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From the Editor

And with a 'whoosh', Christmas is behind us and we're staring into the void of a brand-new year in front of us. I'm seeing lots of exciting new books in the works for publication in 2021. As an author, I'm happy, and as a reader I'm even more excited. There can never be too many new books – especially those of a historical nature.

We have many author interviews already scheduled for the year. We're scheduled into mid-April already. Many are new authors, coming to share information with us about their books and their writing journey. Some are returning authors, returning to tell us about new books being released.

Also, in April, it will be Pages of the Past birthday. We'll turn two years old, so of course, there's another short story contest planned with a \$50 gift card for the winner. We'll announce details and share the picture prompts in the February 5th issue. (Stories will be needed by March 19th, so there will be six weeks to work on one.)

Stay tuned for future issues – In the weeks ahead we have author interviews scheduled with Sylvia Broady, Mick Arnold, Gini Grossenbacher, Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger, Sherry Burton, EJ Barnes, Marina Osipova, Renata Stankova, Tom Palmer, and more!

Trisha

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The Birth of Popular Foods (1900s – 1940s)

I'm always amazed when I see when different foods were 'new' foods or snacks were created. I still see many of these on the grocery store shelves today. When writing historical fiction, it's helpful to research foods of the time. We want to incorporate everyday life details in with our story as a way to help make the story and the characters believable. But to do that, we need to also make sure the details are accurate. A 1920s woman isn't going to pop a vegetable into the microwave to warm up for dinner. However, a 1920s child could snack on an Oreo cookie, and although it seems that the cookie would be out of place, it wouldn't be. Oreo cookies were introduced in 1912, although they didn't come packaged as the foil products we see today.

Here are a few of the few items that became popular during these fifty years.

1900s: Like the 1893 Columbian Exposition that preceded it, the Saint Louis World's Fair in 1904 introduced new foods and beverages to millions of hungry fairgoers. Dr. Pepper, waffle cones for ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, and other "carnival foods" all became popularized for the first time at the fair. Meanwhile, Lombardi's became America's first pizzeria when it was licensed by the City of New York in 1905. Jell-O jiggled its way into our hearts after an advertisement in a 1902 issue of Ladies' Home Journal declared it to be "America's Most Famous Dessert" (though try telling that to apple pie).

1910s: The world's most iconic sandwich cookie, the Oreo, was introduced in 1912 and sold in glass-lidded jars for 25 cents a pound. A year later, Life Savers "Pep-O-Mint" candies were released (although their signature hole didn't appear until 1925) in a tidy, tinfoil wrapper. The Tasty Baking Company revolutionized on-the-go snacking when it began to sell individual wrapped chocolate Tastykakes in 1914.

1920s: While alcohol consumption suffered (at least theoretically) thanks to Prohibition, snacking flourished. Baby Ruth, Oh Henry!, Mounds, Mr. Goodbar, Mike and Ike, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Butterfinger, Health Bars, Nestle Drumsticks, and popsicles are all sweet, sweet byproducts of the Jazz Age. 7-UP was launched in October of 1929 and initially contained lithium citrate, a mood-stabilizing drug.

1930s: If you judged the 1930s by its snacks alone, you would have no idea that the economy was tanking. Twinkies, Snickers, Tootsie Pops, Fritos, 3 Musketeers, Ritz Crackers, Frito corn chips, 5th Avenues, and Lay's Potato Chips were all produced during the lean years of the Great Depression. The Girl Scouts of the USA didn't seem to be suffering much either; their cookie fundraisers became so popular that they began outsourcing the production of their sugar cookies to commercial bakers in 1936.

1940s: Our involvement in World War II had the biggest impact on the snacking trends of this decade. Mars began producing M&Ms in 1941 due to a practical need for heat-resistant chocolates to send to soldiers overseas. Tootsie Rolls were also a popular addition to soldiers' ration kits. Government rationing on the home front limited the domestic consumption of meat, butter, and sugar (among other necessities). For that reason, few new snacks were introduced until later in the decade. When rationing was lifted in 1947, Americans could once again indulge their sweet tooth in Almond Joys, Junior Mints, and Smarties. Cheetos were also introduced after the end of the war, marking the beginning of our torrid love affair with artificial cheese-flavored snacks.

Author Spotlight: D.S. Elliston



Let me begin by saying thank you to Trisha Faye for inviting me back to do another interview and also to thank her for all the work she does on Pages of the Past. As some of you are aware, I write under two different pen names. Today, I am D.S. Elliston Author of Legends of NOLA series.

I never thought I would for one second ever indulge myself by getting lost in the era of 1810-1815 New Orleans. The more I read, researched and, yes, traveled to this beautiful city, the deeper I found myself falling under its spell.

Trisha's first question was why time travel? I can honestly say that it's an exciting way to introduce history to a reader as witnessed and experienced through the eyes of the person whose story is told. Initially, this epic tale was of Tori and her accidental crossing to 1810. I intended to show the lifestyle, history, and her struggles, as she tried to return to her own time through her eyes. Little did I know that her adventure would end up introducing the most notorious and mysterious pirate in history.

This brings me to Trisha's next inquiry. How did Jean Laffite become a part of these books? That is something I had not planned on until I discovered that this pirate played such an essential role in our history. Through my research, I learned that very little is known about this man and that to this day, no one knows where he came from or what happened to him. A small oil painting hangs in the Cabildo museum that many declare contains the image of Laffite. This author and many historians cannot back up this claim and whether it is true or not is part of the Laffite mystery.

Once I realized that the gentleman pirate would be in New Orleans the same time Tori was, they had to meet. It was clear to me that it was an essential plotline, especially after discovering that Jean Laffite was linked to Andrew Jackson and his victory against all odds in the battle of 1815.

I visited the Cabildo and the museum to learn more. The museum contains a wealth of information; indeed, it's well worth the time if you have it, to visit this establishment. This brings me to the next question. With only one day in New Orleans, what are the top sights to see? I would suggest beginning at the famous Café Du Monde. Sit a spell and enjoy a plate of beignets; a hint here one does not wear anything black, you will see why. After your morning coffee, make your way across Jackson Square to the Cathedral. I highly recommend a visit inside. Next door to the Cathedral is the Cabildo. Inside is the

museum I mentioned. After your visit there, make your way down Pirate's Alley and into the French Quarter. Travel toward Bourbon Street, where you will locate on the corner of St. Peter and Bourbon, Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop. This creole cottage is now a local bar. It has survived intact for hundreds of years. Once inside ask to see the writing on the wall and the lovers in stone in the courtyard. Tell them I sent you.



Another question that was on Trisha's mind, what is so special about Pirates Alley? Besides the fact that it is a photographer's dream and many artists have set up their easels on this famous spot, trying to capture its beauty on canvas. I approached it from a different point of view to learn about its charm. Hours of reading old documents revealed facts about this location that were not widely known. It is told that Laffite's men sold their ill-begotten goods there. That on Sundays, they were so loud that they often disturbed the church's service inside. That is how the alley between the church and the Cabildo gained its name of Pirate's Alley but there is more. I discovered that beneath the cobble stones, is in fact, the remains of a graveyard. You are walking over the dead—no wonder the alley has an eerie atmosphere at night.

I continued with my research of the era and unearthed many historical facts. However, it became clear to me that none were as important as those about the Battle of New Orleans. This one war was the defining moment in American history. The war of 1815 was the last war to be fought on American soil against a foreign country. I found it amazing that, against all odds, Andrew Jackson, a few hundred of his men, and volunteers, were victorious against such a mighty force as the British army and its well-trained men. You may ask yourself why this victory is so important today? It is very clear how important the event was once you know the facts. You see, if the British had taken New Orleans, they would have gained control of the Mississippi river. Once they controlled the river, it would have given them the advantage of fighting America from the west over land and the east over water. The result would have then been a war that our new nation could not have defended themselves against no matter how they tried. Learning that the Battle was fought after a treaty had been signed tells this author that the British had every intention to invade our young nation. Therefore, we can surmise if not for the brave men under General Jackson and the help of Jean Laffite and his men, quite simply put; you would be saying God save the Queen instead of pledging Allegiance to the flag.

Many circumstances are surrounding the Battle and Andrew Jackson intrigue me still. His alliance with the hellish Banditti, as he called Laffite and his men, has never been explained. Why Jean Laffite fought for America and not the British remains a mystery to this day.

This brings me to Trisha's inquiry of book four. I am busy editing the manuscript and plan a summer 2021 publishing date. This exciting conclusion in *Allies and Enemies* will take Tori and Laffite toward the time of the famous Battle. Tori struggles to keep history on track, while others plot to bring both Tori and Laffite to an end. You will have to read the series to understand and find out why they chose to do what they did. To expand further would add spoilers, and one does not want that, I am sure.

Finally, Trisha asked me if there was anything else, I would like to add? I do, in fact, have one more surprise. Answers to many questions will be found in the Companion book that will follow *Allies and Enemies*. The companion will be filled with maps, photos, and all the locations from the epic adventure

that you can visit today. Also, it will contain short biographies of each historical character found between the pages of this saga. There will be a section explaining the facts from fiction and how certain events unfolded, allowing this author to weave such a web of true tales and imagined stories.

The day will arrive when I type those words, 'The End,' and most assuredly, I will shed tears as I say goodbye to my pirate. However, I believe that he would be happy with all you will learn about him, glad that he is not forgotten, and will forever be recalled as a hero who helped save this nation against all odds.

So, my dear readers, there you have it. A small taste of what's to come and a few questions answered without any spoilers. I thank you for your time and for your support. May you enjoy Tori and Laffite's story and learn a bit of history along the way.

D.S. Elliston

Author D.S. Elliston grew up traveling and living around the world. As a young woman in her twenties, she met and married a pilot and moved to Africa. This is where she immersed herself in books and the native culture.

Years later, add the addition of three children, and with her husband, now a commercial pilot, they traveled and lived around the globe. Through these adventures, D.S. explored various ancient locations and studied different cultures and world histories.

D.S. has been a flight attendant with both domestic and international companies. She has acted in both T.V. and film productions but her love of history and folk legends kept her exploring and reading, with hopes of writing a novel one day.

Now, most times you can find her in her office surrounded by numerous notes and piles of books on which her three cats love to sleep. She admits to loving the long hours of research compiling material for her novels and always enjoys traveling with her husband of 45 years to various locations that she incorporates into her books.

Legends of NOLA is a four-book series that has taken her years to develop. Her writing goal is to thoroughly entrance her reader to such a point that they don't realize they are receiving a history lesson. She is currently editing the last book in this series and has begun research on her next project, a horror that is quite the opposite of her Time Slip epic. In 2021 she is teaming up with an accomplished scriptwriter to begin the arduous task of developing an adaptation of The Lake. All of D.S.'s books are fiction based on facts, legends, and historical events.

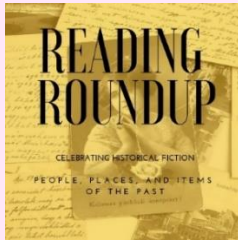
You can find D.S. Elliston here:

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The 1940s



The Jøssing Affair & The Quisling Factor

J.L. Oakley

THE JØSSING AFFAIR: British-trained Norwegian intelligence agent, Tore Haugland, is a jøssing—a patriot—sent to a fishing village on Norway’s west coast to set up a line to receive weapons and agents from England via the “Shetland Bus.” Posing as a deaf fisherman, his mission is complicated when he falls in love with Anna Fromme, a German widow. Accused of betraying her husband, she has a young daughter and secrets of her own. Although the Allies have liberated France, the most zealous Nazis hang on in Norway, sending out agents to disembowel resistance groups. If Haugland fails, it could cost him his life and the lives of the fishermen who have joined him. When Haugland is betrayed and left for dead, he will have to find the one who betrayed him and destroyed his network. He will also have to prove that the one he loves was not the informer. In wartime love and trust are not always compatible.

THE QUISLING FACTOR: Treason. Espionage. Revenge. In the aftermath of WWII, ex-intelligence agent Tore Haugland tries to adjust to life in his newly freed country with the woman he loves. But he still has to testify against a Norwegian traitor—one of the monsters of the German occupation—whom he helped to capture.

When mysterious notes threaten Haugland and his family, he must choose between protecting them or bringing to justice the man who tortured him and destroyed the village that hid him. Challenged by injuries and recurring nightmares, he will have to rely on his former training and old Resistance friends to rescue his wife from the traitor who will do anything to keep Haugland from testifying.