

Inca Author Information Page

Joseph Scott Amis

Currently living in: Dallas, Texas, USA

Main works: To Shine with Honor: The Story and Travels of Galien de Coudre in the Time of the First Crusade

I started writing because: After retiring, needing something to do, I wrote a half dozen or so pieces of fanfic which were well-received, then decided to try writing a short story set in the Middle Ages. Two years later, I found myself with the 900-page first manuscript which would become To Shine with Honor.

My main writing interests are: Historical fiction, articles about historical events and persons, book reviews

My sources of research and information are: Academic books, papers, and articles. Primary sources. Interviews and critiques with medieval and Crusades historians. Author and historian blogs. realcrusadeshistory.com. Works of similar historical fiction.

My inspiration comes from: Scenes and storylines come unbidden if I sit down and concentrate - that's all it takes.

My stories are planned like this: The plot and subplots for To Shine with Honor originated in the first ms, which was then divided into three volumes. Many changes were made during the process of development into finished manuscripts; principally, detail and subplot as ongoing research and criticism revealed historical anachronisms and errors.

I have written a series of books based on: The lives of ordinary people in late 11th and early 12th France and the Kingdom of Jerusalem; preceding, during, and after the First Crusade. The ways they were affected by historical and contemporaneous Islamic occupation of territories formerly under Christian governance, and their individual motives for 'taking the Cross'.

My future plans are to: To Shine with Honor will be my last work of fiction. After the three volumes have been published, I plan to concentrate on articles, book reviews, and some graduate-level formal study.

My own favourite character is: Thierré de Coudre, eldest brother of principal character Galien de Coudre and a leading character in all three volumes. At the beginning of the story, nineteen-year-old knight Thierré is both the stuff of which legendary medieval warriors were made and an immature, hard-drinking and brawling bully, who must gradually find his own purpose, faith, and nobility of spirit by way of hard-learned lessons.

I sometimes find myself thinking like: I'm very similar to Galien de Coudre in his artistic and literary sides. Having practiced architecture as my previous profession, architect Joseph of Reims is more or less my medieval counterpart.

I also have a few other books I'd like to highlight as follows: For fun, I reinvented the brothers Galien and Thierré de Coudre as medieval bounty-hunters of legendary apparitions - vampires, zombies, dragons, etc. - in a series of short stories. One or two of these stories were published in the Giant Tales anthologies, which can be seen on my Amazon page.

My advice to new writers would be: Start small, with a few short stories, and polish basic skills of grammar, punctuation, and spelling in the process. Seek and accept criticism, but only from those qualified to give it. If planning to write full-length historical fiction, identify, research, and become intimately conversant with all the aspects of the period beforehand.

Writing has its ups and downs: For me, nothing more than those faced by every writer. However, when writing a series, just finishing it is the best aspect.

When I'm not writing: Other than serving as a features editor and administrator for Real Crusades History, nothing of note. My life is regular and ordinary.

For copy editing and proofreading: I use professionals for those tasks, but thoroughly proofread and make final corrections myself before approval for publishing.

I accept criticism from: For published work, I take it as it comes. In-process, I welcome criticism, but show my manuscripts only to those qualified to give it.

My experiences with self-publishing: Since I've been able to use quality professionals for the most tedious aspects, it's been a pleasant and uneventful experience. If there was a low, it was when first navigating the many 'publishing houses' eager to exploit new writers.

I promote my books via: As a first-time author, I've sought to collect reviews from a wide range of sources, and have found the initial credibility gained thereby an effective means of marketing, as opposed to giving away copies and similar strategies. Balancing marketing and writing is a day to day process, which I take as it comes.

My favourite mainstream authors are: I haven't followed mainstream authors for quite a few years now, but, if memory serves me, Ken Follett, Stephen King, and John Grisham were favorites.

I am currently reading: Contesting the Crusades, by Norman Housley. A History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea, by William of Tyre.

I prefer to read books in: For 'just reading', any format is fine. For my permanent collection, hardback or paperback, depending on personal and/or collector value.

A bit about my other interests: Old habits die hard - though retired and able to do what I want, after 30+ years of getting dressed and going to work, I don't feel functional when not following a regular schedule, so I still try to be at my desk by 9 AM, wearing at least clean jeans and t-shirt. I smoke two cigarettes per day; no more, no less.

My most unattainable ambition is: To earn a Ph.D in history, but at 67 years old, I'm marking time and can't justify the minimum of five or six years this would require.

Last thoughts before we go down the pub/club/library/boot-sale/exercise yard: Nothing else.

Author Links

Website: <http://www.realcrusadeshistory.com>

Amazon Author page: https://www.amazon.com/Joseph-Scott-Amis/e/B00FKWNVCW/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

Twitter: @Scottamis

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/jsa.literary/>

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