



## About the Poet

Pushcart Prize nominee JOSEPH CHARLES MACKENZIE is northern New Mexico's third *poeta lírico*, or traditional lyric poet after Higinio V. Gonzales (1842-1921) and Fray Angelico Chavez (1910-1996). According to Dr. Salemi of New York University, MacKenzie is "startlingly well read in the classics, patristic literature, Thomist philosophy, Spanish and French poetry, and much more."

Although British colleagues consider MacKenzie a poet of the Scottish Diaspora, he is pugnaciously *Nuevomexicano* with Spanish roots going back to the Conquista. His verses reflect the deep spirituality of the *Siglo de Oro*, the exigent refinements of the French Pléiade, and the fierce temperament of the Gael.

## Distinctions

MacKenzie is the only American to have won the Scottish International Poetry Competition, as noted in *The Times Literary Supplement* (January, 2017). While obtaining his B.A. (*Humaniores Literae*) at St. John's College, he won the Henry M. Austin Poetry Prize for several translations of French Renaissance poetry into Middle English. He went on to receive an M.A. in French Studies (Minor in Italian) at the University of New Mexico where he also taught undergraduate French courses.

MacKenzie taught modern languages in a traditional French *lycée*, is a former Poet in Residence at the Club des Poètes (Paris), acted as Literary Consultant for the production of *Rimbaud et Verlaine* at the Théâtre des Déchargeurs (Paris), and studied verse technique with Mme Colette Lecourt. He has recited poetry (always from memory) in France, Italy, Scotland, and the United States.

He entered the religious life and studied traditional theology in France, Switzerland, Italy, and back in the United States. MacKenzie is ordained in the traditional Minor Orders (Porter, Lector, Acolyte, Exorcist) but left the clerical state. He later married the Fair Lady of the Sonnets who inspires many of his poems.

MacKenzie's verses have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Scotsman* (Edinburg), *The Independent* (London), *The Society of Classical Poets* (New York,), *Trinacria* (New York), and elsewhere. He has been covered by *US News and World Report*, *Google News*, *Reddit*, and other venues.