

TWO POEMS

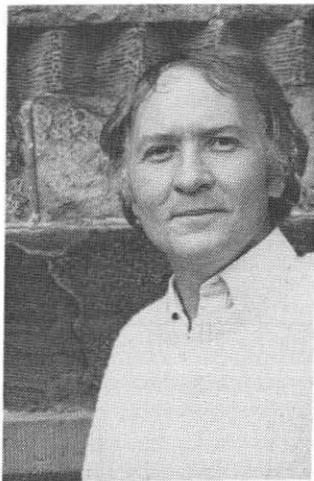
From *The Thomas Merton Poems*

by **J. S. Porter**

I, Tom Merton
 take pictures
 pots and pans
 knives and forks
 nails in a wall
 wood in a barrel,
 all the things my sweaty fingers touch
 and stain.

Of all the sounds
 in Japanese
 the most powerful
 is oh
 for the death of a child.

I've never had an oh
 but I've had
 an ah
 for a mother
 an eh
 for a father
 an uh
 for a brother,
 just about all the sounds
 except oh.



J. S. PORTER

Photo by Dan Pilling

□ **J. S. Porter** was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, was a technical English instructor in Zambia for two years, and currently teaches English at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He has published poems in several journals, including the *kentucky poetry review* "Thomas Merton Memorial Issue." His book, from which these poems were taken, *The Thomas Merton Poems: A Caravan of Poems*, was published by Moonstone Press in Canada in late 1988.