

# THOMAS MERTON (1915-1968):

## CONFERENCES, COMMEMORATIONS, FESTIVALS, BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND FESTSCHRIFTS TWENTY YEARS LATER

by **Robert E. Daggy**

Twenty years ago — on December 10, 1968 — Thomas Merton died in Bangkok, Thailand. 1988 also marks other anniversaries in Merton's life — the fiftieth anniversary of his baptism in 1938 and the fortieth anniversary of the publication of his signal work, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, in 1948. It is a busy year with many events and many publications. I have been asked by several people to give, here in *The Merton Seasonal*, an overview (for the record) of events and publications — a nearly impossible task in this short space.

Publication has been heavy, distinguished by the appearance of three books and one previously unpublished article by Merton himself: *The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton*, edited by Robert E. Daggy (reviewed in the Spring issue by Brother Patrick Hart); *Encounter: Thomas Merton and D. T. Suzuki*, edited by Robert E. Daggy (reviewed in this issue by Chalmers MacCormick); *A Vow of Conversation: Journals, 1964-1965*, edited by Naomi Burton Stone (two reviews in this issue by James T. Fisher and Thomas McLaughlin, O.S.B.); and "The Zen Insight of Shen Hui," edited by Brother Patrick Hart, which appeared in the inaugural volume of *The Merton Annual*. *kentucky poetry review* has dubbed its Autumn 1988 issue a "Thomas Merton Issue" with five unpublished poems by Merton, a few poems written to and for Merton, and several new contributions by poets included by Merton in 1968 in his "little magazine," *Monks Pond*.

*The Merton Annual 1*, edited by Robert E. Daggy, Brother Patrick Hart, Dewey Weiss Kramer, and Victor A. Kramer, debuted in 1988 and is reviewed in this issue by Anthony T. Padovano and Arthur W. Biddle. M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., has edited papers from the Kalamazoo "Merton Conference" in 1986 under the title *Toward an Integrated Humanity: Thomas Merton's Journey* and this *festschrift* type volume is reviewed in this issue by Brother Columban (Richard) Weber, O.C.S.O. *The Roundtable* devoted its Summer issue to Merton with contributions by Thomas Nelson, C.M., Daniel Berrigan, S.J., and Mary Luke Tobin, S.L. *Living Prayer*, supported by Merton in 1968 as *Contemplative Review*, celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a Merton number, details of which are given later in this issue. *America*, 22 October 1988, was a Merton issue with essays by Christine M. Bochen, Robert E. Daggy, Robert Giroux, Ronald E. Powaski, William H. Shannon, and Bonnie Bowman Thurston; poetry by Eric Jensen and Frederick Zydek; and a review by George A. Kilcourse. We feature two of the drawings by Chuck Trapkus.

Merton commemorations, conferences, festivals and so on have been held at several locations. Following is a list of those which have taken place and a few yet to come.

**26 March 1988:** *A Conscience for Our Time: Thomas Merton Twenty Years after His Death*, Berea College, Berea Kentucky / Michael Mott, Jacqueline Roberts, Ron Seitz.

**1988 Fall Series:** *Remembering Thomas Merton*, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana / September 7: Elena Malits; September 14: Keith J. Egan; September 21: Thomas F. O'Meara, O.P.; September 28: Michael Garvey; November 16: "A Dialogue on the Occasion of Thomas Merton's Entry into the Catholic Church," by David B. Burrell, C.S.C., and Jeffrey Lee.

**6 - 8 October 1988:** *The World in My Bloodstream: A Thomas Merton Conference*, Nazareth College, Rochester, New York / Christine M. Bochen, Robert Giroux, William H. Shannon, Bonnie Bowman Thurston, Mary Luke Tobin, S.L.

**14 - 16 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton: A Symposium*, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York / Mary Brosnan, Robert E. Daggy, Eleanor Dobson, R.S.M, Karen Dobson, Richard Eldredge, T.O.R., George A. Kilcourse, Michael J. Lapierre, S.J., Thomas McKenna, C.M., Michael Mott, Patrick F. O'Connell, Anthony T. Padovano, William H. Shannon, Gordon C. Zahn.

**16 - 17 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton Festival: Called to the Monastery, Called to the World*, St. Bonaventure University, Olean, New York / Robert E. Daggy, James Hayes, Gladys Lax Marcus, Justine Merritt, Michael Mott, Gordon C. Zahn.

**19 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton: A Day of Reflection*, Bellarmine College, Louisville, Kentucky / Robert E. Daggy, Mary Luke Tobin, S.L.

**21 - 23 October 1988:** *Merton to the World: Thomas Merton in Ecumenical Dialogue East and West*, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama / John Albert, O.C.S.O., Robert E. Daggy, E. Glenn Hinson, William H. Shannon, Bonnie Bowman Thurston, Mary Luke Tobin, S.L.

**26 - 30 October 1988:** *For the Trumpet Shall Sound: Protest, Prayer and Prophecy / Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thomas Merton*, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia / Sheila Briggs, Mary Louise Bringle, Rebecca Chopp; Shawn Copeland, O.P., Robert Detweiler, Thomas Flynn, James A. Forbes, Jr., James W. Fowler, III, David Garrow, Victor A. Kramer, Matthew Lamb, Elena Malits, C.S.C., Eugene Marino, Albert Raboteau, Sandra Schneider, I.H.M., Stephen Tipton, Armand Veilleux, O.C.S.O., Sharon Welch, Cornel West, Dana White.

**29 - 30 October 1988:** *Merton Weekend: Remembrances by His Friends and Associates*, St. James Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky / E. Glenn Hinson, Pat McCullough, Michael Mott, Ron Seitz, Mary Luke Tobin, S.L.

**10 - 11 November 1988:** *Thomas Merton: Concerned Religious Writer for a Secular Society*, St. Thomas More Catholic Church & Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia / Lawrence S. Cunningham, E. Glenn Hinson, Dewey W. Kramer, Victor A. Kramer, Thomas Francis Smith, O.C.S.O.

**4 Sundays of Advent 1988:** *Lake Erie Merton Celebration*, Villa Maria College, Erie, Pennsylvania / November 27: Patrick F. O'Connell; December 4: Joan Chittister, O.S.B.; December 11: Tom Corrado; December 18: Cyrus Lee.

**10 December 1988:** *Merton Commemoration*, St. Ann Church, Indianapolis, Indiana / Robert E. Daggy, Jeff Godecker, Rusty Moe, Marie Werdmann, O.S.F.



Drawing by CHUCK TRAPKUS