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## Letter From the Literary Editor

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## Letter From the Literary Editor 2020

Fifty years of Calliope. The longevity of this magazine is a testament to the timeless sentiment that art, in all of its forms, is necessary. This isn't a profound bit of information, but this statement rings true now more than ever. As Calliope enters into the age of "mid-life crises," we too find ourselves in a time of crisis and uncertainty. In the raging chaos of pandemics and social distancing, the world is isolated. Through all this, art continues to document and ground the way we perceive the world around us. It connects us over space and time; art cultivates empathy when human connection is so limited.

With half a century under its belt, the magazine has taken on a life of its own; as writers, editors, and readers, we have developed a mutual relationship with Calliope. We write about the chaos, the calm, past and present, and the magazine is the friend that patiently waits for us at the end of the day to listen to our story. Calliope does not just offer a platform for a cathartic release of the complexities of life, it offers more. It is a recognition of potential that is so imperative in a writer's lifetime.

Last year's theme, "how we become" hoped that Calliope would be a small but important part of a writer's timeline. While last year focused on the journey, this issue asks you to shift your focus to where it all began. "Lineage: Sown in the Earth" calls back to the beginning. While Calliope enters into a new decade, we reflect back on where it all began. After graduating in December 2019, I thought a lot about this theme. I joined Calliope in my sophomore year, and since then I have had the greatest pleasure reading and cultivating stories from all walks of life. I thank the authors for allowing readers a glimpse into their lives, and the reader for welcoming it with open arms. The literature in this issue reminds us that our roots are planted somewhere, you just have to do a little digging.

— Ericka Wong, Calliope 2020