DEPICTIONS OF THOMAS MERTON

The head of Merton featured on our cover is one of many depictions of the famous monk. Though he opposed representations of himself at times (he said in 1964, for instance “The publication of my picture is distasteful to me personally”), he permitted himself to be painted (Victor Hammer), sketched (Jill Baker), and much photographed (John Howard Griffin, Gene Meatyard, Ed Rice, and scores of others). These depictions convey something of his many moods. In this tenth year after his death, we present here four photographs of Merton — all in different moods and in each of which he is, appropriately enough, holding a book.

Young Tom Merton, photographed by his mother (1919)
c Thomas Merton Legacy Trust

Merton at Gethsemani, photographed by Naomi Burton Stone
c Naomi Burton Stone

Merton at Gethsemani, photographer unknown
c Thomas Merton Legacy Trust

Merton in the Lotus Position
Photographed by Ed Rice
c Ed Rice