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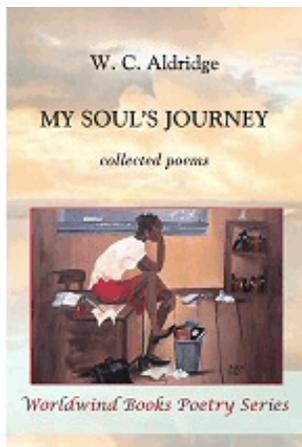
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“My Soul’s Journey” and “Castle Lark” are 2022 Eric Hoffer Award Finalists

Published 20 years apart, the titles highlight Amador Publishers’ longevity and dedication to craft.

When it comes to book publishers, Amador Publishers, LLC of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is about as small as they come, but our quality books continue to stand out in the crowd. Out of more than 2,500 books entered to the 2022 Eric Hoffer Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing, two Amador titles reached Finalist lists.



2021, Amador Publishers, LLC; ISBN 978-0-938513-71-1



My Soul’s Journey, collected poems, by Chicago poet W.C. Aldridge, was released last year as part of Amador’s Worldwind Books Poetry Series. Ms. Aldridge was involved in all aspects of the project. Her choices for cover and interior art, and her thoughtful arrangement of the poems into chapters with evocative titles such as “Forgiveness is Not a Byword,” “My Relationship with God,” and “Everything is About Color,” add layers of meaning to her poetic journey. The collection is sprinkled with photographs by Michele Lee, also of Chicago, and includes an image by beloved African American painter Annie Lee, “5th Grade Substitute,” a detail of which graces the cover.

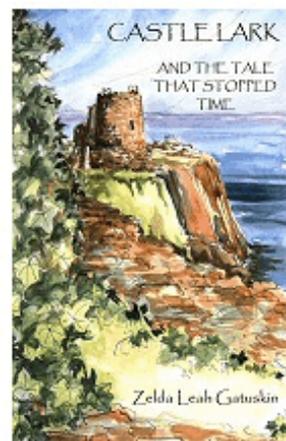
My Soul’s Journey came together in 2020-21 in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement and the worldwide pandemic. The dejected young teacher on the book cover may well represent how we were feeling then, and might still be feeling, but paired with Ms. Aldridge’s poetry, she is a symbol of perseverance and hope fortified by faith—an apt description of the poet herself.

Reacting to news of her Hoffer Award honors, Ms. Aldridge wrote, “I am rejoicing!!!!”

Published in 2001 and reprinted in 2020, Zelda Leah Gatuskin’s futuristic fantasy novel *Castle Lark and The Tale that Stopped Time* was nominated for the da Vinci Eye Award for its cover art by Claiborne O’Connor.

News of the honor inspired Mrs. O’Connor (now in her nineties) to reflect on her labors as Amador’s go-to artist from the press’s inception in 1986. She’d created covers for more than a dozen books by the time *Castle Lark* hit her sketch pad, all laboriously hand-drawn, color-separated and pasted up for mechanical production.

“Castle Lark,” she remembered, “was the first time all I had to do was paint the picture and hand it over.” Nothing to it, right? But, as we recall, those were still the early days of computer graphics, and digitizing the oversized watercolor, and adding the text, spine and back cover elements crashed our computer more than once. And even today, painting the picture would be the hard part.



2001, Amador Publishers, LLC; ISBN 978-0-938513-31-5

