

The 9 books of fiction and 60 short stories I published took place in Africa, Asia, North America, South America and Europe. Most of the stories were inspired by actual events with real people playing the parts. Very different cultures were encountered. I always disregarded the “multicultural sensitivity”, which I consider deleterious, but still, most of the characters I encountered were kind people, people with good intentions, affected by their history and not always benign culture. I was interested in them because they were interesting. For me the chief criterion of good writing has been whether the story was interesting, the content and context were interesting, therefore memorable, while sometimes didactic, and always understandable.

I have been influenced by many writers, most prominently by Albert Camus, Joseph Conrad, Garcia-Marques, Karel Capek, and some of Graham Green, some of Hemingway, some of Annie Proulx, some of J.M Coetzee – and many others. But the book I would not be able to put down till early morning hours would not be the one written by James Joyce or very recent Nobel and Pulitzer laureates.

I would not dare to remark on contemporary fiction writing and publishing policies, but today’s non-fiction books I am finding stunningly informative and even beautiful,

And, as primitive as it might sound, my suggestion to a student in Creative Writing programs would be to pay less attention to ‘character development’ (the reader could do it) and spacing of metaphors. He or she might consider to read more old-timers, and mostly, to escape suburbs into the life, where stories await for their camera lens.

I have found writing fiction to be a search for the elusive truth, less than science, of course, but still a fulfilling adventure.

Commentary on my work that appeared in Notre Dame Review:

NDR published ten of my stories and awarded me the Richard Sullivan Prize in Short Fiction for collection of stories “Revenge of Underwater Man”. I have felt always that those involved in selecting writings for publication in the Review understood my intentions - which I appreciate immensely, and value this collaboration as a privilege.

Additional selection of my fiction and poetry:

Of several literary contest I placed well my first prize in Writers Digest contest for short-short fiction was most satisfying. There were 7,430 entries when my story "Peoples Delight" won. Here it is: