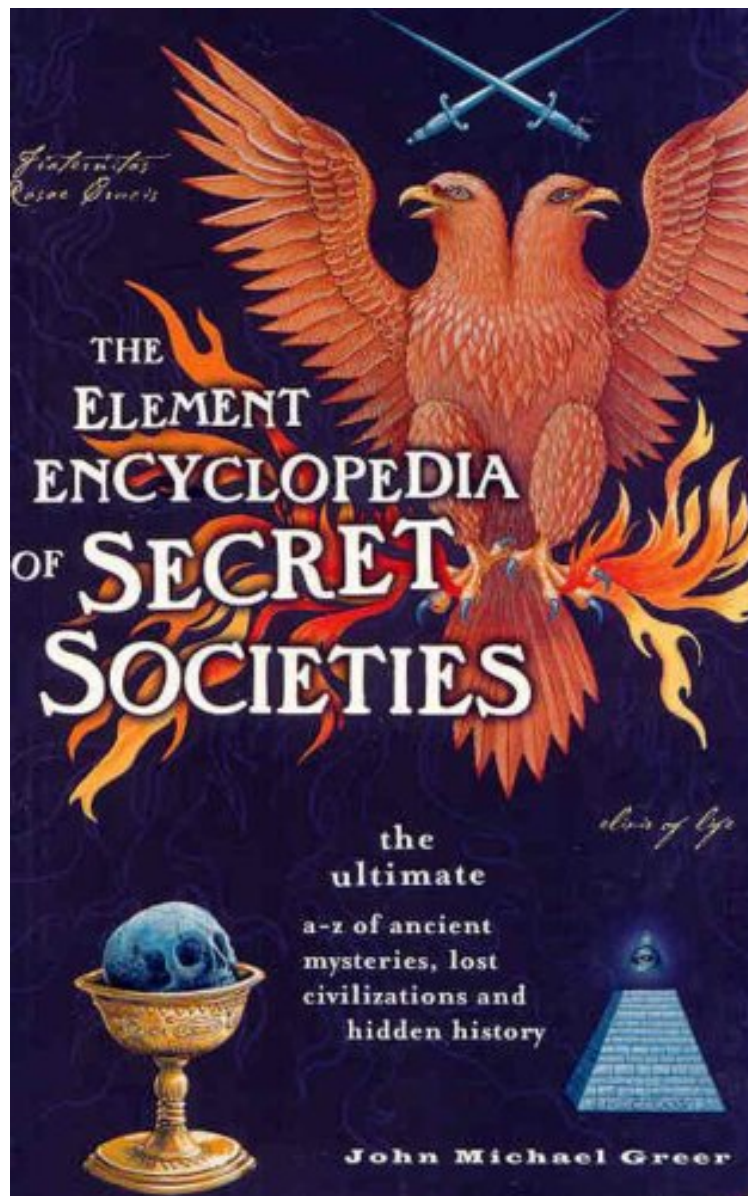


(Mobile book) Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies: The Ultimate A-Z of Ancient Mysteries, Lost Civilizations and Forgotten Wisdom

## Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies: The Ultimate A-Z of Ancient Mysteries, Lost Civilizations and Forgotten Wisdom

John Michael Greer

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#844050 in Books 2009-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.27 x 1.18 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0007298951576 pages | File size: 39.Mb

John Michael Greer : Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies: The Ultimate A-Z of Ancient Mysteries, Lost Civilizations and Forgotten Wisdom before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies: The Ultimate A-Z of Ancient Mysteries, Lost

## Civilizations and Forgotten Wisdom:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful, informative and entertaining By Ashtar Command This is one of several editions of John Michael Greer's popular "The Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies". It's a highly informative but above all entertaining study of ancient mysteries, lost civilizations and hidden history. The emphasis is on Western secret societies, not all of them occult. Political and fraternal societies have also been included, plus a few that defy easy classification. In fact, the number of groups covered is downright staggering, and include many I never heard about before: the Knights of the Flaming Circle (an U.S. anti-Klan group which excluded White native-born Protestants from membership), the Order of Camels (a U.S. fraternity which smuggled alcohol during Prohibition), the Ribbonmen (violent Irish avengers against exploitative landlords and factory-owners) or the Order of the White Rose (yes, they were Jacobites). If you find secret societies boring, don't worry, there are also entries on all the usual goodies: Lemuria, Atlantis, UFOs, ley lines, the Shakespeare authorship controversy and euhemerism. But yes, secret societies \*do\* dominate the narrative! Greer is refreshingly skeptical to most of the phenomena he covers, and often criticizes conspiracy theory. Don't expect any "sensational" information on Freemasons, Skull Bones or the Illuminati. Well, maybe some. It turns out that many people are initiated into 33-degree Scottish Masonry mostly to become eligible for membership of the Shriners, a Masonic sub-branch notorious for its heavy drinking bouts! No prohibition there. I got the impression that Greer has included some pretty outlandish "rejected knowledge" claims for the sheer fun of it. What are we to make of Rainbow City, an ancient Martian city, made of multicolored plastic blocks, that lies hidden somewhere beneath the icy wastes of Antarctica, at least according to the Hefferlin Manuscript? Sometimes, Greer is perhaps too speedy and dogmatic in his denunciations, as when he writes about (and rejects) Traditionalism without mentioning Frithjof Schuon and other important thinkers of that milieu. It's also interesting to note that the author is, ahem, a 33 degree Freemason... That being said, I nevertheless recommend this encyclopedia. It's really useful as a serious reference work. Swedish readers might see it as a good complement to "our" classical encyclopedia of matters occult and spooky, Poul Fersling's "Naturligt Övernaturligt".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The wild side By Ashtar Command This is John Michael Greer's "ultimate" encyclopedia about secret societies. However, it also contains a good number of entries dealing with rejected knowledge claims, religious sects and cults, and even political organizations. Some people believe that the book covers too many subjects, but it's precisely this "wild" aspect which I like about it. Thus, many of the secret orders exposed in this book aren't occult or political, but strictly fraternal or even burlesque. Shriners may like being included in an encyclopedia alongside UFOs and the Hell Fire Club, while Odd Fellows and Elks probably won't. I also suspect that Marxists and anarchists may be rubbed the wrong way due to the inclusion of the First International. Well, ain't that just tuff? Greer has also included an entry on the almost unknown Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA), an initiatory group headed by himself! While the main purpose of the book is presumably to show off the author's detailed knowledge of "secret" fraternities, it can also be useful to those interested in the occult and rejected knowledge. Be warned, though, that Greer isn't particularly objective, and isn't above "dissing" (or commending) the groups and traditions he writes about. In contrast to many other writers on sensationalist topics, Brother Greer doesn't believe in "The Da Vinci Code", the Priory of Sion, the Illuminati conspiracy or the shape-shifting reptoids from the fourth dimension. Somebody might get a bit suspicious upon finding out that the author is, ahem, a Scottish Freemason and has included an entry on disinformation... As I said, I love the wild side of the "Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies". I have the edition with the black cover, by the way. It feels more secretive that way.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Non-sensationalist about secret societies By Ashtar Command If you think all the world is in the throes of a Masonic-Jewish cabal of the Illuminati (with reptoid aliens at the very apex of the shadow hierarchy and, I suppose, cosmic food chain), this is probably not a book for you. For starters, author John Michael Greer is a Grand Archdruid, a Scottish Freemason and a firm believer in the reality of climate change. This would make him an unreliable source of pretty much anything as far as conspiracy buffs are concerned. If, on the other hand, you want a relatively down-to-earth look at Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Skull Bones, the Illuminati (the real ones) and a host of other lesser known "secret" frats and lodges, this may be just what you've been looking for. Apart from various Masonic, Quasi-Masonic and Masonic-inspired societies, the encyclopedia also contain information about occult brotherhoods (such as the elusive Rosicrucians), rejected knowledge claims (Atlantis, anyone?) and political seditionists (Decembrists and Carbonari, to mention just a few). Greer has also included an entry on the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA), a small group headed by... Greer himself. The point of the book seems to be to demystify secret societies, show their diversity, and discuss aspects of their symbolism and esoteric teachings (if such exist). Another purpose is to deny the wilder conspiracy claims, for instance about the Illuminati, the Scottish Rite or Bohemian Grove. However, Greer isn't opposed to all "rejected knowledge" claims – he can't be, since his very own esoteric curriculum (found in another book by the same author, called "Celtic Golden Dawn") deals with Druid symbolism, ritual magic, sacred geometry and divination. Skeptics may be taken aback by Greer's support to the Anti-Stratfordians or soft spots for non-Viking pre-Columbian contacts with the New World. Nor is Greer particularly "objective", in contrast to modern encyclopedias which try to sound dispassionate. His sympathies and antipathies do show here and now, as when he "disses" Traditionalism as a

Theosophy mimic. That being said, I nevertheless consider this encyclopedia a comprehensive treatment of the subject (I read it cover to cover) and a good counterpoint to more sensationalist books on Masons, conspiracies and/or the occult.

This volume is an A-Z of alternative history. It helps you discover everything you wanted to know about secret societies like the Freemasons, the historical mystery of Atlantis, why King Arthur, Leonardo da Vinci and Hitler are key figures, plus conspiracy theories, forgotten sciences, and ancient wisdom.

About the Author John Michael Greer has published 10 books about occult traditions and the unexplained. Recent books include 'Monsters: An Investigator's Guide to Magical Beings' (Llewellyn, 2001), which was picked up by One Spirit Book Club and has appeared in Spanish and Hungarian editions, and 'The New Encyclopedia of the Occult' (Llewellyn, 2003).