

# The New Criterion

## Poems

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### The horse of Achilles

by [Angelos Sikelianos](#)

O Field of Asphodel, two horses  
Whinnied and raced along your edge,  
Their backs were shining like a wave  
As they came surging out of the tide  
And tore across the empty sand,  
Their necks were arched like breakers, high,  
Stallions flecked with white foam . . .  
Lightning kindled in the eye.  
They dove back in, wave into the waves,  
Foam into the foam of the sea,  
And then were gone. I knew those steeds,  
One had taken on human voice,  
And prophecy, a sayer of sooth.  
The hero gripped the reins and kicked,  
Driving onward his godlike youth . . .

Holy horses, fate has kept you  
Indestructible, and set  
Upon your foreheads black as night  
A charm against the evil eye,  
A great and blinding blaze of white!

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

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