

**Submissions** *American Literature* has a blind submissions policy. Submit manuscripts online at [mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/dup-aml](http://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/dup-aml). Double-space manuscripts throughout; the length of manuscripts should not exceed 11,000 words, including notes and references. We do not accept simultaneous submissions. For house style, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed., or a current issue of the journal. Send correspondence about editorial matters to [am-lit@duke.edu](mailto:am-lit@duke.edu).

**Online** Visit Duke University Press at [dukeupress.edu](http://dukeupress.edu).

**Subscriptions** Direct all orders to Duke University Press, Journals Customer Relations, 905 W. Main St., Suite 18B, Durham, NC 27701. Annual subscription rates: print-plus-electronic institutions, \$590; print-only institutions, \$560; e-only institutions, \$472; individuals and secondary-school libraries, \$45; students, \$24. MLA members receive a 20% discount on subscriptions. For information on subscriptions to the e-Duke Journals Scholarly Collections, contact [libraryrelations@dukeupress.edu](mailto:libraryrelations@dukeupress.edu). Print subscriptions: add \$14 postage and applicable HST (including 5% GST) for Canada; add \$18 postage outside the US and Canada. Back volumes (institutions): \$560. Single issues: institutions, \$140; individuals, \$14. For more information, contact Duke University Press Journals at 888-651-0122 (toll-free in the US and Canada) or 919-688-5134; [subscriptions@dukeupress.edu](mailto:subscriptions@dukeupress.edu).

**Permissions** Photocopies for course or research use that are supplied to the end user at no cost may be made without explicit permission or fee. Photocopies that are provided to the end user for a fee may not be made without payment of permission fees to Duke University Press. Send requests for permission to republish copyrighted material to [permissions@dukeupress.edu](mailto:permissions@dukeupress.edu).

**Indexing** For indexes in which *American Literature* is listed, see [dukeupress.edu/american-literature](http://dukeupress.edu/american-literature).

**Advertisements** Direct inquiries about advertising to Journals Advertising Coordinator, [journals\\_advertising@dukeupress.edu](mailto:journals_advertising@dukeupress.edu).

*American Literature* (ISSN 0002-9831) is published quarterly, at \$590 for (print-plus-electronic) institutions and \$45 for individuals, by Duke University Press, 905 W. Main St., Suite 18B, Durham, NC 27701. Periodicals postage paid at Durham, NC, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *American Literature*, Box 90660, Duke University Press, Durham, NC 27708-0660.

Volume 95, Number 1, March 2023

© 2023 by Duke University Press

## **In this issue**

Valerie Sirenko	<b>Destroyed Documents and Racial Vulnerability in the Literature of Slavery's Legal Afterlife</b>
Guadalupe Escobar	<b>The Critical DREAMer Memoir: Educational Mobility and the Limits of Meritocratic Citizenship</b>
Jasmine An	<b>“A Handful of Syllables Thrown Back across the Water”: <i>Dictée</i>'s Aesthetic Legacy and Thai American Poetics</b>
Ethan A. Plaue	<b>The Parasitical Trick: Mediating Dispossession in Early America</b>
Soyica Diggs Colbert, Douglas A. Jones, Jr., Paige McGinley, and Shane Vogel	<b>Existentialisms: Blackness, Literature, Performance</b>
Douglas A. Jones, Jr.	<b>Repetition and Value in Richard Wright's <i>Man Who Lived Underground</i></b>
Soyica Diggs Colbert	<b>Lorraine Hansberry and Miriam Makeba's Affirmative Movements in History</b>
Paige McGinley	<b>On (Not) <i>Waiting for Godot</i>: Absurdity and Action in Mississippi</b>
Shane Vogel	<b>Ann Petry and the Existential Phenomenology of Race</b>