

3-18-2021

No New World

Von Wise II

Florida International University, vwise001@fiu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/etd>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Wise, Von II, "No New World" (2021). *FIU Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 4667.
<https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/etd/4667>

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the University Graduate School at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in FIU Electronic Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Miami, Florida

NO NEW WORLD

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of

the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

in

CREATIVE WRITING

by

Von Wise

2021

To: Dean Michael R. Heithaus
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

This thesis, written by Von Wise, and entitled No New World, having been approved in respect to style and intellectual content, is referred to you for judgment.

We have read this thesis and recommend that it be approved.

Campbell McGrath

Asher Milbauer

Richard Blanco, Major Professor

Date of Defense: March 18, 2021

The thesis of Von Wise is approved.

Dean Michael R. Heithaus
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

Andrés G. Gil
Vice President for Research and Economic Development
and Dean of the University Graduate School

Florida International University, 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have received a tremendous amount of support throughout the writing and completion of this manuscript, and it is difficult to imagine it being possible without the help and encouragement offered to me.

First, I would like to thank Richard Blanco for all the help, encouragement, ideas, and time spent reading and responding to the early drafts, especially the many, many pages that did not make it into the final version.

I want to thank Campbell McGrath and Dr. Asher Milbauer for also serving as readers on my thesis committee.

I would also like to thank my literature professors, especially Dr. Asher Milbauer, Dr. Donna Aza Weir-Soley, and Dr. Vernon Dickson, who helped me become a better reader of all works.

I want to thank all of the creative writing faculty at FIU, especially Denise Duhamel, Campbell McGrath, Richard Blanco, Julie Marie Wade, and John Dufresne for all their wisdom and kindness and all the ways they helped me grow as a writer.

I want to thank Cindy Chinelly for all of her support and trust in me and for helping me feel like a teacher as well as a writer.

I would like to thank Kevin González for being my first mentor, my friend, and for telling me to apply to FIU in the first place.

I also want to thank Frederick Hoy for giving me early support in this project and for teaching me years ago about the beauty of architecture.

I would like to thank the Clinton County Historical Society for providing many of the documents used in my research and for reminding me that it is all in the public domain.

I want to thank Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello and Guillermo Cancio-Bello (and Ellie and Hopkins) for being great friends and inspiration and for always having excellent advice.

I want to thank Nick Kline and Jacob Patalive for being early readers of my manuscript, for sending me resources when I couldn't get them myself, and for being two of my closest friends.

I want to thank all of my peers at FIU. Y'all have been amazing friends and writers and have helped me in more ways than I can count. Thank you Bri, Jason, Michael S., Michael G., Cami, Terin, Jordan, Eddie, Sam, Lily, Brittany, Jaden, Freesia, and on and on...

I want to thank the Graduate Assistantship provided to me through FIU. I literally could not have afforded this otherwise.

I want to thank my parents for always supporting me and encouraging me even (and especially) when they don't understand what I'm doing or why I'm doing it. You are my most supportive readers.

Finally, I want to thank Abby for always reading my work, for always offering support, for everything. I couldn't do any of this without you.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

NO NEW WORLD

by

Von Wise

Florida International University, 2021

Miami, Florida

Professor Richard Blanco, Major Professor

NO NEW WORLD is a collection of poetry that follows the establishment, development, and decline of an imagined mid-Atlantic town. Using a blend of historical fact and fiction, the poems open up space for reflection on the historical progress of civilization as a making and unmaking process. The collection explores themes of colonialism, settlement, nature, survival, erasure, civic development, and cyclical forms. The poems take on a variety of styles and tones, shifting between poems from personal life and more oracular poems, creating an oscillation between the human and non-human perspectives that situate and collectively establish the cohesive organism of a town. Ultimately, NO NEW WORLD forms a polyphonic, centuries-spanning narrative whose main themes concern the passage of time and the perpetual discourse of forces swelling and contracting. It wrestles with the contradiction of multiple perspective and the need to define the context of place even as that concept dissolves.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
INTRO	
Every City.....	1
I	
Rising.....	4
Newspaper Triptych	5
Running Water.....	8
Gold Rush (1844)	10
Sound of the Countryside Eclogue	12
This House is a Real House.....	15
The First Sawmill	17
Vision	19
Firecrop.....	22
Scene Along the River.....	23
Letter to the Editor: On the State of These Roads.....	26
Dreams of Insects and Other Houses.....	28
Freeway	31
Monument.....	33
Doors	34

II

One Night Only	37
Skeleton	38
Night Court.....	40
The Long Way to Work.....	42
Flags	44
The Agreement	46
Joining the Rooftop	48
Necropolis.....	49
Flood.....	51
On Poetic Souls	52
New Victorian	53
Storefronts	55
Hummingbirds.....	56
Lunar Eclipse.....	58
Night Light	59
Basement Show	61
Concerning Craft and Criticism.....	64
City Chase	68

III

The Federal.....	72
------------------	----

Pointed Towards Spring	74
You Aren't Alone, Even When You're Lost.....	76
Flying.....	78
Donut Run	79
The Algorithm	81
Life of Water	84
Yeats vs. Hass vs. Me.....	86
Never Stop Looking	90
Noise Machine.....	94
New Pair	96
[Re]learning America: a patriot's guide	98
Newspaper Erasure.....	100
Ghost Food	102
OUTRO	
Waves	105
NOTES	108

Every City

Every city begins
with a drop of blood
entering the soil

whether through work or war
rich with the same crimson
bleeding through the sky

as the sun stiches the next day
onto the horizon.

Every city begins
with enough force
to split open the land

with the imagination
and impose the river
against its banks,

to lift and wield the mountain
as a giant shield.

Every city wrings the soil
loose, rings bells like birds,
stretches out in repose

to think about itself,
lulled into a pleasant daydream
by the warm buzz of the sun

and a million tiny crawling things.



144 Walnut St.
Daniel L. Larson House

1858
Greek Revival Style

Rising

The city sometimes
gets caught up in the image

of itself, the dream
that is the opposite of existence.

Relishing the world
of possibility can sour the earth,

turn tedious the process
of *making* and *being*, a chore to be put off.

Of course the city
wants to grow into itself. But what is *itself*

and what will it
take to actually, really pull itself up

out of the stones, streams, grass...

Newspaper Triptych

*All text comes from articles published in the Clinton Democrat between 1851-1852.

July 29, 1851

More Copy

The memory of the “oldest
inhabitant” runneth not back
to the time when our town was

busier than now. Every branch
of business is paying
better than it has done

before. Our gentlemen of leisure
have caught the infection
of industry and the impulses

of enterprise move
the once stagnant blood
of the body corporate.