

MERTON EVENTS FAR AND NEAR

Richard Franklin of Victoria, Australia, and several Cistercian monks from the monastery of Tarrawarra in that country have recently organized a "Thomas Merton Society of Australia". Its main purpose is to stimulate interest in the thought of Merton and operate as a clearing house for information concerning published writings of Thomas Merton, and those manuscripts being prepared for publication.

The fall drama production at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, will be an original play about Thomas Merton, entitled UNDER THE SIGN OF THE WATERBEARER. Merton, born in late January, was an Aquarian. Dr. James T. Baker, who wrote his dissertation on Thomas Merton and who is a member of the History faculty at Western Kentucky, is the author of the play. The play will be performed October 20, 21, 22, and 23 at 8:15 in the Fine Arts Center at Western Kentucky University.

Marc S. Cousineau and Douglas E. Christie, undergraduate students at the University of California at Santa Cruz, are conducting a student-directed seminar in the Fall quarter on Thomas Merton under the direction of Professor Donald Nicholl of the Religious Studies Department. The course, entitled THOMAS MERTON: MONK, will examine Merton's writings on spirituality, social criticism, nonviolence, and contemplation.

The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York will conduct a Merton Symposium on Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12. The topic for the Symposium is "Contemplation and the Contribution of Thomas Merton toward Appreciation of Contemplative Prayer." Br. David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B., author of articles on Merton, will be the principal speaker at The Symposium.