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Publication has been heavy, distinguished by the appearance of three books and one previously unpublished article by Merton himself: The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton, edited by Robert E. Daggy (reviewed in the Spring issue by Brother Patrick Hart); Encounter: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 kentucky poetry review has dubbed its Autumn 1988 issue a “Thomas Merton Issue” with five unpublished poems by Merton, a few poems written to and for Merton, and several new contributions by poets included by Merton in 1968 in his “little magazine,” Monks Pond.


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.


**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.


**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 Cordaro; 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.

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