

DALLA PARTE DELLO SCRITTORE

I libri! Un argomento sempre attuale per gli studenti, ma sappiamo come la pensa uno scrittore? l'intervista di Giorgia Pusceddu a Simon Fairfax, uno dei più noti scrittori inglesi del momento, nella sua casa a Cirencester nel Regno Unito

(versione intervista in lingua originale)



Good evening Mr. Fairfax, you are a very well known writer in England, what kind and for what age group do you write? When I first began to write I thought in my own mind that my books would be for primarily men in an age group from say, 20 onwards. However time has shown that this is not the case. For example my mother (who is in her early 80's) has a next door neighbour who is an 87 year old spinster. She started to read the book and read it in a matter of days. When she finished she

told my mother she thoroughly enjoyed it but did not maybe understand some of the technical bits, but loved the romantic scenes.

Similarly women of all ages have said that they enjoy the books despite them having what I would suggest are ostensibly masculine themes. For me, this is excellent as I write primarily to entertain and primarily to entertain and to give my readers a chance to escape for a few hours into the world and characters that I have created.

How did you discover this passion for writing?

I felt from my 40's that I would like to write and I was first encouraged to do so by my wife who has all along given me great encouragement. So, when we returned from living in Italy in 2006 I came back to England without a job to go to and in the intervening period -between starting a new job and returning to the UK- I decided to write a crime thriller linking the two worlds that I knew: England and Italy!

The first book took me ages to write about two years, but the second only about a year (including all the research) and the third even less time. I have found that I enjoy the occupation more and more as I continue. I am now on my fourth book set in 1999/2000 in London and Moscow. ***Do you think that the language with which you write a book is important?***

Yes very much so. The credibility of the characters and the way in which they speak both from an idiomatic point of view and the realistic dialogue of the world they inhabit gives credence to their characters and my writing per se. Also as I used to inhabit the world of commercial property and understand all its idioms and technical speech it was easier to fabricate a book around this. Similarly in the scenes set in Italy, my Italian characters speak English to my hero and it was really useful to know



how our Italian friends spoke our language when they were trying to speak with us in English. This also gave credibility to the scenes and veracity.

Speaking with her I realized that she knows Italian too and defines it as a sophisticated and complicated language. According to you, an English expression, if told in Italian, would have the same lexical value?

Thank you for thinking that I speak Italian, my wife may disagree with that statement and say that I speak a strange form: "Glennaise"!

However joking side, yes, in some ways I would agree with your statement, but not all the time. A positive example would be the motto that: relatives like fish should be thrown out after

3 days. I know that you have an almost identical expression in Italian. However another example which does not translate perfectly indeed far from it is: 'flying by the seat of your pants'. In Italian this translates as: guida sappere senza sappere guidare. Which whilst it makes perfect sense in both languages, bears no resemblance in a literal translation.

So really in conclusion the expression would have the sense of meaning but it often bears little literal resemblance in the translation.

Have you ever thought about translating your books into other languages, such as Italian?

Yes I have thought about it often. Many of my Italian friends have asked me to do so and it would be great to share my work with them. However, I have looked into the cost of this and it is frankly prohibitive, run-ning into thousands of pounds and would not be economically viable which is a great shame.

What is inetresting though is when I visited the library in Tarquinia, I spoke with the chief librarian there and he was very interested in receiving a copy of each of my books for the library. So I dropped three books off. Now, when I went back to look some weeks later two were out on loan so someone in Tarquinia is reading my books in English!!!

Thank you for asking me to be inetrvieued and I wish you great succes with your editorial work.

You to, Simon!

Thank you very much

Giorgia Pusceddu

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