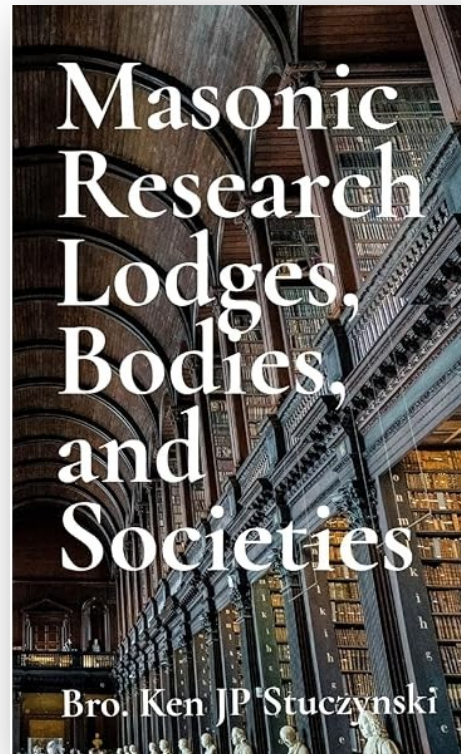
Because of the constantly evolving nature of Masonic research organizations, *Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies* is, as the author acknowledges, a portrait of a specific moment in time. That reality notwithstanding, it fills a gaping hole for the student of Freemasonry who seeks other sources for his inquiry.

Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies begins with a thoughtful Foreword from the always luminous S. Brent Morris. Dr. Morris defines Research Lodges as follows:

“A Research Lodge primarily exists as a forum to disseminate Masonic knowledge, usually in the form of research papers written by its members and often subsequently published in volumes usually known as Transactions.”

Dr. Morris’s succinct and unarguably accurate statement sets the stage for the balance of W. B. Stuczynski’s work.

The beauty of *Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies* is that it is not merely a list of Masonic research organizations. Each of the Research Lodges or other organizations receives a descriptive narrative of its mission statement and activities, membership and meeting



information. W. B. Stuczynski's descriptions are more or less elaborate, depending on the information provided to him by the respective research bodies.

Consequently, if a researcher in Kentucky finds himself on a trail that leads to California, he can use the information in *Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies* to find contact information for either the Southern California Research Lodge or the Northern California Research Lodge. If the research trail is international in nature, there is contact information for a number of research societies outside the United States, including Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, the world's oldest research lodge.

W. B. Stuczynski was especially kind to his Kentucky brethren. There are very full and well written entries for William O. Ware Lodge of Research and The Rubicon Masonic Society included in his book. There is also an entry for Ted Adams Lodge of Research in Northeastern Kentucky. Kentucky's other four research lodges are not mentioned, perhaps having been chartered after W. B. Stuczynski completed his gathering of data for the book (he spent roughly two and one-half years compiling information for the book).

Every Masonic Research Lodge, or other Masonic research organization should have a copy of *Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies* that it can make readily available to its members. Every committed Masonic researcher should have a personal copy of this book. It is an invaluable tool in facilitating Masonic research.

The author writes that he hopes that his book represents a work upon which others can build. In such instance, the Craft is indebted to W. B. Ken JP Stuczynski for providing such a solid foundation for future researchers.

Masonic Research Lodges, Bodies and Societies is recently published and is available through online booksellers.