

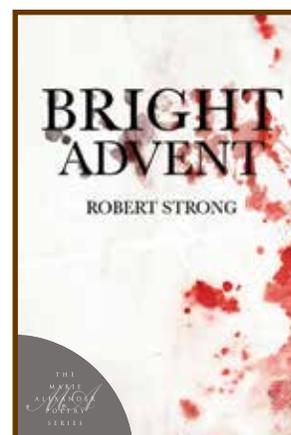
News from

THE MARIE ALEXANDER POETRY SERIES
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Bright Advent

by
Robert Strong

A hybrid narrative incorporating archival material from the 1600s, *Bright Advent* gives flesh to a ghost of Early American history largely forgotten, specifically the dark and complicated story of the Massachusetts Indian John Sassamon and the Puritan missionary John Eliot.



“Bright Advent’s creative juxtaposition of archival and imaginative elements . . . is a provocation to re-examine the very nature of storytelling about the past. . . . By assuming the form of poetry for this re-engagement with the seventeenth century, Strong joins a conversation with a host of earlier poets who have plumbed aspects of the war, including Robert Lowell, Susan Howe, and Louise Erdrich, as well as local and tribal writers across the Northeast.”

—from the introduction by historian **Christine DeLucia**

“American history is most often rendered in prose, but perhaps it is best understood and best felt in poetry, or at least with the strong current of lyricism accompanying the narrative flow. I’m thinking of Whitman, or Benet’s *John Brown’s Body*, or Robert Penn Warren’s *Brother to Dragons*, or most recently, Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen*. Here is a book to add to that distinguished tradition, an inquiry into Puritan history, oozing with imagery, stinging with metaphor, and shining with allegory. While this is a book of serious historical query, it is also a book of serious imagination. That makes me admire it all the more.”

—**Maurice Manning**

“An important contribution to the growing body of documentary-based work in contemporary poetry, *Bright Advent* beautifully displays the ways in which poetic language, with its oblique and multiplicitous relationship to meaning, can fundamentally change our relationship to knowledge, opening us up to new modes of perception and understanding. A stunning look at our nation’s emergence and its tremendous moral cost.”

—**Cole Swensen**

“Bright Advent is an absorbing meditation on colonization, religion, and war in Puritan Massachusetts. Robert Strong has created a book that is faithful to seventeenth-century language and history yet wholly accessible to the contemporary reader, both meticulously researched and formally inventive. A thrilling addition to the growing body of American historical poetry.”

—**Melissa Range**

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Robert Strong is the founding editor of Poetic Research at *Common-place* and has received fellowships from the Massachusetts Historical Society and the American Antiquarian Society. Previous books include *Puritan Spectacle*, *Joyful Noise: An Anthology*, the chapbook *Brethren: Order of the Seasons*, and the conceptual fiction *Manufact Hologram*. He teaches at Bates College in Maine.

Founded in 1996 by Robert Alexander, the Marie Alexander Poetry Series is dedicated to promoting the appreciation, enjoyment, and understanding of American prose poetry. An imprint of White Pine Press since 2001, the Series publishes one to two books annually. These are typically single-author collections of short prose pieces, sometimes interwoven with lineated sections, and an occasional anthology demonstrating the broader literary context within which American poetry exists.

It is our mission to publish the very best contemporary prose poetry and to carry the rich tradition of this hybrid form on into the 21st century.

***Bright Advent* is our twenty-first volume.**

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