

Observation Session 7

Monday, 13 January 2020 3:50 PM

P5 Can I- can I go?
TC 00:00:00.250 - 00:00:03.582
Researcher Um, is it - yeah, ok cool, it's all- it's all good
TC 00:00:03.130 - 00:00:07.987
P5 alright, just tell me
TC 00:00:03.700 - 00:00:05.794
SD (0.33)
P5 alright so, so P6 I'm really interested in uh, how the [unint] thing turned out with you
TC 00:00:06.130 - 00:00:13.134
P6 well I- I won it, so I um, got to the 50 000 words um, it's not - it's not done yet, but, but the main thing is I- I finished the other novel so, I'm correcting it now and, and, going back and, and making everything uh, coincide, uh coalesce, more, um and then I'm gonna do a beta reading, so
TC 00:00:12.043 - 00:00:42.286
P5 alright [laughs]
TC 00:00:13.826 - 00:00:15.685
SD (24.65)
P5 ok, so you uh, so the- the novel that - where you reached the 50 000 words, that- that's not finished but you also used the time to finish that other novel? Yeah
TC 00:00:40.337 - 00:00:53.101
P6 Yeah
TC 00:00:48.377 - 00:00:49.721
SD (1.76)
P6 yeah well I was- I was almost finished, and I - and I- I got done pretty much, by the beginning of [unint] but it needed just a few more days so, actually that's been done for..
TC 00:00:51.484 - 00:01:05.526
P5 ok
TC 00:01:01.482 - 00:01:03.726
SD (0.79)
P5 ok, and remind me of what the topic of that finished novel is, is it the historical one? or- they're all historical [laughs]
TC 00:01:04.520 - 00:01:12.231
P6 they're- they're all historical, yeah they're all historical fiction between about 1770 and 1800, and um, that one is more or less the first one, I have two that have kind of overlapping timelines for different points of view, so, I'm not sure which to call the first, um, the
TC 00:01:08.721 - 00:01:31.742
P5 ok
TC 00:01:16.388 - 00:01:17.761
SD (14.54)
P6 the other first one is - is the one I was working on, but um, this- this one is um, it's uh in colonial Georgia, in 17...1772 I think it starts, and ends about 1775 so just before the American Revolution
TC 00:01:32.303 - 00:01:54.420
P5 and how do you usually do the research for your- your novels, I'm curious about that
TC 00:01:53.649 - 00:02:00.220

P6 oh, everything possible, ah- the main - a- a big thing is, is reading the- the contemporary uh work, I've got a subscription to newspapers.com, so I can read the newspapers of the time,
and uh, yeah, um, and uh it's been difficult because uh, part of the - a part of this series is- is about uh-um has to do with the financial crisis of 1772 that uh ended up in sort of a

world wide uh [laughs], uh

TC 00:01:57.791 - 00:02:35.023

P5 yep

TC 00:02:00.416 - 00:02:01.184

SD (11.58)

P5 oh really? yeah

TC 00:02:12.766 - 00:02:14.781

SD (17.65)

P5 mmhmm

TC 00:02:32.433 - 00:02:34.356

SD (0.96)

P6 and it's part - one of the causes of the American Revolution, and uh, also one of the causes of um, the Bengal Famine that killed about 10 million people, um, and a bunch of other

things but there's - you know, the literature on it is really hard to get into, it's um, and there are a whole bunch of financial terms of things that don't - we don't really do it

anymore so, um

TC 00:02:35.317 - 00:03:03.785

P5 ok

TC 00:02:37.449 - 00:02:38.766

SD (13.88)

P5 hard to get into, it's uh

TC 00:02:52.647 - 00:02:55.064

SD (8.73)

P6 and then in general, there are- so many of the places that I'm writing about don't exist anymore so that's ...

TC 00:03:03.795 - 00:03:09.517

P5 mmhmm, right

TC 00:03:07.481 - 00:03:10.253

P6 and the whole uh, I've - I'm trying to get a map done because colonial Georgia is very very different from uh- than current Georgia

TC 00:03:09.532 - 00:03:20.445

P5 oh god, yeah

TC 00:03:15.478 - 00:03:17.673

SD (1.43)

P5 no I, I find it quite amazing because I, think I would have trouble writing in any capacity - capacity about times or places that I'm not familiar with, and I was wondering, like with

you, and your relationship to the Czech Republic, right, I mean have you ever written anything about this place?

TC 00:03:19.106 - 00:03:40.367

P6 well, I used to write for the Prague Post

TC 00:03:39.121 - 00:03:42.035

P5 Right, but like, fiction

TC 00:03:41.117 - 00:03:44.884

P6 but fiction, that's- that's gonna, that's the third novel in the series, um so, in that they, actually they go all the way up from um, Italy, up uh along the river system and um, eventually get to Prague

TC 00:03:42.544 - 00:04:01.849

P5 ok

TC 00:03:47.360 - 00:03:49.540

SD (10.99)

P5 ok

TC 00:04:00.537 - 00:04:01.625

SD (0.31)

P6 and uh, I- I haven't quite, I've got a- a first draft of that novel but I haven't quite nailed down some of the things, but it was great because I could do the research in Czech

TC 00:04:01.940 - 00:04:13.774

P5 yeah, right, yeah [laughs]

TC 00:04:13.583 - 00:04:17.067

P6 so I got- I got some really interesting information about Jablonec, yeah

TC 00:04:13.922 - 00:04:19.316

P5 Jablonec? nad Nisou? Yeah, ok

TC 00:04:18.017 - 00:04:21.787

P6 yeah, so that- the glass making - they weren't doing the bead making really so much, then, I don't think, I think that mostly started a little later, but, but they were making glass, and there was one glass maker at exactly this time, who had- who had gotten, um, figured out a really good way to - to uh, to ship his glass, so he was- he had a- a big trade in it, shipped the glass carefully so it wouldn't break

TC 00:04:19.359 - 00:04:49.674

P5 right

TC 00:04:22.794 - 00:04:23.999

SD (23.58)

P5 yeah, and what year are we talking here?

TC 00:04:47.583 - 00:04:52.601

P6 um, I can't remember what I said that exactly but it's probably somewhere around um, late 1770s, 1778 or something

TC 00:04:50.660 - 00:05:03.702

P5 no

TC 00:04:54.026 - 00:04:55.542

SD (5.18)

P5 ok, yeah, alright, so I'm wondering what kind of Prague they, they enter, right?

TC 00:05:00.723 - 00:05:08.312

P6 yeah well that's, that's uh beginning to be the Prague of Mozart, I have them actually meeting Haydn, in, in uh, in the uh Esterházy Estate um, so

TC 00:05:07.279 - 00:05:22.179

P5 yeah

TC 00:05:10.339 - 00:05:12.013

SD (0.43)

P5 ok

TC 00:05:12.444 - 00:05:14.575

SD (2.98)

P5 ok, right
TC 00:05:17.561 - 00:05:19.834
SD (1.03)
P5 yeah, but you- you've never done anything that involves like, the 20th century for example, or - that's too new? [laughs]
TC 00:05:20.867 - 00:05:30.876
P6 I haven't written any fiction for the 20th century
TC 00:05:27.551 - 00:05:32.996
P5 ok
TC 00:05:31.264 - 00:05:32.819
SD (2.54)
P6 when I started writing as a kid, I was always writing science fiction, that's - so actually I've never [laughs], never written contemporary fiction at all
TC 00:05:35.363 - 00:05:46.380
P5 ok
TC 00:05:39.873 - 00:05:41.375
SD (2.81)
P5 right, 'cause I mean, to the long ago and far away, yeah yeah, so it, yeah
TC 00:05:44.188 - 00:05:50.747
P6 but I- I do have a novel for a sort of uh, an idea for a sort of semi-memoir, um, so that's not fiction really, I- I- I'd probably bring in some sort of fictional elements,
'cause, 'cause I- I- I really, I like that the uh- that, um, that 1920's area- era so much, um like from the, 1880s to the 1920's, that - that whole period here is just so amazing,
fascinating
TC 00:05:48.869 - 00:06:22.807
P5 ok, yeah
TC 00:05:55.706 - 00:05:59.128
SD (20.01)
P5 mmhmm, right
TC 00:06:19.140 - 00:06:21.535
SD (0.4)
P5 so you would somehow try to tie it in to your experiences
TC 00:06:21.936 - 00:06:27.003
P6 so with, yeah, um, and a little bit - uh, I always somehow end up tying in my, my family history as well and uh, my grandfather was a- a newspaperman, in, in, uh, a journalist in, in Montana, uh, in the, early part of, uh, very beginning of the 19- uh, 20th century, so, um
TC 00:06:23.846 - 00:06:56.041
P5 ok
TC 00:06:44.027 - 00:06:45.220
SD (11.25)
P6 so I- I have, an idea for sort of, pulling together, that, it's contrast, I love the- the -the - that sort of contrast, you know, what's going on in one part of the world and the other,
and the amount that they knew about each other and uh,
TC 00:06:56.472 - 00:07:11.428
P5 pulling it all together, right
TC 00:06:57.602 - 00:07:01.733
SD (6.83)

P5 ok, right, right
TC 00:07:08.565 - 00:07:10.832
SD (0.66)
P6 but- usually more than we expect
TC 00:07:11.499 - 00:07:15.442
P5 yeah, do - did you read um, there was this author, her name - I think she died, her name was Hana Androniková, uh, zvuk- zvuk slunečních hodin, no, I think, no - there - there was,
there's a lot of focus on the time when uh, you know Bat'a company [unint] was getting big and then going through all of world war II and then they ended up emigrating but there's a lot of these different times and places tied in, I was just, yeah, wondering about that, yeah
TC 00:07:13.175 - 00:07:43.777
P6 no, I don't think so
TC 00:07:25.848 - 00:07:29.148
SD (3.34)
P6 oh yeah, yeah
TC 00:07:32.497 - 00:07:35.441
SD (6.22)
P6 I got into Czech through the Czech literature but I haven't really read that much in the way of novels, um,
TC 00:07:41.670 - 00:07:51.176
P5 right
TC 00:07:43.902 - 00:07:45.428
SD (1.51)
P5 mmhmm, ok
TC 00:07:46.938 - 00:07:49.554
SD (1.85)
P6 I- I was more interested in the poetry and I'm not even that well-read in the poetry but..
TC 00:07:51.411 - 00:07:57.660
P5 and who is- who is your favourite poet, Czech poet
TC 00:07:55.750 - 00:08:00.281
P6 well, I dunno, I- I guess um, I guess Seifert is the one that- but um, my husband - the way I met my husband was that I knew who [unint] was, I've tried to read some of his poetry but
TC 00:07:58.831 - 00:08:17.250
P5 oh, ok
TC 00:08:12.004 - 00:08:15.237
SD (0.07)
P5 yeah, so your husband was- was impressed, yeah
TC 00:08:15.310 - 00:08:20.333
P6 yeah, [laughs] that was his- that's, that was his favourite poet, so he- he'd even gone on this bicycle trip sort of to- to um wherever [unint] was from, [unint] or some place, to- to sort of [laughs], yeah, it was a real pilgrimage
TC 00:08:17.905 - 00:08:36.824
P5 right, ok
TC 00:08:21.507 - 00:08:24.113
SD (5.08)
P5 ok, a pilgrimage, ok
TC 00:08:29.201 - 00:08:36.489

SD (0.03)

P5 alright, alright, so, so it- it's mostly poetry and then, some other [unint]

TC 00:08:36.521 - 00:08:43.052

P6 yeah, I was gonna say that there's um, well that's also not fiction but there's, there's this wonderful little book which if I decide that I'm going to go the route of doing my own publishing company, I would wanna publish finally in English, uh it's, it's called [unint] and it's, and it's by this Jewish shopkeeper, it's basically a journal of his life, um, before leaving - he, he goes into his ancestors so and like the 1880s in Moravia and their um, experience and then the laws, you know, restricting Jewish uh, everything, and uh, and his wife is a shopkeeper in Prague and it just - a delightful book it just - it just such a - such a vivid picture of that time and from that particular perspective, um

TC 00:08:40.896 - 00:09:34.016

P5 I've never- I've never heard of that actually uh where- how did you get your hands on it?

TC 00:09:32.738 - 00:09:37.601

P6 well - it- it actually, it's a bizarre story because it turns out that the- one of the- uh, one of the guys who came in '68, the um, um, he-he was English but, there- there were a couple of Canadians including Paul Wilson

TC 00:09:36.719 - 00:09:54.569

P5 including Paul Wilson right, right

TC 00:09:53.166 - 00:09:55.761

P6 um, who came, and um, so this guy was also here, um, until I- I think he stayed, I'm not sure, I'm not sure whether they kicked him out or not, but he married a Czech,

TC 00:09:55.209 - 00:10:07.009

P5 what was his- what was his name?

TC 00:10:03.850 - 00:10:07.398

P6 um, that um, oh, Ger- Gerry Turner, yeah yeah

TC 00:10:07.189 - 00:10:19.488

P5 oh it doesn't matter

TC 00:10:13.187 - 00:10:15.348

SD (2.15)

P5 oh Gerry Turner ok yes yes yes

TC 00:10:17.500 - 00:10:20.146

P6 so he found this book, in a British archive somewhere, in Czech, nobody knew what it was, but apparently one of the children had escaped um, before Hitler and left it there and he found it and, and, got it published here

TC 00:10:20.081 - 00:10:39.828

P5 ok

TC 00:10:33.991 - 00:10:35.639

SD (2.75)

P5 in Czech

TC 00:10:38.394 - 00:10:41.421

P6 yeah, yeah this was not- not too long after the revolution

TC 00:10:40.022 - 00:10:43.679

P5 alright

TC 00:10:42.985 - 00:10:44.947

P6 so, it's, bout '94 I think, um, and uh, he- he had done translation of it um, but, never I guess never got it published so, I would love to see that

TC 00:10:43.848 - 00:11:01.307
P5 yeah, yeah, ok wow
TC 00:10:58.635 - 00:11:04.062
SD (0.31)
Researcher um maybe just like another minute or two
TC 00:11:04.378 - 00:11:10.252
P5 oh ok, alright, I was [unint], alright, so you, alright so you then sent um, so you don't keep up with the- the contemporary stuff that comes out now, like with the Czech literature, there's so much, there's so much published now, it's, it's really amazing
TC 00:11:06.325 - 00:11:23.944
P6 [laughs]
TC 00:11:08.099 - 00:11:10.924
SD (10.53)
P6 yeah, yeah, um, I should- I should maybe try again so that - I'm, I'm not speaking Czech as much as- nearly as much as I used to but, coming into- into the coworking space all the time
TC 00:11:21.459 - 00:11:36.093
P5 oh yeah
TC 00:11:31.505 - 00:11:34.371
SD (0.03)
P5 oh into the coworking space
TC 00:11:34.402 - 00:11:37.284
P6 so I'm spending all of my time there, and mostly with- with foreigners and speaking English, so I, I, I, I'm not happy about my level of Czech [unint]
TC 00:11:36.230 - 00:11:48.456
P5 yeah
TC 00:11:37.999 - 00:11:38.899
SD (0.71)
P5 right
TC 00:11:39.614 - 00:11:41.549
SD (4.66)
P5 oh right, right, so you have an English, English phase
TC 00:11:46.218 - 00:11:52.486
P6 yeah, yeah, it's um, I have, I mean, I speak to my husband but, but there's a limited number of topics that we talk about, um, and I have one or two Czech friends that I um, but other than that I am speaking English all the time and it's really telling on my Czech [laughs]
TC 00:11:51.486 - 00:12:15.396
P5 yeah
TC 00:11:53.942 - 00:11:55.758
SD (1.5)
P5 right
TC 00:11:57.258 - 00:11:58.981
SD (2.96)
P5 ok yeah
TC 00:12:01.944 - 00:12:04.678
SD (1.6)
P5 ok
TC 00:12:06.284 - 00:12:08.430

SD (6.31)

P5 ok, and did you- did you ever work in an environment where, like Czech was the main language being spoken? yeah, where was that?

TC 00:12:14.744 - 00:12:22.469

P6 yeah, yeah

TC 00:12:19.494 - 00:12:21.193

SD (0.27)

P6 um, well um, yeah I guess, I guess there weren't - no I dunno whether there was one where it was really all Czech come to think of it, um, but I- I worked as a translator, uh, I dunno it was a law- an American law firm so, yeah we were mostly using - but I was translating from Czech, so

TC 00:12:21.471 - 00:12:50.330

P5 oh you worked for a law firm here? yeah

TC 00:12:48.793 - 00:12:52.863

P6 yeah

TC 00:12:51.034 - 00:12:52.487

SD (0.72)

P5 that must have been paid well, yeah, yeah

TC 00:12:53.215 - 00:12:56.426

P6 so when I was translating I was reading, I was- I- but I was reading the newspapers and things like that, when I was translating, so I did, yep so I was reading newspapers, yep, Czech newspapers all the time

TC 00:12:53.413 - 00:13:03.427

P5 right, right right

TC 00:12:56.771 - 00:12:59.419

SD (2.35)

P5 yeah, did you ever work for the Czech Press Agency?

TC 00:13:01.777 - 00:13:06.313

P6 Yeah, ČTK, yeah, yeah I worked in their um, photo department, yeah

TC 00:13:05.100 - 00:13:12.196

P5 yeah

TC 00:13:06.396 - 00:13:07.280

SD (4.16)

P5 oh yeah, but you didn't work as a translator, 'cause they used to hire translators yeah

TC 00:13:11.442 - 00:13:16.483

P6 no no no, I know a bunch of people who did but uh, I didn't ever work there

TC 00:13:14.143 - 00:13:21.146

P5 you - in the photo department? yeah, what'd you do there?

TC 00:13:19.394 - 00:13:23.894

P6 um

TC 00:13:21.417 - 00:13:23.292

SD (0.04)

P6 I was doing um captions, um it was really quite interesting, they, they were and, and sometimes little stories um, about the, you know, um, they'd have the reporters often they'd have a photographer once I went with them um to the Hungarian area of, of Slovakia

TC 00:13:23.332 - 00:13:42.266

P5 ok

TC 00:13:30.709 - 00:13:32.295

SD (9.14)
P5 oh cool, yeah
TC 00:13:41.437 - 00:13:43.573
P6 they did a- a, a thing there, and I wrote a, a little piece on it um, but um, and then we were sending it around to various news agencies, English language, they wanted to- you know, things captioned in native English and, and these stories, so they, I tried writing this little thing but apparently nobody was interested because it wasn't - it wasn't, although there was some tensions there, it wasn't a hotspot, it wasn't, you know, it wasn't a war going on
TC 00:13:42.530 - 00:14:14.664
P5 oh
TC 00:13:46.828 - 00:13:48.200
SD (4.49)
P5 right, right
TC 00:13:52.690 - 00:13:55.210
SD (3.69)
P5 oh right, so they- oh yeah
TC 00:13:58.902 - 00:14:01.990
SD (9.05)
P5 right, so you were captioning, you were captioning pictures to be sent out, yeah,
TC 00:14:11.047 - 00:14:18.292
P6 yeah, yeah mainly, yeah
TC 00:14:16.017 - 00:14:18.266
SD (0.02)
P5 I got it, ok, ok
TC 00:14:18.292 - 00:14:20.669
P6 so it went with their English language circular but also to their - their um, um, other, to other English language agencies in return for their, part of their exchange
TC 00:14:19.406 - 00:14:32.104
P5 right
TC 00:14:22.556 - 00:14:23.741
SD (5.0)
P5 yeah
TC 00:14:28.743 - 00:14:30.375
SD (1.36)
P5 hmm, well that's cool ,well I- I- I- I've learned a lot
TC 00:14:31.740 - 00:14:40.867
Researcher well I think that's probably good now - yeah, yeah, very interesting for sure, um ok, I'll-
TC 00:14:33.095 - 00:14:42.119
P6 [laughs]
TC 00:14:35.858 - 00:14:37.226
SD (3.72)
P5 I'm sorry I'm a big interrupter, I-
TC 00:14:40.951 - 00:14:42.848