

THE DEATH OF THOMAS MERTON

a haiku homage

by **Ron Seitz**

the coffin opened
to his brothers bending close—
silent now those lips

his head sunk heavy
 lying still on the satin—
hear the monks chanting

funeral bells and
 moonlight on his rocking chair—
only yesterday?

how silent this light
 caught cold in his empty cowl—
room of the dead monk

so heavy the weight
 held unwelcome in their arms—
now the grave marker

cold in the cross here
 and slow move the clouds above
a lone bird circling



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Ron Seitz lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He has taught English at Bellarmine College, the University of Louisville, and St. Catherine's College. His book—*Song for Nobody: A Memory Vision of Thomas Merton*—is reviewed in this issue.