

NEW & ENLARGED

Review of

THOMAS MERTON/MONK: A MONASTIC TRIBUTE

New & Enlarged Edition

Edited by Brother Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.

—Reviewed by **Naomi Burton Stone**

This is a re-issue of the book published by Sheed & Ward in 1974 and Doubleday Image Paperbacks in 1976, with the addition of six new essays. The original essays and the new ones range from personal reminiscence, written, for the most part, rather soon after Merton's death, to articles and papers on various aspects of his work and interests. Re-reading the original chapters I found that some of them stand up very well, for instance those by Abbot John Eudes Bamberger and the homily by Abbot Flavian Burns given right after Merton's death. Some of the others, through no fault of the writers, seemed to me to suffer from the fact that so much has been written about Merton in the past ten years that the impact is not as strong as it first was. Several pieces appear to have been written originally for some other reasons — a speech, a paper delivered on some occasion — rather than being a true "tribute". Daniel Berrigan's contribution (new to the volume) is a speech although edited and revised by Berrigan before publication. Nothing Father Berrigan writes or says would ever leave me unmoved but the spoken word does not always read as well as the written.

Of the other new additions: three represent the Thomas Merton known and loved in South America. Only that of Sister Emmanuel de Souza e Silva seemed to me to have the personal touch, though students can learn from Father Rene Bucks and Alceu Amoroso Lima. The two best offerings come from Abbot Armand Veilleux and Rosemary Haughton, whose "Afterword: Then and Now" is perhaps one of the most effective pieces in the whole book.

Naomi Burton Stone, Trustee Emeritus of the Merton Legacy Trust, was Merton's editor and long-time friend. She is the author of the autobiography, *More Than Sentinels*, as well as several articles on Merton, including "I Shall Miss Thomas Merton" and "Thomas Merton's Mountain." She is the co-editor of the posthumous Merton publications *The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton, Love and Living*, and the 1979, 1980 and 1981 *Thomas Merton Appointment Calendars*. Mrs. Stone appears in the recent documentary, *Merton: a Film Biography*. She was named by Merton as one of the Trustees to administer his literary estate and served in that capacity from his death in 1968 until her retirement in December 1981. She lives in York, Maine, with her husband, Melville E. Stone.

If the price of the book is within reason, I would recommend it. [*Editor's Note:* The price is \$7.95 and the book is available only in paperback.] The original edition had the interesting angle of being written by religious, both men and women. But I would not have missed Rosemary Haughton's contribution for anything!

A word about the physical appearance of the book which reviewers seem never to consider. This is a lovely book to pick up and handle. Good clear type, marvelous use of one Lavrans Nielsen woodcut throughout the book, in sections, that give a lightness and charm to what can sometimes be a rather heavy medium. I believe the beginning of the text might have been well served by being rewritten to include Foreward, Preface, Prologue in one short chapter. It might even have been useful to review the whole book, rearrange the text so that three South American pieces did not appear all together, scatter the other new pieces. But no one is more opinionated, not to say picky, than an aged, retired editor.



NAOMI BURTON STONE
looking out over MONKS POND
(photo by Thomas Merton)