PUBLICATIONS BY AND ABOUT THOMAS MERTON

We continue with this SEASONAL to provide a running bibliography of materials by and about Thomas Merton which have been recently published and/or acquisitioned by the Thomas Merton Studies Center.

Canadians Michael Higgins and Ross Labrie both have essays represented here. Higgins discusses Merton's THE GEOGRAPHY OF LOGRAIRE in "The silent one and the poetics of unity: Merton's last poem" (published in GAMUT, a Toronto journal). STUDIES IN FORMATIVE SPIRITUALITY have reprinted the first twenty-five pages of Labrie's book, THE ART OF THOMAS MERTON, with the title "Thomas Merton: contemplative and artist." The essay, "Monk on a journey" in THOMAS MERTON/MONK: A MONASTIC TRIBUTE, was written by Fr. Armand Veilleux, former abbot of Mistassini Abbey in Quebec and an authority on Pachomian monasticism.

The revised edition of THOMAS MERTON/MONK: A MONASTIC TRIBUTE (called "new & enlarged edition"), edited by Brother Patrick Hart and published by Cistercian Publications, includes several new essays besides the one by Veilleux. Americans Dan Berrigan and Rosemary Haughton and Brazilians Alceu Amoroso Lia, Rene Bucks, and Sjister Emmanuel de Souza e Silva (called "Merton's consul in Brasil") have contributed new essays. Brother Patrick says in his "Foreword to the New Enlarged Edition":

As we approach the fifteenth anniversary of Thomas Merton's death (he died on 10 December 1968 in Bangkok, Thailand), we are just beginning to appreciate the enormous legacy of this dedicated monk who lived a quarter of a century in our midst. With the additional essays included here, it is hoped that a more complete understanding of Thomas Merton and his message for us today may be achieved.

The first book-length study of Thomas Merton written in Poland and in Polish was published in Cracow late in 1982, Father Placyd Pawel Ogorek's CZYM JEST SWIETOSC: W TEOLII ZYCIA WEWNETRZNEGO TOMASZA MERTONA.

An unusual, and largely negative, essay on Merton, titled "Thomas Merton: epilogue and epitaph," by Fr. Henry S. Banach S.T.D. (Banach calls Merton "a cultured schizophrenic" and says that "he confided too much in the world") concludes with these words:

But history cannot deny Thomas Merton. He has left his mark, serious and scholarly, in the world of literature and contemplation. Whatever his role now in the paradise of the blessed, he no longer belongs to the eschatological searchers and pilgrims of this generation. The epitaph Thomas Merton left behind, like the world in which he etched it, is merely temporal.

By Merton


Essays from the original edition:
- c. Cameron-Brown, Aldhelm, "Zen master."
- d. Conner; Tarcisius, O.C.S.O., "Monk of renewal."
- e. Dumont, Charles, O.C.S.O., "The contemplative."
- f. Fox, James, O.C.S.O., "The spiritual son."
- g. Hart, Patrick, O.C.S.O., "The ecumenical monk."
- h. Kelty, Matthew, O.C.S.O., "The man."
- i. Leclercq, Jean, O.S.B., "The evolving monk."
- j. Lentfoehr, Therese, S.D.S., "The solitary."
- k. Lentfoehr, Therese, S.D.S., "The spiritual writer."
- l. Lentfoehr, Therese, S.D.S., "Two poems."
- m. Ryan, Patrick, O.C.S.O., "Two poems."
- n. Saword, Anne, O.C.S.O., "A nun's tribute."
- o. Steindl-Rast, David, O.S.B., "Man of prayer."

Essays added to “the New & Enlarged Edition”:
- c. Haughton, Rosemary, "Afterward: then and now."
- d. Lima, Paulo Alceu Amoroso, "A man for his time."
- e. Souza e Silva, Sr. Emmanuel de, O.S.B., "The friend of Latin America."


Reprint of pp. 1-25 of Labrie’s The art of Thomas Merton (Fort Worth, Texas : Texas Christian University Press, 1979).


   “Perhaps no one did more than Merton to initiate the interchange between monks of the East and West, of which the three Tibetans tour is the latest chapter.”


   Malits says: “This may well be the best book on Thomas Merton of the several which have appeared in the last three or four years.”


   “Like Merton, Jack believed being a Catholic entailed striving for sainthood.” p. 551.


   This essay on Merton and the self begins: “The question ‘Who am I?’ looms large in modern theology and literature. It was the overwhelming question which Merton, for the first thirty years of his life, shared with Eliot’s J. Alfred Prufrock.”


THESES RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY THE THOMAS MERTON COLLECTION


2. Lebeau, Dorothy, THOMAS MERTON: THE SOLITARY LIFE; master's (Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1982). 59p.


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