



Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Q: Why did you choose to write about detectives?

A: First of all, I chose detectives because it is one of the most dangerous occupations. The chance for danger (involved) is heightened since one is at the nexus between criminals and law defenders. The fun is that while in other stories, the main character is, say, a pastry chef who wants to be a detective, in my novel he's a detective and wants to be anything else.

Q: How did you come up with the idea of using coins as weapons for Barker?

A: Sharpened coins are Asian weapons, like the martial skills Barker brought to England. The Chinese often used whatever came to hand as weapons, and coins were the only metal a Chinese farmer sometimes had. One might think of him as the first to introduce Asian arts to the West.

Q: What gave you the idea to use a Pekingese in the story as a character?

A: My daughters raised Pekingese. We currently have two generations in the house. I've noticed they are completely fearless creatures. One several years ago went out and attacked a moving UPS truck in the neighborhood, because she thought it was a threat. She bit the tire and was thrown several feet. She did this on two separate occasions. I just had to put Harm in a story.

Q: What character are you most like, Barker or Llewelyn?

A: Llewelyn is very much me in terms of personality, while characters, locals and incidents that appear in the stories are often real, if embellished. I won't admit which ones. As for Barker, the moustache, dark glasses, gravelly voice and commanding manner are all my father's, whose name was Charles.

Q: How long did it take for you to write *Some Danger Involved*?



A: It took five years to write SDI, but then no one was waiting for it, so I took my time. I can now write a novel in about a year, to deadline.

Q: Is there a book(s) that really stands out to you as being special? Or any one writer? (Besides Dickens) (The student who asked this question wrote to you that he has already finished a first draft of a novel and is curious about what inspired you to write such a book.)

A: There are dozens of Victorian writers that inspired me, from Wilde to Kipling, Stevenson, Doyle, Stoker, and countless others. Two that especially inspired this series were George MacDonald and George Gissing. I should say that I was truly inspired to write on my fortieth birthday. I felt that I hadn't accomplished any of my life's objectives, and it was time to put up or shut up, so to speak.

Q: Which book is your favorite of the ones you have written?

7) I really enjoy the locale of Limehouse in TLT, since I've been a martial arts brat since I was fourteen. The Chinese are endlessly fascinating to westerners. After all these years I still have only scratched the surface.

Hope these answers will serve. I really enjoyed all of your advertisements. It was fun to see someone else bring the Lads to life for a change.

Best,
Will

