

The Monastery on the Mountain

By **Frederick Smock**

Last rays of the sun
touch a range of clouds
off the west side of our porch

a soft pink light upon
the cragheads
and it is a mountain that we see

there now high up
in the evening sky floating
like a water-color

painting of a mountain
pale and ethereal
by a 7th-century Chinese monk

and on that mountain
a monastery so remote
as to be unseen

Frederick Smock, chair of the English Department and director of the Creative Writing Program at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY, is the author of *Pax Intransigentibus: A Meditation on the Poetry of Thomas Merton*. His poetry has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Antioch Review*, *Poetry* (Chicago), *Cold Mountain Review* and elsewhere, and he has published four books of verse with Larkspur Press, most recently *The Blue Hour*.



Frederick Smock