

Author A.C. Frieden Looks for the “Perfect” Crime Scene in Holland

AMSTERDAM, the Netherlands (Oct. 10, 2009) – Chicago-based author-lawyer A.C. Frieden arrived in Holland for a short stay to research a new fiction novel and to fly for his new aerial photography book. “It’s wonderful to be back,” Frieden said. “Having been here once before many years ago, I relished this opportunity to return, this time with several literary projects in mind.” Amsterdam is not only a capital, but a thriving, historical, and multicultural city of one and a half million inhabitants and one of the largest and economically important metropolitan areas in Europe. But the city is also known for its unusual traits, ranging from cannabis-serving “coffee shops” to legalized brothels. “What fascinates me about this place,” Frieden adds, “is the strange mix of accepted vices, its multiethnic fabric and its coexistence with the rest of what is essentially a conservative country – all of which can spice up a novel.”

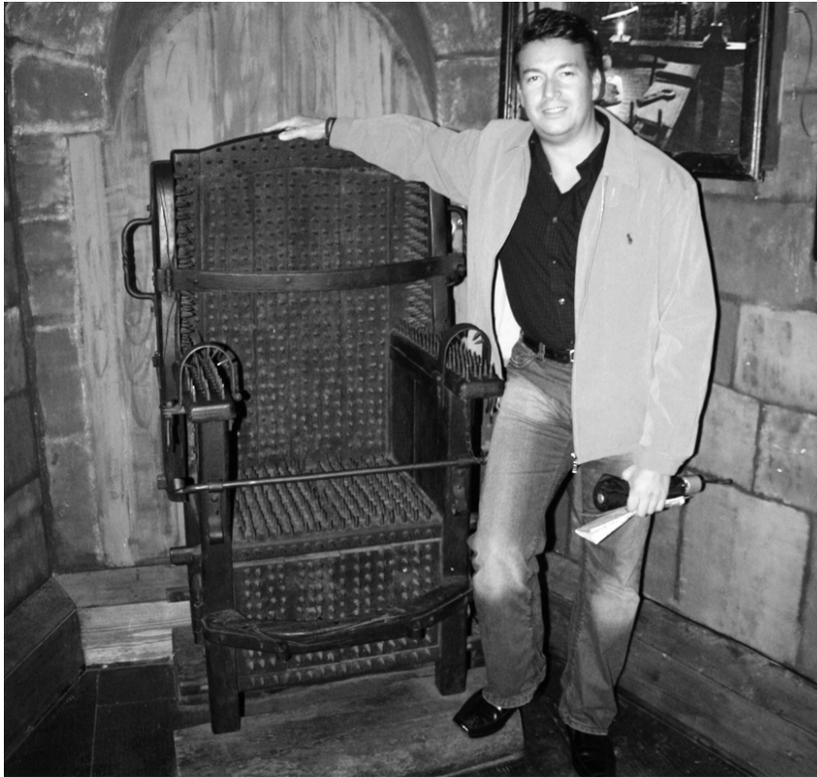


Photo above: Author A.C. Frieden examines a spiked chair at the Torture Museum, located in downtown Amsterdam.

Holland’s capital has been featured in numerous internationally marketed novels, such as *Widow For One Year*, by John Irving; *Amsterdam* by Ian McEwan, *Outsider in Amsterdam* by famed Dutch crime novelist Janwillem van de Wetering (who died last year), and *The Good Thief’s Guide to Amsterdam* by British lawyer-author Chris Ewan, among others.

From scenic, tranquil urban canals, to crowded coffee-shops, to tree-lined streets and decades-old pubs, Amsterdam continues to fascinate and draw authors from around the world. “It didn’t take me long to find a half-dozen sites around town that could work well in my manuscripts,” Frieden said in day two of his stay in the city.

Amsterdam has a number of other unusual sites, such as the Torture Museum, which includes a collection of instruments of torture from the late Middle Ages to the mid-20th century. Frieden also toured several of the less frequented residential areas, again searching for possible scenes and other aspects that may be useful in his current literary projects. “Amsterdam offers contemporary authors a diverse assortment of locales,” commented Frieden as he strolled along small side streets leading to Leidsestraat, one of the main avenues downtown.



Photo above: A.C. Frieden at Lelystad airport just before flying his rental Cessna C-177 around the region east of Amsterdam.

Frieden also used his time in Holland to collect additional photographs for his non-fiction literary project: an aerial photography book planned for release in 2010. Frieden is a licensed private pilot and often flies as part of his book research trips.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on several political novels and thrillers, including a sequel to his latest thriller *Tranquility Denied*. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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