

**Trevor Stewart, *New Perspectives***, Nördlichen Freimaurer Veröffentlichungen, GmbH, Hamburg, 2017. Paperback. ISBN 978 0 392 41512 3, 233 pages, 12 illustrations.

**Trevor Stewart, *Interior Insights***, Nördlichen Freimaurer Veröffentlichungen, GmbH, Hamburg, 2017. Paperback. ISBN 978 0 393 42479 2, 189 pages, 25 illustrations.

**Trevor Stewart, *Preston's Panorama***, Nördlichen Freimaurer Veröffentlichungen, GmbH, Hamburg, 2017. Paperback. ISBN 978 0 392 41533 7, 120 pages, 14 illustrations.

**Trevor Stewart, *Two Visions***, Nördlichen Freimaurer Veröffentlichungen, GmbH, Hamburg, 2017. Paperback. ISBN 978 0 392 442614 5, 301 pages, 29 illustrations.

**Trevor Stewart, *Begemann Displayed***, Nördlichen Freimaurer Veröffentlichungen, GmbH, Hamburg, 2017. Paperback. ISBN 978 0 392 442614 5, 408 pages, 0 illustrations.

*Reviewed by Bro. Christopher Powell*

Brother Dr Trevor Stewart is a Past Master of *Quatuor Coronati* Lodge No. 2076 and a past Prestonian Lecturer (2004). The five volumes reviewed here under the general title *The Stewart Papers* contain his hitherto unpublished Masonic researches. As may be expected from a member of QC lodge and a well-known Masonic historian of repute, these five volumes contain a wealth of interesting Masonic research based on a close study of primary source material.

The volume entitled *New Perspectives* contains a number of papers written by Bro. Stewart between 1990 and 2015. Their titles are: Aspects of Freemasonry and the Western Hermetic Tradition; Some Thoughts about those Pillars; Let's Go Down in the Vault Again!; A Mild Case of Victorian Pornography?; A Bangkok Experience – a Lesson to Learn; Thornhill Lodge No.3216 – the First Decade. If the last paper is probably of interest only to Sunderland masons in general and members of Thornhill Lodge, No.3216 in particular, like Brother Stewart, the other papers will interest all members of the Craft and the Royal Arch. The Victorian pornographer referred to in Stewart's fourth paper was QC's ninth Master: Dr William Wynn Westcott, a strange mixture of professional coroner and bizarre occultist.

The volume entitled *Interior Insights* contains papers on four, rather more esoteric, topics: A.E. Waite's Independent and Rectified Martinist Rite; Some Thoughts about Initiation, Doors and the Roman Deity, Janus; An Anglo-Irish Freemason's Engagement with an Occult Publication; and *The Crata Repoa*. The Anglo-Irish Freemason referred to in the third paper is Brother John Heron Lepper another distinguished Masonic scholar and Past Master of *Quatuor Coronati* Lodge. A former librarian of UGLE, Heron Lepper's work is always to be taken seriously and has stood the test of time. It is good to find here a biography of him, as well as his paper 'Some Dimensions of the *Fama*' discovered in 1982, an early draft of Lepper's analysis of the seventeenth-century Rosicrucian document known as the *Fama Fraternitatis*.

*Preston's Panorama* is the slimmest of the volumes containing a number of short chapters on various aspects of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Freemasonry: the libraries of some 18<sup>th</sup>-century English Freemasons; two philosophic influences; 18<sup>th</sup>-century Masonic book subscriptions; the Lodge of Friendship; and the Old King's Arms Lodge. In other chapters Stewart

considers the Masonic connections between Drs Stukeley and Byrom and between the Royal Society and Freemasonry. Stewart's thoughts on William Preston occupy a few short chapters at the beginning of the volume. As is so often the case with Brother Stewart, it is his appendices that attract one's attention and contain a lot of very useful historical information including the titles of lectures delivered in early London Masonic lodges.

Stewart's volume *Two Visions* deals with the background to the creation of QC Lodge and, in particular, the creation and workings of the Masonic Archaeological Institute which existed in London in the late 1860s and early 1870s. As in the previous volume one must not forget the appendices. In this volume the main text occupies pages 1 to 81, however the various appendices cover pages 82 to 224, nearly twice the length of the main text. They include transcriptions of the early records of the Masonic Archaeological Institute.

Not to be missed and tucked away at the end of *Two Visions* between pages 225 and 311, is a very interesting section on Dr Wilhelm Begemann, the famous German Masonic historian. Bro. Stewart begins with a consideration of the relationship between Dr Begemann and QC Lodge. Taking as his starting point Alain Bernheim's thesis, published in *Heredom* in 1998, that there was an unjustified antipathy between the members of QC Lodge and the famous German historian of Freemasonry, Stewart demonstrates by a close study of the documentary evidence that there is no foundation in fact for Bernheim's view. When commenting on Knoop and Jones's paper on Begemann (page 237) it is clear Stewart was not aware of Douglas Knoop's own background: that his genes were 100% German and that he was a first-language German speaker. Had Stewart known this, he may have given more credence to Knoop and Jones's views on Begemann's work on the Old Charges and realised his view that their thoughts were coloured by post-War anti-German feelings is very wide of the mark.

Bro. Stewart goes on to give an informative biography of Begemann. He explains how Begemann's university studies and, in particular, the influence of Professor Karl K.F.W. Lachmann, laid the foundations of his own historical and philological approach to Masonic study. As an appendix on pages 284-311, Stewart provides a very useful new translation of a note by Begemann explaining why he wrote his histories of Freemasonry in England, Ireland and Scotland that is well worth reading.

Ever since Begemann published *Vorgeschichte und Anfänge der Freimaurerei in England* (Berlin, 1909-1910) his two-volume history of Freemasonry in England – he produced one volume on Ireland (1913) and one of an intended two volumes on Scotland (1914) – a translation into English has been discussed. Before the First World War, QC Lodge agreed to publish a translation into English and Bro. Lionel Vibert produced a draft translation of volume one which still resides in typescript in the library of UGLE in Great Queen Street (Call Number BE 50 BEG fol.). Bro. Stewart, goes into detail about Vibert's translation and his correspondence with Begemann about it. Sadly, for a number of reasons, Vibert's translation of volume one was never published. As time passed, Begemann's researches became increasingly out of date and the idea of producing an English translation less attractive. Nevertheless, parts of Begemann's history formed the basis of many later studies, not least his study of the Old Charges.

Ten years ago, Bro. Stewart and two German brethren, Drs Alexis Mütter and Stefan Krause set about translating the parts of Begemann's two volumes that they felt were still relevant to modern readers and researchers. The results are contained in Stewart's volume entitled *Begemann Displayed*. The sections on the Old Charges are certainly still important in explaining the system of classification Begemann devised that was followed by later

writers on the subject including Hughan, Poole and McLeod, even if the whole subject is now in need of complete reconsideration and revision and, in the opinion of this reviewer, Knoop and Jones's reservations as well as those more recently of Prof. Andrew Prescott concerning Begemann's original method, have some point. Begemann's comments on Anderson, Desaguliers and Payne are now completely out-of-date and this part of *Begemann Displayed* is, perhaps, of little interest today.

Stewart's selections from Begemann's two English volumes will inevitably please some and frustrate others. Nevertheless, it is good for non-German speakers to be able to read at least some of Begemann's researches that have been closed to them for over a hundred years. Since a translation of volume one has existed for nearly a century in typescript, this reviewer would have preferred that Bro. Stewart and his German colleagues had tackled volume two as a whole, for a full translation of the second volume of Begemann's history to join Vibert's volume one, might then have persuaded QC lodge to publish both volumes as was their stated intention in 1913, particularly in these days of print-on-demand.

If *The Stewart Papers* would have benefitted from serious proof-reading, indexing, editorial revision, and a closer conformity to modern editorial practice, they nevertheless contain for the most part a great deal of solid Masonic research from a Masonic historian of repute and are well worth exploring.