

Date: February 25, 2017

Note:

Genre: Historical fiction

Blurb:

Title Links:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Against-War-Roland-Menge-ebook/dp/B00C44H4Z4>

Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/AgainsttheWar>

Guttenberg: https://books.google.com/books/about/Against_the_War.html?i

Ebooks Directory: <http://www.e-booksdirectory.com/details.php?ebook=9776>

World Catalog: <http://www.worldcat.org/title/against-the-war-a-novel-of-the-vietnam-war/oclc/792738962>

Upenn Online Library: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupid>

Free Online Novels: <http://free-online-novels.com/historical.html>

Social Media Link: I have a website: www.againstthewarnovel.com.

Book Trailer: None

Author Interview on Youtube: None

Author Bio: Will use author's profile page info.

Author Picture: Will use the author's profile photo.

Author Links: self.gutenberg.org/Authors/Roland.Menge

Interview Questions:

Could you tell our readers a little bit about your writing journey? I've been writing fiction for about 40 years. I proceed by projects, each of which I define, plan, complete, and evaluate. I have completed eight projects plus additional matter such as poetry and short stories. All of my projects are serious attempts to present a social, historical tableau and complex theme. I would say I am a muralist by nature in trying to present vast panoramas in realistic details and complex themes with components that are counterbalanced like pieces in a mosaic.

How many books do you currently have published? One book, a novel called *Against the War*, that I published myself as an electronic book on Amazon Kindle plus in various public domain websites such as World Public Library, Gutenberg, and Google Books. In addition to this, I have completed four book length works of fiction that I have not tried to get published but hope eventually to put online, at least. These include *Ex Tertio Quartus*, *A Bad Relationship*, and *Seven City Stories*.

What has been your favorite book to write so far? Why? My present project because it is providing a chance for me to integrate changes and improvements in approach. My previous project took 20 years to complete so I am glad to go on to a new subject.

Are you currently working on a book? Will this be your next release? I am currently writing a historical novel about the last year of the Civil War, just mentioned in my previous answer. I hope to complete it within five more years.

What do you enjoy most about writing? I like being able to express a complex theme that I have pondered about before beginning the project. I like to be precise and to use complex syntax correctly. In my work life, I am a technical writer and some of this carries over in my desire to be precise.

Which of your characters is your personal favorite? Least favorite? Why? In *Against the War*, my favorite character is Mary Brandt. For me she represents the best qualities of the counter culture in the years covered in the novel, 1967 to 1971. My least favorite characters are those that in going back to them I find not true to life completely.

So far, what has been your favorite scene to write? There are so many. I can't really answer this question. I like for a scene to be "big" in the sense of seeming to take place in a big, realistic space while at the same time being constrained by the organization required to move the narrative forward efficiently, I am always trying for the effect of the content seeming to overflow its frame.

What lessons have you learned since becoming a writer? Do you have any tips for new writers? I try to plan well, research well, and be precise. My main tip is to complete things that you start. Also, it is important to

believe that what you are writing is how writing should be, Don't let other people tell you what is important. Be true to your own concepts.

If you were to recommend your books to a stranger, which book would you advise them to start with? Why? *Against the War*. It is the most readable, though it is also long (850,000 words). I think that this novel fulfills its objective of being a truthful and substantial study of the response of the Vietnam War generation to the Vietnam War. Also, this novel is set in an accurate four-and a-half-year time-frame with calendar dates based on key cultural, military, and political events in this period, so in this sense it serves as an in-depth history of these contentious years in American life.

What are some of your favorite classic literature stories (books that may be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org>) you have read? My favorite authors are Theodore Dreiser, Leo Tolstoy, and Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Is there any classic books (books that may be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org>) that you have read that you feel has made a big impact on your life? Why? *Crime and Punishment* made a great impression on me as a college freshman because it expressed moral ideas so strongly and being a young man with little experience of the other sex at that time I was greatly drawn to the character, Sonia. *Sister Carrie* made a great impression on me years later as young writer because it showed me a way to write precisely and expansively about American life. *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* impressed me as examples of how a novel could create an immense, cross-cultural picture of society, which I hoped to do for America. *Brothers Karamazov* made a great impression on me recently because of how it is organized yet gives the impression of leaving loose threads; it is organically unified. Also, I was impressed with how Dostoyevsky builds the story on a series of close looks at the main characters (the way I would describe this is the characters are "presented"). I realized I could do this in my current project by having a minor character in the early action of the story be presented in this way as a means to elevate that character to an expanded importance in the subsequent narrative.

Can readers find you at any live events, such as book signings or conventions? No, but I always reply to emails. My email address is on my website, for which the URL is given above.

Do you have anything else you'd like to share with readers? I am glad for any interaction with anyone who is reading my novel.