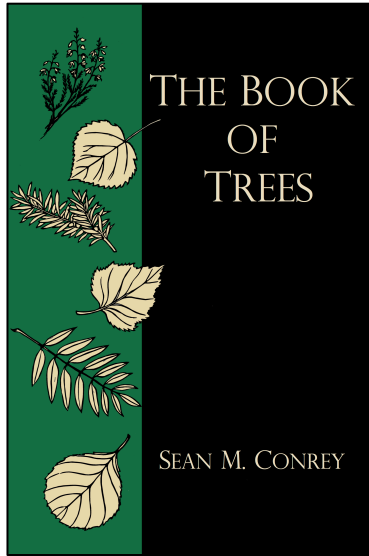


Houston: Press Release - For immediate release November 15, 2017. Saint Julian Press proudly presents a new collection of poems by Sean M. Conrey, which will be available on November 20, 2017 through fine book distributors and retailers.

Praise for THE BOOK OF TREES



The outcome of spiritual contemplation is not beauty, certainly not worldly beauty, neither is the outcome worldly comfort. And yet our contemplation occurs necessarily in the world and is of the world. This is the paradox one must accept if the spiritual life is to be deepened and extended. As this absorbing book makes clear, we have nature and language to house this paradox, indeed, to give it life, that we may grasp it and live with it. An ancient world is fully alive in these poems, tended by a devoted hand. This is a rich and satisfying book, a transport and a safe return at once. One may conclude that serious contemplation is never solitary—it is, like art, an act of fellowship.

Maurice Manning, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize:
Author of *The Gone and the Going Away* (2013)
and *One Man's Dark* (2016)

Both elegiac and radical, Sean M. Conrey's fascinating *The Book of Trees* imagines and recreates the voice of Saint Columba, the 6th century Irish priest and scholar once known as Columcille. Melding ekphrasis (inspired by the Ogham alphabet) and dramatic monologue, Conrey's thickly intertextual poems deftly find the seam between the Catholic and Druidic legacies of Ireland. Through the voice of one who partook in the erasure of pagan wisdom, Conrey works to recover what we might have lost in the triumph of Catholicism, to discover what Fanny Howe calls the "God behind God."

Philip Metres, Author of *Sand Opera*

Sean M. Conrey is an assistant director in the Project Advance program at Syracuse University, where he teaches in the English and Textual Studies Department. He lives in Syracuse, New York, with his wife, Carol Fadda, and their two daughters. His first full-length book of poems, *The Word in Edgewise*, was published by Brick Road Poetry Press in 2014, and his monograph *Coming to Terms with Place*, a theoretical work concerned with how language affects our sense of place, was published in 2007. Recordings of his experimental music project, Mercury City Suburbs, are available online.



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