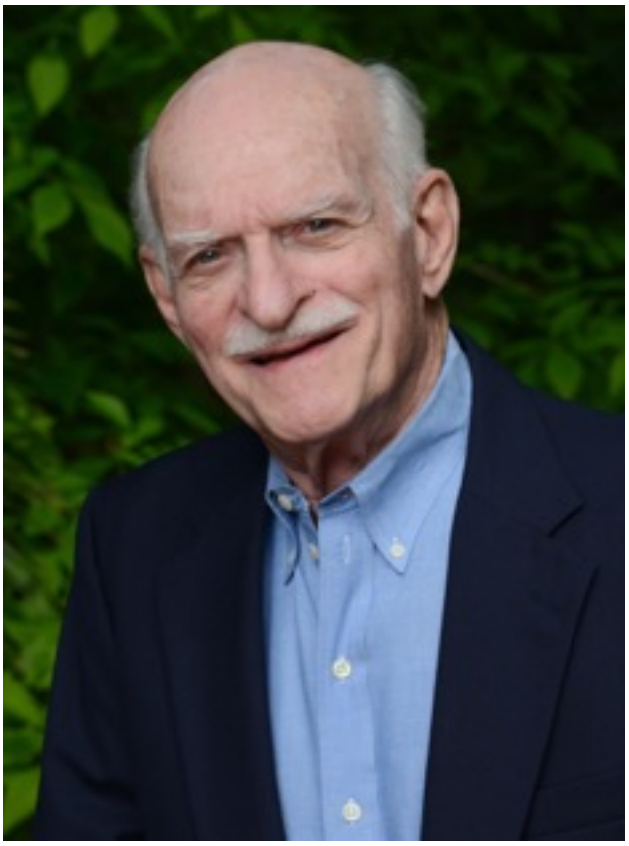
Is There Life After Retirement? Absolutely!



Historical Fiction Author Robert L. Gold talks about writing novels and living life to the fullest in his 80s

There's one thing that Robert Gold, retired from his career as a university professor more than twenty years ago, can tell you that he's absolutely sure of.

Retirement sucks.

"At least it did at first," according to the 86-year-old author. He enjoyed being able to sleep in, set his own schedule, dote on his two beloved Airedales, and get caught up with the house.

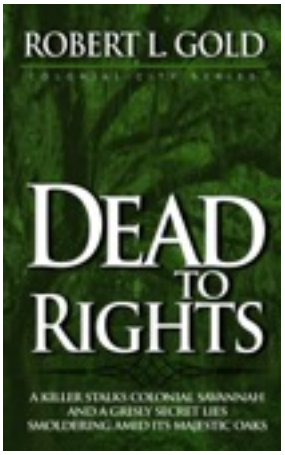
After a while, Gold began to notice something he just couldn't stand. "No matter who you are, old age can make you feel invisible. People just looked past me. I was just 'some old man' instead of an interesting, engaged, experienced professional," he said. "It was difficult to find the intellectual engagement I was used to. I missed my students daily 'hellos' and their excitement at learning and experiencing new things. I craved something more than just puttering around the house and going out to eat. There had to be more – I had a lot of living left to do, and I intended to do it with gusto!"

Gold figured he'd go back to what he'd always loved – writing. And write he did – not one but two incredible historical fiction murder-mystery novels, back to back.

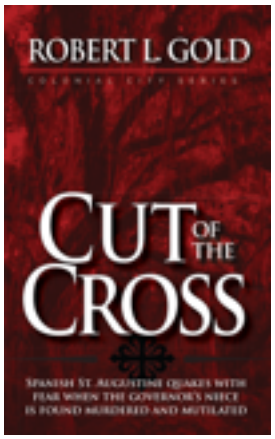
“Once I’d finished, I didn’t quite know what I’d do with them,” he said. “My wife and I spoke to a friend who was an author, and she suggested a new indie publisher she knew that might be interested in taking a look. That sounded good to me – I figured, why not? I thought my exciting new ‘retirement’ was underway!”

He sent his manuscript to Marcinson Press, an independent publishing house created by Kat LaMons and Trish Diggins. They’d met when Trish was adopting her daughter from China. Kat was the director of the state branch of Trish’s adoption agency. The two women hit it off, became fast friends, and a few years later teamed up to publish their own first book, “Ladybug Love: 100 Chinese Adoption Match Day Stories.” From there, they ended up creating a thriving – and quickly growing – publishing house.

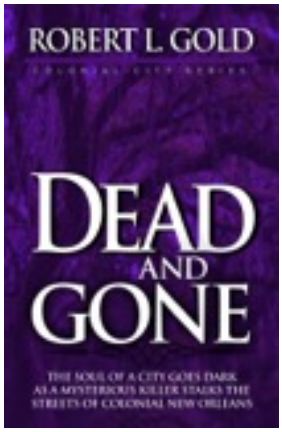
“After months of hearing nothing, I was positive that they weren’t interested,” Gold said. “Then one day out of the blue came an email that just said, ‘We love it!’… and my life opened up in ways I never expected.”



His first historical novel, “Dead to Rights,” set in colonial Savannah, Georgia, was soon released – and kudos came from all over the world. Not only did critics like it, but his friends, family, colleagues, and students were impressed – and sent their congratulations and support. “I couldn’t believe it! Students from 30 years ago were sending their reviews and congratulations. It was thrilling – absolutely amazing!” Gold said.



Two additional novels rounded out his Colonial City Series – “Cut of the Cross” set in St. Augustine, Florida, and “Dead and Gone” set in New Orleans. The trilogy offers readers a compelling look into the cultural and political life of colonial America in the eighteenth century. Each novel reveals a murder/mystery that takes readers through turns and twists, leads and dead ends, all entwined with the colonists’ everyday struggle for survival, their search for meaning and an intimate view of the lush unspoiled landscape of what would become the southeastern United States.



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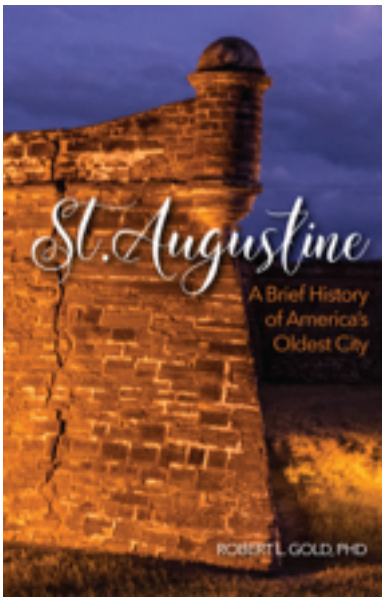
“I say that publishing that first book really changed my retirement from *eh* to YEAH!” he says.

And not just from his books. Gold found other avenues that keep him engaged in the love of sharing knowledge. Currently, he teaches adult education classes at the University of North Florida in subjects ranging from *The History of Mysteries* to *The History of Chocolate*. He speaks at local community centers, programs, and senior groups about Latin American history. He gives tours of St. Augustine to students, readers, and local community groups – and he says he truly enjoys every minute of it.

After becoming part of the Marcinson team, Gold also quickly became part of the Marcinson family. “I was fortunate to become good friends with both Trish and Kat. They are smart, funny, and are really engaged with life. They keep me on my toes and ready to tackle project after project,” he says. “Trish’s daughter is a delight. I never had children or grandchildren, but I love spending time with Trish’s family and sharing time with them – our last outing was to go see a local non-profit shelter for big wildcats and watch the nighttime feedings of tigers and lions. It’s so fun to watch her daughter see and do new things!”



Also to come out of his friendship with the Marcinson team was his latest book, a pocket-sized history book for tourists, and history lovers alike: “St. Augustine: A Brief History of America’s Oldest City.” Gold’s love affair with St. Augustine goes back decades – from 1986 to 1988, he served as executive director of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. And, keeping it in the Marcinson family, Kat’s husband William LaMons, an established photographer in his own right, shot the original images for the book.

Asked what he attributes to his long life and rich professional career, Dr. Gold cocks his head to the side, smiles and says, “I owe my mental and physical health to good genetics, a good dog, a great wife, a lot of luck and fine chocolate. Life is to be enjoyed – so if that means eating a delicious piece of chocolate every day, or writing historical fictional novels – whatever it is for each of us, no matter how old you are – do it! Love of life is as accessible to the old as to the young.”

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About Dr. Robert L. Gold

It would be hard to find a more knowledgeable author about the city of St. Augustine (or one who loves the city more) than Robert Gold. He has served as a Florida state historian in St. Augustine, professor of Latin American history at the University of South Florida, and executive director of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board.

Dr. Gold penned the popular newspaper column, *Essays from El Dorado,* for *The St. Augustine Record,* as well as the historical script for sightseeing train guides provided to millions of St. Augustine tourists.

He has also been a speaker for the Florida Humanities Council, presenting the talks "Characters and Crooks in Florida History" and teaching Florida History classes in the University of North Florida's Continuing Education Program.

In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Gold is an entertaining speaker and a prolific writer, contributing articles and reviews to many magazines and newspapers across the southeast, especially in Florida. He is also the author of *Borderland Empires in Transition: the Triple Nation Transfer of Florida* as well as a trilogy of colonial murder mysteries: *Dead to Rights*, set in Savannah, *Cut of the Cross*, set in St. Augustine, and *Dead and Gone,* set in New Orleans.

About Marcinson Press

Marcinson Press crafts outstanding books that make a real difference to their audiences. The company's success comes from a creative answer to meeting the needs of modern readers desire for relevant information and original entertainment. Marcinson's unique business model has proven to be a win for readers, authors, and book sellers alike.

Initially founded as an adoption-based book publisher, Marcinson quickly grew into additional markets, including the genres of children's books, self-help, guidebooks, historical novels, art, and photography. The company continues to grow, and has added several authors previously published by "the big boy" publishing houses, as well as new niche markets where books have enjoyed thousands of sales.

For more about Marcinson Press, contact us at 904-525-2384, editor@marcinsonpress.com, or find us on the web at www.marcinsonpress.com.

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