2022 RELEASES

GENERATIONS

LULLABY WITH INCENDIARY DEVICE  DANTE DI STEFANO
THE NAZI PATROL  WILLIAM HEYEN
HOW IT IS THAT WE  H. L. HIX

etruscan press
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A note from the Executive Director...
It’s true that word gets around, but this year Etruscan’s word is blazing all kinds of new trails. Stephen Benz follows up on his travel memoir, Topographies, with Reading the Signs, offering meditations on little-known destinations from Texas to Transnistria. And there are other kinds of journeys: J. Michael Lennon’s essay-memoir takes us on an intimate tour through 20th century literature that includes visits to the time of lost fathers—Norman Mailer and Lennon’s own hard-bitten blue-collar bard of a dad. Shanta Lee Gander’s epic poem, Black Metamorphoses, explores new ground and reframes ancient boundaries in the struggle for human liberation, charting parallels between Black Lives Matter and Ovid’s superhuman transformations. And Etruscan’s third tribus, Generations, brings together just that—three generations of poets—who showcase where we’ve been and where we’re headed: National Book Award Finalists William Heyen and H. L. Hix, and emerging poet Dante Di Stefano present three full-length collections in one volume. Heyen’s The Nazi Patrol continues his life-sustaining pursuit of understanding history; Hix’s How It Is That We plumbs the psyche of our current time; and Di Stefano’s Lullaby with Incendiary Device casts forward into his family’s—and our world’s—uncertain future. Whether your journey winds up on a desert island, a crowded city, or the solitude of your home, these are books that span what is past, and passing, and to come.

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Small press. Big opportunity.

Interested in publishing? Want to experience working for a small press? We have just the opportunity for you. Etruscan Press offers a variety of internships to help you acquire valuable skills and credentials while learning the publishing world from the inside. There are many aspects of running a small press, and we are on the lookout for folks interested in writing, editing, marketing, design, public relations, social media, and business. We may have just the internship you are looking for.

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Interns with interest or experience in web design and development can undertake a variety of projects as Etruscan continues to enhance its virtual presence with content updates, author and book information, new design elements, literary reviews, and social networking.

For more information, visit https://etruscanpress.org/internship-opportunities/
Reading the Signs:  
And Other Itinerant Essays

Essays

STEPHEN BENZ
Available Spring 2022

A wandering spirit and an inquisitive mind guide these “itinerant essays,” as Stephen Benz travels near and far to explore landscapes of personal and cultural significance. From rock concerts and courthouses to farm towns, battlefields, historical sites, and quirky museums, Benz ventures across country and overseas in search of forgotten, overlooked, or misunderstood stories.

Benz has written three previous books of essays: Topographies (Erruscan Press, 2019), Guatemalan Journey, and Green Dreams: Travels in Central America. He teaches professional writing at the University of New Mexico.

6x9 | 384 pp | $18.00 | 978-1-7364946-2-2

eBook | $9.00 | 978-1-7364946-3-9

Generations:
Lullaby with Incendiary Device, The Nazi Patrol, and How It Is That We

Poetry

DANTE DI STEFANO, WILLIAM HEYEN, H. L. HIX
Available Spring 2022

Lullaby with Incendiary Device examines a constellation of current events through the telescoping fidelities of marriage and fatherhood. With a fierce gentleness, Dante Di Stefano offers, to the woman his daughter will one day be, these scraps of necessary song. The poems in William Heyen’s The Nazi Patrol are at once hiding from and in search of “those who would part the underbrush with their rifles and whips” to find us, to kill us, but always to enlighten us. H. L. Hix in How It Is That We returns to the founding architecture of philosophy, dialogue, and puts that architecture into dialogue with that readiest of poetic architectures, the sonnet.

7x10 | 264 pp | $20.00 | 978-1-7364946-4-6
Mailer’s Last Days:
New and Selected Literary Remembrances of a Life in Literature

Essays

J. MICHAEL LENNON
Available Fall 2022

Lennon’s remembrances in this collection are linked by his attempt to understand his relationship to his putative parent, Norman Mailer, a need intensified by his decades-long confusion about his relationship to his actual father. The literary essays and reviews that take up the middle of this collection are about people, writers for the most part, whose work Mailer admired, or were his literary colleagues and/or rivals.

J. Michael Lennon, Emeritus Professor of English at Wilkes University, and Chair of the Editorial Board of the Mailer Review, is the author or editor of several books about Norman Mailer. He teaches in the Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program at Wilkes University, which he co-founded in 2005.

6x9 | 312 pp | $20.00 | 978-1-7364946-5-3
eBook | $9.99 | 978-1-7364946-9-1

Black Metamorphoses

Poetry

SHANTA LEE GANDER
Available Fall 2022

Black Metamorphoses pierces a 2,000+ year-old veil inspired by a range of Ovidian myths while resisting a direct conversion of the work. This collection explores the Black psyche, body, soul, through inversion and brazen confrontation of work that has shaped Western civilization. In a poetic range of forms, voices, and rhythms, the reader is bathed in ancestral memory, myth, and sense of the timeless of the shapeshifting, resilient Black body.

Shanta Lee Gander is the author of Ghettoclaustrophobia: Dreamin of Mama While Trying to Speak Woman in Woke Tongues. When Shanta Lee is not writing poetry, she is working on her memoir project, doing arts and culture reviews for Vermont Public Radio, and tending to her photography projects. She enjoys anything that allows her to explore beneath the surface (especially breaking into abandoned places).

6x9 | 114 pp | $17.00 | 978-1-7364946-6-0
50 Miles
Sheryl St. Germain

50 Miles is a memoir in linked essays that addresses addiction and alcoholism. The book traces the life and death of the author's son, Gray, a talented but troubled young man.

Essays, 200 pages, trade paper
$17.00 (978-0-9997534-4-6)
eBook $9.99 (978-0-9997534-9-1)

American Amnesiac
Diane Raptosh

The manic journey of a man stripped of being American in an age of corruption, corporations, and global conflict.

Poetry, 96 pages, trade paper
$16.00 (978-0-9839346-6-0)

Aard-vark to Axolotl
Karen Donovan

Donovan creates a series of whimsical narratives based on illustrations from an old dictionary. The juxtaposition of image and text surprises and delights, making us wonder about the frangibility of all definitions.

Essays, 107 pages, trade paper
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American Anger: An Evidentiary
H. L. Hix

More than an expressive book of poems, this work is an evidentiary of civility and self-correction born from the poet’s own philosophical work.

Poetry, 215 pages, trade paper
$19.00 (978-0-9875332-4-1)

All the Difference
Patricia Horvath

All the Difference is a captivating account of the author's transformation from a disabled young woman to someone who could pass for able-bodied, detailing experiences with bracing and spinal fusion and the literature of physical transformation.

Memoir, 188 pages, trade paper
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eBook $15.99 (978-0-9977455-7-3)

American Fugue
Alexis Stamatis

This literary thriller follows the odyssey of a Greek writer traveling a strange and compelling landscape, where he re-discovers America—and himself.

Fiction, 353 pages, trade paper
$16.95 (978-0-9797450-2-7)

Also Dark
Angelique Palmer

A Black Woman Queer Mama forges her own armor and creates her own path. Bigotry, ageism, sexism, colorism, homophobia, and ableism are given voice and a voracious opponent in her poems.

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$17.00 (978-0-9897532-7-2)

eBook $14.99 (978-0-9886922-2-0)

An Archaeology of Yearning
Bruce Mills

Mills’ remarkable memoir maps the artifacts of the life of a father and his autistic son as they learn the depth of relationships.

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Will Dowd

This collection of essays takes us on a journey through one year of New England weather. *Areas of Fog* combines wit and poetry with humor and erudition in a fun, breezy, and discursive read.

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H. L. Hix

*As Much As* is an intellectual venture, testing the boundary between poetry and prose.

Poetry, 184 pages, trade paper
$17.00 (978-0-9886922-1-3)

**The Arsonist's Song Has Nothing to Do With Fire**

Allison Titus

This highly compressed prose poem of a novel explores the loneliness of three misfits—a wallflower, an arsonist, and a doctor—as they attempt to reconnect to the modern world.

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Spring Ulmer

What does it mean to want to become a mother, as children around the world die of treatable diseases, are killed by bomb or bullet, are held in cages? In *Bestiality of the Involved*, Spring Ulmer lives this question out loud, refusing any easy answer.

Essays, 208 pages, trade paper
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Frederick R. Karl

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Literary Criticism, 295 pages, hardcover
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**Body of a Dancer**

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$14.95 (978-0-9718228-5-6)

The Casanova Chronicles
Myrna Stone

In this book of voices, speakers resurrected from the deeper past and the dead chafe against the circumstances of love, sex, loss, and longing.

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Translated by Mihaela Moscaliuc

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**The Confessions of Doc Williams and Other Poems**  
William Heyen  

The “urgency and authenticity” and the “plain directness” of Heyen’s voice ring true in this collection, Heyen’s eighteenth volume of poetry.  

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Human Directional reveals the heartbreak and absurdity of our world by exploring—and often exploding—its most sacred memes.
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H. L. Hix
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Hix's lyric poetry invites emotional connection to artist Petra Soesemann who embraces a newly discovered life, one made “instantly mythical” by a startling revelation.
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The Last Orgasm
Nin Andrews

The Last Orgasm continues the journey of Nin Andrews’s notorious collection, The Book of Orgasms, which became a cult classic that has been translated into Turkish, performed in Prague, and has readers around the globe.

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The Last Orgasm
Nin Andrews

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Sheila Schwartz

In this novel, a middle-class Jewish family journeys through infidelity, murder, and suicide. Weaving together nuanced meditations, this remarkable book provides insight into faith’s ability to divide, to heal, and to forgive.

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Peter Grandbois

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Michael Blumenthal

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Michael Lind

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William Heyen

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Lynn Lurie

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H. L. Hix

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Scar
Bruce Bond

Bruce Bond's trilogy of sonnet sequences explores trauma and self-alienation and the power of imaginative life to heal—to reawaken with the past: to better understand its influence, both conscious and unconscious; to gain some measure of clarity, empathy, and freedom as we read the world around us.

Poetry, 144 pages, trade paper
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Romer
Robert Eastwood

Illuminating the experience of modern life, Romer follows the journey of one man who needs to know who he is, where he is, and what he is trying to do.

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Thorpe Moeckel  

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Wild and Whirling Words:
A Poetic Conversation
Moderated by H. L. Hix

Thirty-three of America's best poets each volunteered one of his or her own poems, which the moderator then circulated anonymously among the other poets, who then responded for this collection.

Literary Criticism, 201 pages, trade paper
$22.95 (978-0-9745995-0-2)
“Nothing vast” Sophocles tells us, “enters mortal life without a curse.”

2020 and 2021 have also proved the opposite to be true—no curse enters mortal life with an attendant blessing (however small).

The pandemic made it necessary to adapt our social and educational norms; new technology made it possible to bring together distant friends and colleagues.

Given these needs and possibilities, the Etruscan Press Outreach Program has gone virtual. With the YSU Poetry Center, we conducted nearly sixty interviews with an array of national and international figures in the literary community: writers, publishers, editors, scholars, literary agents, filmmakers, and program directors on a wide range of topics in the world of the arts and the publishing industry.

In these pages, you’ll find these interviews cataloged and tagged for easy browsing, along with brief descriptions, bios, and study guides. Also available are curricula and materials for courses in Creative Writing, Literature, and Publishing, where these interviews have been embedded.

Now we’d like to facilitate the next step: bringing these literary professionals to your group or class. Let us know who you’d like to invite and we’ll set up a virtual meeting at a convenient time, at no cost to you.

Contact us here (https://etruscanpress.org/contact-us/) and we’ll make the arrangements.

Given our global crisis, this may be a small blessing. But it speaks to our need to sustain the art we cherish and the books and lives we love. Please join us in sharing in this opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to enrich our experience of the arts.

Sincerely,
Philip Brady
Director, Youngstown State University Poetry Center
Executive Director, Etruscan Press

Network with Literary Professionals

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Etruscan Press Subject Master Book List
Angelique Palmer is a self-described “Black Woman Queer Mama forced to forge her own armor and create her own path.” In her new poetry collection Also Dark, published by Etruscan Press in November 2021, bigotry, ageism, sexism, colorism, homophobia, and ableism are given voice and a voracious opponent in these poems—which are raw and candid, while at the same time personal, yet relatable.

No poets or writers inspired her to become a poet. But “June Jordan, Rita Dove, Sonia Sanchez, Nikky Finney, Patricia Smith, Ebony Stewart and any chance to read away a rainy day inspired me to stay in poetry. And teachers as well! It took two of my high school English teachers, one at community college, one at university and my Mama to tell me I was a good writer and to keep going.”

My first experience with Angelique was by watching a YouTube video for a Write About Now Poetry event from 2018, where she gave a powerful, jaw-dropping spoken word performance of a variation of her poem, “Passive Voice on a Tuesday.”

When asked how she became involved in spoken word, she said, “The short answer is trauma. I used to go to the Water Works and Grand Finale open mics in Tallahassee a long time ago. I thought I might be good at it. But it wasn’t until the heavy-duty trauma I wrote about in The Chambermaid’s Style Guide that I went looking for community in performance poetry. I used to drive home from my therapy meetings and pass an open mic sandwich board. Because of a chance meeting, I started going to the Literary Café Poetry Lounge on 125th Street in North Miami and there I was taught about Poetry Slam. I lost a lot. And a lot of people didn’t believe in me. But a lot more did. Ten years later I was standing on the final stage at The Women of the World Poetry Slam.”

Palmer lives in Fairfax, VA. She knits, dabbles in light hoarding, and is also an educator. She started out working at the African American Poetry Museum, then became an afterschool and kindergarten aide and substitute teacher. Later, she was promoted to assistant kindergarten teacher and now has her own homeroom in the first grade.

I asked her how she balances her writing life with being a full-time teacher and she said, “I have been off-balance since I began working on Also Dark in earnest. Fitting in edits after lesson plans; running late with notes while making games for little hands. It isn’t a teeter-totter thing but more of a juggling act. But I will say that I haven’t quit trying to keep all the important things airborne; to find the balance (I’m a Libra). I feel stronger because of this.”

My second experience with Palmer’s work, before reading her final manuscript, was when I read her synopsis for Also Dark. An excerpt:

Palmer cuts a path toward finding all the ways she names herself: with pride and with shame, with growth and with responsibility; with tantrum and humor; with understanding and a strong desire to
understand the others who are just like her too. This
full-length collection of poems is about hope and
despair; about a life well-lived, danced, and limped
through; about light and how that isn’t the opposite
of Blackness, nor is all the many shades of gray; and
about wanting a love story so deeply, you write your
own.

I was immediately struck by the line, “about
wanting a love story so deeply, you write your own.”
It affected me on a personal level, but I was also
awed by how such a simple statement could be so
beautiful and profound. I told her this and asked if
she could explain a bit more about what she meant.

“I appreciate that this statement touched you. I
have been interrogating it a great deal lately. Your
thoughtful question doesn’t have a simple answer
but here’s my attempt at one: I am romantic.
Full stop. I like handholding, long meandering
conversation, and the softness of other attractive/
attracted to me humans. I haven’t felt safe to explore
that for a while. First, I had a profoundly broken
heart compounded by a subsequent infidelity.
Then life in all the ways it can, showed up. And
then Covid-19! There isn’t a wall around me, but
an intricate enough barrier and a specific tendency
toward isolation preventing the exploration of the
softness I crave outside of me. It hasn’t killed my
romantic. I want my love story in the way most
people want water to drink or air to breathe. But I’m
a Palmer woman, so I’ll write the story myself.”

In this love story, there’s the self-consciousness we
feel when we put ourselves out there: “Turn your
whole body to her smile/give in to your colors, if
you find them there/You’ll find them there. You
are every color when she shines… They say it is
simple/But she is beautiful, and you are clumsy/with
simplicity, with words… (From “Flirting”)

The ache to love and be loved: “Make sure you are
alone… That you are quiet with your secrets…
That you swallow your sexuality/Make sure you
don’t begin to wish…Make sure you are not actively
thinking! That you don’t look for hidden meaning,
where there is none/or think about the one you
cannot touch… (From “On Listening to Meshell
Ndegeocello in the Workplace”)

Our need to connect: “I say with my most honest
self/Give us a good ground to trod, to trudge/Give
us great sky to aspire to touch/Give us community
like a song/we are surprised we already know the
lyrics to… (From “And Maybe, Community”)

Within the pages of Also Dark, you’ll find poems
filled with grief, joy, longing, and desire. But also
the kind of hope that just won’t quit, and everything
about what it means to be human on this Earth.

Angelique Palmer is a performance poet, a finalist
in the 2015 Women of the World Poetry Slam, and
a member of the 2017 Busboys and Poets/Beltway
Poetry Slam Team. Author of The Chambermaid’s
Style Guide, she’s a Florida State University Creative
Writing graduate who calls northern Virginia home.
Her work centers on Black Femme Narratives,
Awkward Queerness, and Mental Health and
Recovery. She makes her own ice cream.

Pamela Turchin earned a M.A. and M.F.A. in
fiction from the Maslow Graduate Creative Writing
Program at Wilkes University, where she serves as
the production editor for Etruscan Press.
2021 Etruscan Press Highlights

Etruscan authors Remica Bingham-Risher and Angelique Palmer participated in “An Evening of Spoken Word” at Wilkes University’s Maslow Foundation Salon Reading Series

Six Hampton University undergraduate interns developed contacts in Georgia, Virginia and the District of Columbia to raise awareness of Etruscan’s virtual outreach program

Etruscan Press named finalist for the 2021 AWP Small Press Publisher award

Topographies by Stephen Benz, named a 2020 Housatonic Book Awards finalist

Etruscan awarded a professional development consultancy grant from the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses to expand the Etruscan Press Virtual Outreach Program

Suffolk University and Etruscan partnered in Job Shadowing Career Communities initiative, providing mentorship to undergraduate students interested in the publishing industry

Etruscan author Sari Fordham’s memoir, Wait for God to Notice, received an Honorable Mention for General Nonfiction from the 2021 Los Angeles Book Festival

50 Miles author Sheryl St. Germain was the featured speaker at the April 2021 Pain and Addiction Summit, hosted by Wilkes University

Etruscan joined Wilkes University’s Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program at the virtual AWP21 Annual Conference in March 2021; Etruscan co-sponsored the annual Old School Slam and Open Mic events

Etruscan renewed its affiliation agreement with Wilkes University (through May 2024)

Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program student John Cornelius awarded the 2021 Etruscan Prize presented during Wilkes University June residency

Wilkes University M.F.A. alumna Mary Poth was appointed Etruscan Press Grant Coordinator

Etruscan Press released Trio, a Tribus imprint, featuring poetry collections of Karen Donovan, Diane Raptosh, and Daneen Wardrop

Etruscan M.F.A. Interns Andrew Wilczak and Heather Jenkins completed certification as international program Narrative 4 Facilitators

Etruscan created academic subject catalog featuring all Etruscan titles; shared catalog with both Consortium Book Sales and Distribution and the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses to expand its academic outreach

Colum McCann agreed to write the Afterward for Viscera, Felice Belle’s poetry collection; and has written the afterward for Darrell Bourque’s Until We Talk (featuring artwork by Bill Gingles); Colum also facilitated submission of Ru Freeman’s Bon Courage; all three authors are connected to Narrative 4

Dr. Andrew Wilczak was appointed Etruscan Press Outreach Coordinator

Etruscan’s website was redesigned by website designer Douglas Martin and Wilkes University undergrad intern Shawn Stone; the new website launched in October, featuring nearly 60 videos of literary professionals and course curricula available through the Etruscan outreach program

Etruscan provided copies of author William Heyen’s Shoah Train (2004 NBA Finalist) to the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust for their in person academic workshop series

Etruscan developed a literary partnership with Literary Hub, a daily website launched in 2015 by Grove Atlantic, featuring excerpts from forthcoming Etruscan releases

Also Dark audiobook was produced by three undergraduate communications studies students at Wilkes University featuring author and spoken word/poet Angelique Palmer

Also Dark audiobook was produced by three undergraduate communications studies students at Wilkes University featuring author and spoken word/poet Angelique Palmer
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“I hear America singing, her varied carols I hear.”

—Walt Whitman

Nothing attested, everything sung, writes Etruscan poet H. L. Hix, echoing Walt. Since our first release, September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond, Etruscan writers have sung a resonant chorus of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and literary criticism.

People have taken notice. Three of our 98 titles have been finalists for the National Book Award. Etruscan books have won honors from the Poetry Society of America and Foreword Reviews. We’ve been in Best American Poetry and on Garrison Keillor’s show. We’ve partnered with the National Endowment for the Arts, Wilkes University, and Youngstown State University. Our outreach program brings new literature to thousands of at-risk students.

We ask you to join Etruscan’s varied carols. Help us continue to show what an independent, nonprofit literary press can do: orchestrate the literary music of authors not often heard in the mainstream. Help us show that books matter because they can sing, not because of a bottom line.

Come join our swelling chorus. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

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