

# Ann's Historical Fiction #10

11/3/24

## To NaNo or Not to Nano

### *Beyond the AI controversy*

If you have been following the latest controversy, you know that NaNoWriMo came out with an official statement regarding the use of AI. TL; DR: it came out badly. They have since explained their stance better. My issue of whether to do NaNo this year is personal, and unrelated.

On the one hand, I just completed the research I needed to do for this year's NaNo novel. In Newsletter #9, I talked about Anna Magdalena Bach, JSB's second wife. I now know enough about her life, the life of her dependent children, and the Seven Years War, to write a credible plot and interesting story.

On the other hand, I have a lot of work to do to get even my most ready novels ready for publication, and there are several others needing even more work. At some point, I need to stop writing different things and get something published.

And finally, it's about time for me to write another children's book about what scientists do. This is work for my nonprofit, Science is Elemental <https://www.scienceis Elemental.org> I have a first book written which is currently being illustrated, and I need to get the ball rolling on a second. I could do this as the NaNo project, but I've done none of the research, so I would have to devote even more time to that. Decisions, decisions!

Genre: Historical fiction, with a bit of fantasy thrown in for good measure.



## The value of critiques

I received two awesome critiques recently. Sometimes, the input from writer's groups and others are useful, but not book changing. These two went beyond that.

In one case, a member of my writer's group gave me very specific instances where they wanted to see more interior thought and emotion from my main character. Those comments will help a lot once I am ready to revise. I still have not completed the first draft.

At the recent Maryland Writer's Association conference, I signed up for an agent critique of the first few pages of one of my older novels. When the agent described my novel as a thriller, it reminded me that my writer's group thought the same thing. See the next page!!

# Thriller or historical fiction?

On the first page of the newsletter, I described the feedback I got from an agent. One of the things she said was that she thought the book was a thriller. I thought of it as purely historical fiction. I then remembered that my writer's group had the same reaction. So, I'm asking you, my readers, because I don't read too many thrillers. Although the action takes place historically, and associated with a time of crisis (the Jacobite uprising in 1745/6 in England), that doesn't mean it can't also be a thriller.

A thriller is intended to be suspenseful, exciting and full of intrigue. They are characterized by plot twists, anxiety and fear. Historical fiction involves a fictional plot that takes place in the setting of particular historical events.

My novel takes place during the Jacobite uprising of 1745/46 and involves the real life of composer Francesco Maria Veracini, including the sinking of the ship he was on as he left London. So, definitely historical fiction.

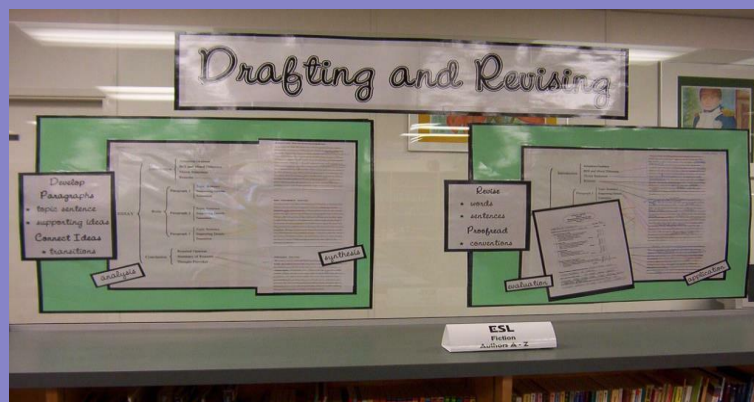
But it also describes his interaction with a group of Jacobite sympathizers that are being targeted by the English authorities. In my telling (but with no evidence for or against from the historical record) he is part of that ring. So, kind of a thriller, too.

If you have good suggestions for thrillers to read, please email me at [ann@annshistoricalfiction.com](mailto:ann@annshistoricalfiction.com). The more I read in this genre, the better this book will be. Thanks!



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# A New Session and New Tune

## *Off She Goes!*

Off she goes does not refer to me and my actions, but to the name of the tune we started learning in the new moderate session for adults that I now attend.

Although I've been attending traditional Irish music sessions for years, I have not kept up in learning new tunes, and I am not very adept at learning them through listening just at the sessions. A fellow fiddler felt the same way, and we approached my teacher, Mitch Fanning, about starting a moderately paced session.

He agreed, and the bar we play in had the time and space for us, so we are off and running. I attended the first moderately paced session a couple of weeks ago, and started learning the tune, "Off She Goes." You can find a good rendition of it [here](#).

If you are in the MD/DC/VA area, and are interested in participating in a session designed for adults, but isn't too fast, send me an email at [ann@annshistoricalfiction.com](mailto:ann@annshistoricalfiction.com) and I can provide more details. You don't have to be a fiddler. All instruments are welcome, including voice.

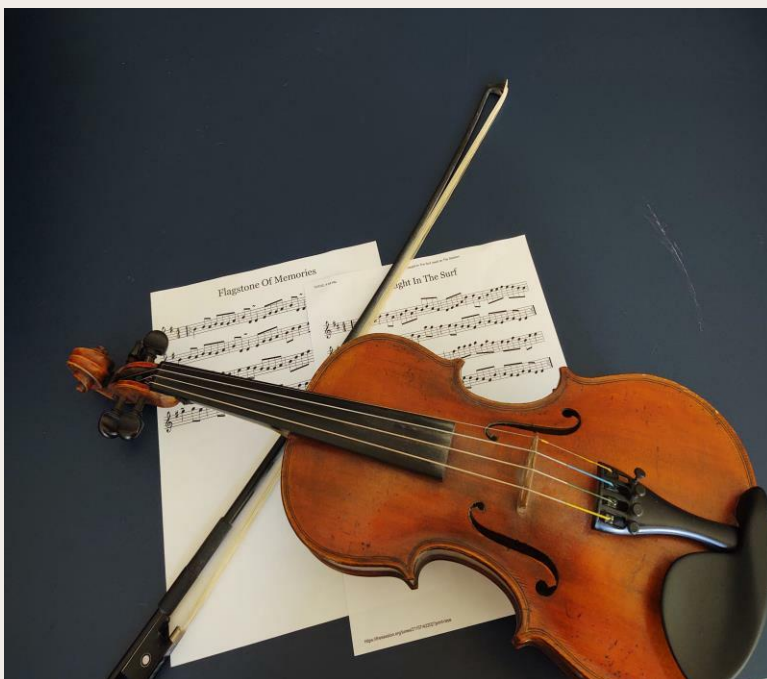


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