

# The New Criterion

## Poems

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### Frieze

by [Angelos Sikelianos](#)

Kicking their steeds' flanks with the red apples  
Of their heels, right where the bulging vein  
Forks and ramifies, and the sweat dripples  
In rivulets down to the hooves from the belly,

Driving them with palms slapped on the withers  
Where the hair is parted so the mane  
Falls on either side like swan feathers,  
And crowned themselves with hats or wreaths, they urge

Them on— Heat splits the earth— The cicada's throb  
In the olives heralds airy victory—  
Here comes the procession, the ceremonial robe;

And then with a fair and following breeze, they surge  
Past, abounding wave of horses, dancing—  
Galloping, cantering or prancing . . .

**Angelos Sikelianos's** poems emphasized national history, religious symbolism, and universal harmony.

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