

# MERTON AND 1988:

## A Survey of

## Publications and Commemorations

by **Robert E. Daggy**

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In 1968 Thomas Merton, aware that he had written a great deal (he often said: "I write too much"), referred to the accumulated body of his writings as "a mass of stuff." This mass remains a bibliographic maze, one which increases every year, one complicated by the vastness of the Merton corpus itself and compounded by the dozens of books, scores of theses and hundreds of essays *about* him. He wrote, prophetically, to bibliographer Frank Dell'Isola in 1965: "There will be some publication going on quite actively . . . whether I am alive or dead."

Dead now these twenty years — he died, of course, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 10 December 1968 — Merton might be amazed at how active publication has been (and continues to be) and astounded by the incidence of events which have commemorated the twentieth anniversary of his death. The International Thomas Merton Society proclaimed 1988 as a "Celebrate Merton" year, a year marking not only the twentieth one after his death, but also two other anniversaries in his life — the fiftieth anniversary of his baptism on 16 November 1938 and the fortieth anniversary of the publication of his signal work, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, on 4 October

1948. This vigesimal year has seen the "mass of stuff" grow even more massive with an explosion in publications, conference papers, tapes, and depictions of Merton.

The impulse to portray Merton existed even in his lifetime (as the many photographs made of him testify), but he has been depicted in 1988 in several ways. Commemorations prompted several drawings, led by Jim Cantrell's "official" Society one. Chuck Trapkus did an interesting series of drawings for *America's* Merton issue which showed Merton in a number of guises, including his face rising as part of an atomic explosion mushroom cloud. Other periodicals carried new impressions of Merton's features. David Kocka, O.F.M.Conv., has cast a twenty-inch tall full-length bronze of Merton as well as a smaller bronze head. The most unusual medium used to portray Merton has been a lifesize one in needlework, "The Merton Quilt," designed and executed by artist Penny Sisto. These depictions indicate that there is a desire and an interest, not only to read and hear about Merton, but to see him.

Another part of the impulse to depict Merton is expressed in dramatizing his life (or parts of his life). This continues, and increases, despite Merton's firm prohibition against any portrayal of himself on stage, screen or radio (television is understood here). At least two plays about Merton have been produced and one other written (the latter is *A Moment of Love: Thomas Merton's Ascendancy into Light*, a one-person play by Thomas Brooks). In April, Joseph P. Ritz's *Acts of Contrition* was presented in New York, a thinly disguised fictionalization of some events in Merton's life: Merton = Thomas Hogan; Margie Smith = Susan Shawnessy; Dom James Fox = Dom Gregory; Abbey of Gethsemani = Abbey of the Monongahela; and Bangkok = Rangoon. In November, Christine J. Hogan's *Un Pas de Deux / Un Pas de Dieu*, an intriguing dialogue between Merton and Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet, both dead and both coming to grips with death, premiered in Terre Haute, Indiana. Other plays are in preparation (notably one by McCarthy Coyle); an oratorio based on Merton's works is being composed by Elizabeth E. Sydor; and Michael Mott has been approached for the screen rights to *The Seven Mountains of Thomas Merton*. We may yet see a Hollywood film or a television mini-series about Merton and I have often fantasized about a cast for such a production. Merton himself would be hard to cast. Perhaps Merton should be played by an unknown or little known actor, as Vivien Leigh was in *Gone with the Wind*, Peter O'Toole in *Lawrence of Arabia* or Ben Kingsley in *Gandhi*.

People have suggested other possible casting for fetching barmaids at Cambridge; his British guardians Thomas and Iris Bennett; his grandfather "Pop" Jenkins; Bob Lax; the madcap Sy Freedgood; Naomi Burton Stone; Sister Therese Lentfoehr; the inevitable nurse; and Dom James Fox. But enough of fantasies about possible Merton epics. If his wishes are followed, there will be no such film.

The reality is that 1988 was surely one of the most momentous years in what William H. Shannon describes as the "Merton mosaic" — a word that seems to convey, better than "studies," with its implications of academe and scholarship, or "industry," with its overtones of commercialism and exploitation, the complex of Merton and Merton-related activities which have grown up around this man in the twenty years since his death. There are various levels to the Merton mosaic. "Studies" remains a good word, perhaps the best one, to apply to much of the writing about Merton and to the papers given at conferences on college and university campuses.

But a distinct part of the interest in Merton shies away from the scholarly, from what is often considered esoteric or labored. One article written in this vigesimal year states: "Some of Merton's old friends said they are occasionally puzzled by academic studies of his work and life. The man they remember is too often buried under footnotes and solemn scholarship. 'Tom would have a stroke if he could hear some of these things,' said Tommie O'Callaghan with a smile."<sup>1</sup> Nonscholarly things are definitely a part of the Merton mosaic — remembrances, reminiscences, anecdotes, stories (some undoubtedly apocryphal). Increasingly, there is a genre of writing about Merton that I call the "spin-offs" — writings which are more about the persons writing them than they are about Merton though they may seek to convey something about him. These include accounts of "pilgrimages" and visits to places in the Merton experience; tales of meeting, knowing, even just plain seeing Merton; and testimonials of Merton's influence. These "spin-offs" are occasioned, inspired, informed by Merton and they become a part of the mosaic, a part that loomed large in 1988 publication. It was a year of heavy, and in some cases significant, publication of material by and about Merton. The following is an attempt to provide an overview of this new "mass of stuff" as a checklist reference.

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1. Ira Simmons, "Twenty Years after His Death, Merton's Life is Still a Paradox," *Courier-Journal* [Louisville] (11 December 1988), p. 17.

A fairly large amount of Merton material became available for the first time or in different format or translation. This included six books, thirty-nine lectures on tape, three books on tape, two articles, and five poems.

### BOOKS by MERTON

1. *The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton*; edited with an introduction by Robert E. Daggy; preface by David D. Cooper (Isla Vista, California: Turkey Press, 1988): 88 pages. [limited edition of 140 copies / \$200.00]

This limited edition of 140 copies presents Merton's journal entries made in Alaska prior to his embarkation for Asia. Brother Patrick Hart has called it "an important publishing event, appearing appropriately during the twentieth anniversary celebrations of Thomas Merton's passage from death to life."<sup>2</sup> A trade paperback, titled *Thomas Merton in Alaska*, which will include the conferences given to religious while there, will be published by New Directions in February 1989.

2. *Encounter: Thomas Merton and D. T. Suzuki*; edited with an introduction by Robert E. Daggy (Monterey, Kentucky: Larkspur Press, 1988): xx, 104 pages. [Cloth: \$37.50 / Special: \$130.00]

This limited edition of 1,060 copies (of which 60 are "special") is the final fruition of a project that began several years ago as a joint project of the Thomas Merton Studies Center and the University of Kentucky Special Collections, both of which held portions of the material published here. Merton's letters to Suzuki appear in edited form in *The Hidden Ground of Love*, but this volume also includes Suzuki's letters. About one-third of the journal entries of the Merton-Suzuki meeting in New York in 1964 is previously unpublished. *Encounter* is reviewed in this volume by Daniel J. O'Hanlon, S.J.

3. [*The Seven Storey Mountain*] *Chi Chung Shan: Mu-duen Tze Chuan*; translated into Chinese by Liang Wei-teh [i.e. Peter Leung] (Taipei, Taiwan: Kuang Chi Press, 1988): 254 pages.

This abridged version of *The Seven Storey Mountain* is the first Chinese translation of Merton's autobiography. Chinese scholar Cyrus Lee has remarked that the abridgment and the translation suffer, as he feels most of the "Oriental translations" do, by not managing to capture the tone and spirit of Merton's English prose. He finds this translation "not too bad," but stilted.

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2. Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O., "Merton's Alaskan Trek," *Merton Seasonal* 13:3 (Summer 1988), pp. 18-20.

4. *The Shining Wilderness: Daily Readings with Thomas Merton*; edited by Aileen Taylor with an introduction by Monica Furlong (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1988): 62 pages. [£2.50]

A short, pocket-sized selection from Merton's writings.

5. *A Vow of Conversation: Journals, 1964-1965*; edited with a preface by Naomi Burton Stone (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1988): xi, 212 pages. [\$17.95 hardcover]

This is the last of Merton's journals which he prepared himself for publication. It is reviewed in this volume by Anthony T. Padovano.

6. [*Zen and the Birds of Appetite*] *Zen i Ptaki Zadzy*; translated into Polish by Adam Szymanowski (Warsaw: Instytut Wydawniczy PAX, 1988): 139 pages.

This is the first translation into Polish of Merton's non-Christian writings.

## THE MERTON TAPES

Credence Cassettes, a division of the *National Catholic Reporter*, has issued a new series of thirty-nine tapes taken from Merton's recorded lectures and conferences at the Abbey of Gethsemani. The former series, issued by Electronic Paperbacks, is no longer available. The tapes are reviewed in this volume by Victor A. Kramer.

### *The Origins of Prayer*

- AA2067 Cassian: Trials and Belief
- AA2068 Faith and Prayer
- AA2069 Cassian: Disposition for Prayer
- AA2070 *Our Father*: Perfect Prayer
- AA2071 Does God Hear Our Prayer?
- AA2072 Prayer and the Active Life
- AA2073 Renunciation and Contemplation
- AA2074 Renunciation of Desire and Will

### *Art and Beauty*

- AA2075 Beauty is from God

### *Rilke — Poet of Inwardness*

- AA2076 Poetry and Imagination
- AA2077 Natural Contemplation
- AA2078 Love and the Search for God

### *Faulkner: Disaster in Paradise*

- AA2079 The Bear
- AA2080 The Deluge

### *Early Christian Spirituality*

- AA2081 Introduction to Church Fathers
- AA2082 Clement of Alexandria / Origen

### *Monastic Spirituality*

- AA2083 Monastic Spirituality / Citeaux
- AA2084 Monastic Spirituality, Part II
- AA2085 Meaning of Monastic Spirituality

### *Solitude*

- AA2099 Solitude: Breaking the Heart
- AA2100 Solitude & Resurrection

### *Poverty*

- AA2101 The Modern Cult of Efficiency
- AA2102 The Vow of Poverty
- AA2103 The Sins against Poverty
- AA2104 Inner & Outer Poverty

### *Humility*

- AA2105 The Holy Rule
- AA2106 Conversion
- AA2107 Formation of Conscience
- AA2108 Fourth Degree of Humility

### *The Virgin Mary*

- AA2128 The Virgin Mary

*Chastity*

- AA2129 Religious Meaning of Chastity
- AA2130 Authentic Friendship
- AA2131 The Uses of Chastity
- AA2132 The Symbolism of Chastity

*Silence*

- AA2133 Silence

*St. Bernard*

- AA2134 Love Casts Out Fear
- AA2135 In the Image of God
- AA2136 Pure Love

*Spiritual Direction*

- AA2137 Spiritual Direction

## MERTON BOOKS ON TAPE

Three Merton books have come available on tape. In addition, a project is underway to record M. Basil Pennington's *Thomas Merton, Brother Monk: The Quest for True Freedom. It is being taped by John Polk for "Books for the Blind."*

1. *Life and Holiness* (West Covina, California: Religious Books on Tape / Ignatius Press, 1988): 4 cassettes. [#919 / \$12.00]
2. *The Living Bread* (West Covina, California: Religious Books on Tape / Ignatius Press, 1988): 6 cassettes. [#917 / \$18.00]
3. *Seeds of Contemplation* (West Covina, California: Religious Books on Tape / Ignatius Press, 1988): 5 cassettes. [#918 / \$15.00]

## ARTICLES by MERTON

1. "St. Aelred of Rievaulx and the Cistercians (IV)." Edited by Brother Patrick Hart. *Cistercian Studies* 23 (1988): no. 1, pp. 45-62.
2. "The Zen Insight of Shen Hui." Edited with an introd. by Brother Patrick Hart. *The Merton Annual* 1 (New York: AMS Press, 1988): pp. 3-15.

## POETRY by MERTON

*the kentucky poetry review*, about which more later, included five previously unpublished Merton poems and fragments in its Fall 1988 "Thomas Merton Issue."

1. "Concrete Racegram of Pluto." One of Merton's illustrated concrete poems.
2. "Poem of Kao Wan-Chieh." A rendering from the Chinese, written on the back of one of Merton's calligraphies.
3. "Three Prayers on Sacred Art." These poetic "prayers" are included in this volume as an appendix to the essay by Donna Kristoff, O.S.U.
4. "Untitled." A poem written on or after one of Merton's flights to New Mexico in 1968.
5. "Untitled." A fragment about anxiety in the twentieth century.

## MERTON PERIODICALS

The appearance in 1988 of the first volume of *The Merton Annual* means that, with *The Merton Seasonal of Bellarmine College*, there are now two periodicals in the United States devoted to Merton and his concerns. Constant Broos continues to edit and publish his periodical, *Contactblad Merton-Vrienden*, in Belgium.

*THE MERTON ANNUAL 1*; edited by Robert E. Daggy, Brother Patrick Hart, Dewey Weiss Kramer, and Victor A. Kramer (New York: AMS Press, 1988): xvii, 385 pages.

[ \$21.25: individual / \$42.50 institutional ]

Contents of Volume 1 were:

1. John Albert, O.C.S.O., "Lights across the Ridge: Thomas Merton and Henry David Thoreau," pp. 271-317.
2. James Conner, O.C.S.O., "The Experience of God and the Experience of Nothingness in Thomas Merton," pp. 103-114.
3. David D. Cooper, "From Prophecy to Parody: Thomas Merton's *Cables to the Ace*," pp. 215-233.
4. Robert E. Daggy, "The Merton Phenomenon in 1987," pp. 321-337.
5. Paul E. Dinter, "Merton, Nonviolence and the Bishops' Pastoral," pp. 129-148.
6. Ruth Fox, O.S.B., "Merton's Journey from Seeds to New Seeds," pp. 249-270.
7. Matthew Kelty, O.C.S.O., "Looking Back to Merton / Memories and Impressions: An Interview;" interviewed by Victor A. Kramer; edited by Dewey Weiss Kramer, pp. 55-76.
8. Robert Lax, "Harpo's Progress: Notes Toward an Understanding of Merton's Ways," pp. 35-54.
9. Thomas Merton, "The Zen Insight of Shen Hui;" edited by Brother Patrick Hart, pp. 3-15.
10. Patrick F. O'Connell, "The Geography of Solitude: Thomas Merton's 'Elias — Variations on a Theme,'" pp. 151-190.
11. Gail Ramshaw, "The Pattern in Thomas Merton's *Cables to the Ace*," pp. 235-246.
12. Michael Rukstelis, C.O., "Thomas Merton's Understanding: The Claritas Strategy," pp. 191-211.
13. William H. Shannon, "Thomas Merton and the Living Tradition of Faith," pp. 79-101.
14. David Steindl-Rast, "The Peacemaker: Merton's Critique and Model," pp. 117-128.
15. Bonnie Bowman Thurston, "Zen Influence on Thomas Merton's View of the Self," pp. 17-31.

Six Reviews by: John Eudes Bamberger, O.C.S.O. (M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., *Thomas Merton, Brother Monk*); Lawrence S. Cunningham (*The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton*); Dewey Weiss Kramer (Walter E. Conn, *Christian Conversion*); Victor A. Kramer (*The Selected Letters of Mark Van Doren*); Karl A. Plank (Brother Patrick Hart, *Thomas Merton: First and Last Memories*); and Mary Luke Tobin, S.L. (*Keeping a Spiritual Journal with Thomas Merton*).

*The Merton Seasonal of Bellarmine College*; edited by Robert E. Daggy (Louisville: Thomas Merton Studies Center, 1976- ). Subscription rate is now \$8 per year. Contents of Volume 13 (1988) were:

## ARTICLES:

1. William Buchanan, "Merton's Asian Trail: Some Travel Notes," no. 3, pp. 6-9.
2. Robert E. Daggy, "In Pursuit of Thomas Merton," no. 3, pp. 2-5.
3. Robert E. Daggy, "Thomas Merton (1915-1968): Conferences, Commemorations, Festivals, Books, Articles, and Festschriften Twenty Years Later," no. 4, pp. 2-3.
4. Robert Imperato, "Thomas Merton and Daniel Clark Walsh," no. 1, pp. 2-4.
5. Jack T. Ledbetter, "Tracking Merton in the U. K.," no. 3, pp. 10-15.
6. Gloria Kitto Lewis, "Thomas Merton's Myth for Modern Times: A Tale of the City," no. 2, pp. 10-15.
7. "Merton at Brooke — A Photo-Essay with Photographs by Patricia Trunfull," no. 4, pp. 4-5.
8. Paul Quenon, O.C.S.O., "The Merton Tree Revisited: A Photo Essay," no. 3, pp. 16-17.
9. Richard Sisto, "The Simple Gifts of Thomas Merton," no. 1, pp. 6-8.
10. Clifford Stevens, "Two Letters of Thomas Merton," no. 2, pp. 5-8.

## POETRY:

1. Susan Matthis Johnson, "Three Poems: Dream: For Tom Merton; A Monk, Unsilenced, Speaks; and Fame of Sanctity," no. 1, pp. 9-12.
2. Jack T. Ledbetter, "A World Away (for the Monks at Gethsemani Abbey)," no. 3, p. 15.
3. Justine Merritt, "For Thomas Merton," no. 4, pp. 12-13.
4. Michael Rukstelis, C.O., "The Pasture (Thomas Merton's Heart)," no. 2, p. 9.

## COVER ART:

1. Brother John, "Thomas Merton." A Drawing. No. 2.
2. Lou Medellin, "Monk." Drawing for *The Merton Tapes*. No. 1.
3. Penny Sisto, "Thomas Merton Portrayed in Patchwork." Detail from *The Merton Quilt*. No. 3.
4. Chuck Trapkus, "Thomas Merton." Drawing from *America* (22 October 1988). No. 4.

REVIEWS by: Arthur W. Biddle (*The Merton Annual 1*); James T. Fisher (Thomas Merton, *A Vow of Conversation*); John H. Ford (Robert Imperato, *Merton and Walsh on the Person*); Robert Grip (Ronald E. Powaski, *Thomas Merton on Nuclear Weapons*); Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.



(*The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton*); Michael W. Higgins (Victor A. Kramer, *Thomas Merton: Monk and Artist*); James Y. Holloway (*The Kentucky Review / Merton Issue*); Chalmers MacCormick (*Encounter: Thomas Merton and D. T. Suzuki*); Paul J. McGuire (Anne E. Carr, *A Search for Wisdom and Spirit*); Thomas McLaughlin, O.S.B. (*Thomas Merton, A Vow of Conversation*); Anthony T. Padovano (*The Merton Annual 1*); Rob Stone (M. Basil Pennington, *A Retreat with Thomas Merton*); and Columban (Richard) Weber, O.C.S.O. (M. Basil Pennington, ed., *Toward an Integrated Humanity: Thomas Merton's Journey*).

## BOOKS about MERTON

1. Anne E. Carr, *A Search for Wisdom and Spirit: Thomas Merton's Theology of the Self*; foreword by Brother Patrick Hart (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notred Dame Press, 1988): xii, 171 pages. [\$16.95 hardcover]

This well-received book, which Paul J. McGuire has called a "fresh and insightful study," examines eight Merton texts. It is reviewed in this volume by Lawrence S. Cunningham.

2. Gerald Groves, *Up and Down Merton's Mountain: A Contemporary Spiritual Journey* (St. Louis, Missouri: CBP Press, 1988): 207 pages. [\$8.95 paperback]

A Merton "spin-off" with Groves describing his own life at Gethsemani, his relationship with Merton, and what Merton was "really like." Another former monk of Gethsemani, Frank X. Tuoti, reviews it in this volume.

3. Robert Imperato, *Merton and Walsh on the Person* (West Palm Beach, Florida: Liturgical Publications, 1988): 224 pages. [\$14.95 paperback]

Imperato, another former monk of Gethsemani, has reworked his dissertation on Merton's relationship with his teacher, mentor and friend, Daniel Clark Walsh. The book is remarkable for having the ugliest cover of any book by or about Merton, rivalled but not exceeded by the tasteless dust jacket of Merton's *What Are These Wounds?*. William H. Shannon reviews it in this volume.

4. Victor A. Kramer, *Thomas Merton: Monk and Artist*; revised edition (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Cistercian Publications, 1988): xii, 226 pages. [\$8.95 paperback]

This is Kramer's 1984 Twayne United States Authors series book, *Thomas Merton*, with a new chapter, "An Afterword: Scholarship and Thomas Merton," added. This chapter surveys significant critical studies of Merton and other books by and about him not examined in the earlier version.

5. M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., *A Retreat with Thomas Merton* (Warwick, New York: Amity House, 1988): 114 pages. [\$8.95 paperback]

Another "spin-off," this is a byproduct of Pennington's stay in Merton's hermitage while working on his biography, *Thomas Merton, Brother Monk*, another entry in the "hermitage literature" genre already assayed by John Howard Griffin, Brother John Albert, and Patrick Eastman. It is reviewed in this volume by Donald St. John.

6. M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., ed., *Toward an Integrated Humanity: Thomas Merton's Journey* (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Cistercian Publications, 1988), vi, 285 pages. [Cloth: \$34.95 / Paperback: \$17.95]

This collection of papers, mostly from the 1986 "Merton Symposium," held as part of the Medieval Studies Institute at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, is a *festschrift* type volume. It is reviewed in this *Annual* by Brother Columban (Richard) Weber, O.C.S.O. Contents include:

- John Albert, O.C.S.O., "The Christ-filled Decadence of Thomas Merton."  
 David D. Cooper, "Thomas Merton and the New Theology."  
 Roger Corless, "Fire on *The Seven Storey Mountain*: Why Are Catholics Looking East?"  
 Lawrence S. Cunningham, "'Crossing Over' in the Late Writings of Thomas Merton."  
 Robert E. Daggy, "The Road to Joy: Thomas Merton's Letters to and about Young People."  
 George A. Kilcourse, "Spirituality and Imagination: Thomas Merton's Sapiential Thinking."  
 Victor A. Kramer, "Literary Patterns in *The Sign of Jonas*: Tension between Monk and Man of Letters."  
 Thomas P. McDonnell, "The Trouble with Thomas Merton."  
 Thomas P. McDonnell, "Why Evelyn Waugh worried about Merton's Prose."  
 Scott Nelson, "Three Decades of Poetry: Merton's Spiritual Maturation."  
 M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., "Appendix: Centering Prayer."  
 M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., "The Spiritual Father: Father Louis' Practice and Theory."  
 M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., "Thomas Merton and Byzantine Spirituality."  
 William H. Shannon, "Christian Living in an Age of Technology."  
 William H. Shannon, "The Year of the *Cold War Letters*."  
 Joachim Viens, "Thomas Merton's Final Journey: Outline for a Contemporary Adult Spirituality."  
 Paul Wilkes, "Merton in These Places: Early Days in Europe — Final Days in the East."

7. J. S. Porter, *The Thomas Merton Poems: A Caravan of Poems by J. S. Porter* (Goderich, Ontario, Canada: Moonstone Press, 1988), 84 pages. [\$8.95 paperback]

Another "spin-off" type book, this contains Porter's poems, not Merton's lest there be confusion about that. The poems are a response to Merton's presence and influence in Porter's life..

8. Ronald E. Powaski, *Thomas Merton on Nuclear Weapons* (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1988), 169 pages. [\$7.95 paperback]

This short compilation of Merton's writings on nuclear war contains no material not included in *The Nonviolent Alternative*. Robert Grip has said: "[It] will interest those . . . who may be unfamiliar with Merton's writings on the subject, and those Merton readers who may not be able to pursue the research Powaski presents in so concise a form (*Merton Seasonal*, Spring 1988). James H. Forest reviews the book in this volume.

9. Ron Seitz, *Monks Pond / Old Hermit / Hail: A Haiku Homage to Thomas Merton* (Monterey, Kentucky: Larkspur Press, 1988), 92 pages. [Paperback: \$15.00 / Special Edition: \$65.00]

Another of the Merton "spin-off," this follows Seitz's *Gethsemani Poems* as a series of poetic tributes to Merton. 560 copies were made, of which 50 were printed on Iyo Glazed paper and bound in boards. The paperback edition was printed on Mohawk Letterpress paper and hand sewn into a Curtis cover.

### MERTON FESTSCHRIFTS

In addition to *The Merton Annual 1*, *The Merton Seasonal* and Basil Pennington's *Toward an Integrated Humanity* (all of which could be considered *festschriften* of a sort), there were, in this "Celebrate Merton '88" year, at least four periodicals which devoted an entire issue to essays and poetry about and for Merton.

1. *AMERICA*, Volume 59, Number 11, 22 October 1988.

Christine M. Bochen, "From Monastery to University: Teaching Thomas Merton to Undergraduates."

Robert E. Daggy, "'Whatever May Be of Interest': The Merton Center at Bellarmine College."

Robert Giroux, "Editing *The Seven Storey Mountain*."

George W. Hunt, S.J., "Of Many Things."

Eric Jensen, "The Master of the Mustard Seed Garden." Poem.

George A. Kilcourse, "[Review of] *Thomas Merton, Brother Monk*, by M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O.; *A Retreat with Thomas Merton*, by M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O.; and *A Search for Wisdom and Spirit: Thomas Merton's Theology of the Self*, by Anne E. Carr."

Ronald E. Powaski, "Thomas Merton and Hiroshima."

William H. Shannon, "One Monk: Many Images."

Bonnie Bowman Thurston, "The Man of Letters."

Frederick Zydek, "Abbey Tombstones." Poem.

2. *the kentucky poetry review*; edited by Wade Hall, Joy Bale Boone and Gregg Swem with Robert E. Daggy, guest editor, Volume 24, Fall 1988.

This "Thomas Merton Issue" included, in addition to the Merton poems cited above, several poems written for Merton plus contributions from poets whose work had appeared in Merton's *Monks Pond* twenty years ago. These were:

Will Inman, "John Chrysostom."

David Kocka, O.F.M.Conv., "Poems from Merton's Front Yard."

- Robert Lax, "Untitled."  
 Jack T. Ledbetter, "Watching the Birds: Gethsemani Abbey."  
 Christopher Meatyard, "Untitled."  
 Ralph Eugene Meatyard, "Three Photographs of Merton."  
 Michael Mott, "Thorn: Mlawula."  
 J. S. Porter, "Untitled."  
 Joe Pounder, "25 August, Feast of St. Louis."  
 Paul Quenon, O.C.S.O., "[Review of] *Death Eat*, by Ron Seitz."  
 Paul Quenon, O.C.S.O., "Vigil of a Novice 1959."  
 Margaret Randall, "Brian's Legs."  
 Ron Seitz, "Who Tom Spoke Me."  
 Frank X. Tuoti, "Mozart and the Birds."  
 Joel Weislaus, "Death Koan."  
 William Witherup, "Common Bill Visits Laird and Lady Randall."

3. *LIVING PRAYER*; edited by Gertrude Wilkinson and Mary Roman, O.C.D., with Jodi Patterson, O.C.D., Volume 21, Number 6, November-December 1988.

- David D. Cooper, "Thomas Merton's Christian Humanism in a Post-Christian Era."  
 Mitch and Kathy Finley, "The Home Front: Merton on Family Life?"  
 Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O., "Thomas Merton Remembered: Twenty Years After."  
 Cornelia Jessey [i.e. Cornelia Sussman], "Honey from the Rock."  
 Thomas Merton, "The Historical Consciousness."  
 Patrick F. O'Connell, "Merton and Peacemaking."  
 Irving Sussman, "The Geography of Thomas Merton: A View from Lograire."  
 Wayne Teasdale, "In the Spirit of Thomas Merton."  
 Bonnie Bowman Thurston, "Why Merton Looked East."  
 Rembert Weakland, O.S.B., "That Eventful Day."  
 Gertrude A. Wilkinson, "A Meeting Almost Missed."  
 Joan Williams, O.C.D., "[Review of] *A Vow of Conversation*, by Thomas Merton; *The Hidden Ground of Love*; and *Solitude: Breaking the Heart / Solitude and Resurrection*, cassette tapes by Thomas Merton."

4. *THE ROUNDTABLE*; edited by Barbara Prosser, Summer 1988.

- Berrigan, Daniel J., S.J., "After the Deaths of Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton, the Bishops Spoke for Peace." Poem.  
 Patrick G. Coy, "Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton: Living on the Margins."  
 Thomas Merton, "Chee\$.e." Poem.  
 Thomas Merton, "Merton's Letters to Dorothy Day."  
 Thomas Merton, "Three Poems / When in the Soul of the Serene Disciple; Wisdom; and For My Brother: Reported Missing in Action, 1943."  
 Thomas Nelson, C.M., "The Dignity of Weakness."  
 Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., "Merton: Faith-Centered and Prophetic."

## SELECTED ARTICLES about MERTON

1988 was a busy year in Merton publication. Articles and essays appeared in several journals and periodicals. Following is a selection of some of the better or more significant articles.

1. David B. Burrell, C.S.C., "Thomas Merton's Criteria for Discerning Truths about God." *Cistercian Studies* 23:4 (1988), pp. 330-339.
2. Constant Broos, "Uit Het Werk van Merton." *Contactblad Merton-Vrienden* [Belgium] 3:4 (March 1988), pp. 19-30.
3. Edward Buysse, "Genade op Genade op Genade." *Contactblad Merton-Vrienden* [Belgium] 3:4 (March 1988), pp. 13-18.
4. Annice Callahan, R.S.C.J., "Traditions of Spiritual Guidance: Thomas Merton as Spiritual Guide." *The Way* [London] (April 1988), pp. 164-176.
5. Robert Coles, "The Gift of Thomas Merton." In *Harvard Diary: Reflections on the Sacred and the Secular* (New York: Crossroad, 1988), pp. 118-121.
6. Denis Condon, O.S.B., "Monastic Mythologies Revisited, Re-visioned." *Benedictines* 42:11 (Fall-Winter 1987-1988), pp. 30-36.
7. Charles Dumont, O.C.S.O., "The Vocation of Thomas Merton." *Cistercian Studies* 23:3 (1988), pp. 242-253.
8. Patrick Eastman, "Hermitage: A Week in Merton's Kentucky Cabin." *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic* 14:13 (3 July 1988), pp. 8-9, 14.
9. Mitch Finley, "Portrait of a Long-Distance Friendship." *The Priest* 44:7-8 (July-August 1988), pp. 14-18.  
A discussion of Thomas Merton and Mark Van Doren.
10. Mitch Finley, "Thomas Merton Twenty Years after His Death." *Our Sunday Visitor* 77:33 (11 December 1988), pp. 8, 12.
11. John F. X. Harriott, "A Man for Our Time." *The Tablet* [London] 242:7741 (26 November 1988), p. 1354.
12. Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O., "The Mystery of Thomas Merton: An Interview with Patrick Hart by Victor A. Kramer." *The Critic* 43:2 (Winter 1988), pp. 89-106.
13. Michael W. Higgins, "Monasticism as Rebellion: Blakean Roots of Merton's Thought." *American Benedictine Review* 39:2 (June 1988), pp. 177-188.
14. Janet S. Horne, "The Sacramental Rhetoric of Thomas Merton." *Journal of Communication & Religion* 11 (March 1988), pp. 1-9.
15. George A. Kilcourse, "The Horizon of Thomas Merton's Christology." *Cistercian Studies* 23:2 (1988), pp. 169-189.
16. Charles E. Kinzie, "Collared by the Church." *National Catholic Reporter* 24:14 (29 January 1988), pp. 7-8.
17. Charles E. Kinzie, "The One Mountain of Thomas Merton: The Dharma of Polonnaruwa." *Living Prayer* 21:2 (March-April 1988), pp. 18-26.
18. Peter J. Kountz, "On John Howard Griffin on Thomas Merton." *Kairos* 2:2 (1988), pp. 80-97.
19. Cyrus Lee, "Teaching Thomas Merton in China." *Chinese Culture* 29:1 (March 1988), pp. 59-65.
20. Erasmus Leiva-Meikokis, "Thomas Merton: Monk of Silence, Monk of Action." *30 Days* 1:8 (December 1988), pp. 78-82.
21. John T. Loftus, O.F.M.Conv., "Beyond *The Seven Storey Mountain*." In *John's Book: Writings of John Loftus*; ed. David Kocka, O.F.M.Conv. (Mt. St. Francis, Indiana: Sol-Luna Press, 1988), p. 25.

22. Elena Malits, C.S.C., "The Guru Who Keeps On Going." *Praying*, no. 27 (November-December 1988), pp. 4-8.
23. M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., "The Seven Freedoms: Thomas Merton's Quest for True Freedom." *Theology Digest* 35:1 (Spring 1988), pp. 16-18.
24. David M. Rogers, "Thomas Merton and the Language of Poetry." *Cithara* 27 (May 1988), pp. 20-29.
25. Gregory J. Ryan, "Thomas Merton's Fruitful Service: Being Rooted in the Hidden Ground of Love." *Sisters Today* 59:10 (June-July 1988), pp. 593-599.
26. William H. Shannon, "The Future of Thomas Merton: Sorting Out the Legacy." *Commonweal* 115:21 (2 December 1988), pp. 649-652.
27. Wilfrid Sheed, "The Exile." *The New York Review* (27 October 1988), pp. 35-36, 38, 40-42. Sheed, who has a lucid ability to place Merton in the context of his times, discusses Merton on pp. 40-41 in this review of Ian Hamilton's *In Search of J. D. Salinger*.
28. Regina Siegfried, A.S.C. "The Search for the True Self: Thomas Merton and Flannery O'Connor." *Studia Mystica* 10 (Spring 1988), pp. 5-18.
29. Jerry Sittser, "Inside Out, Outside In." *Decision* 28:5 (May 1988), p. 6. Sittser discusses Merton in this publication of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.
30. Johannes Werner, "Die Gethsemani Gedichte von Ernesto Cardenal: Aus der Schule des Dichters Thomas Merton." *Erbe Und Auftrag* 64:5 (Oktober 1988), pp. 369-377.

## CELEBRATE MERTON '88

CELEBRATIONS, CONFERENCES, COMMEMORATIONS, FESTIVALS, SYMPOSIUMS, ETC.

In this "Celebrate Merton '88" year, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of his death, there have been a large number of Merton events. Following is a listing:

**20 March 1988:** *Thomas Merton: Human Dimensions of a Contemplative in the Modern World.* A Dialogue with Barbara Cliff (Cliffie) Stoodley, Thomas More Oratory, Newark, Delaware.

**26 March 1988:** *A Conscience for Our Time: Thomas Merton Twenty Years after His Death*, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

Michael Mott, "Activism and Contemplation: Merton's Attempt to Balance Both in His Life and Work."

Jacqueline Roberts, "A Musical Interpretation of Thomas Merton: Selections from the Niles-Merton Songs."

Ron Seitz, "An Appreciative Reading of Poetry by Thomas Merton and Ron Seitz."

**15 - 16 April 1988:** *Merton Symposium*, Christ the King Church, University of London, London, England.

A. M. Allchin, "Merton on the Spiritual Life."

Esther De Waal, "Merton and St. Benedict."

- James H. Forest, "Merton on Peace."  
 Sr. Jotaka, "Merton Seen from the East."  
 Fr. Paul, "Merton and the Prayer of the Church."  
 William H. Shannon, "The Many Faces of Thomas Merton."  
 William H. Shannon, "Merton: The Gregarious Solitary."  
 Terry Tastard, S.S.F., "Merton's Pattern of Personal Prayer."  
 Rowan Williams, "Merton's Theological View."

**17 - 24 April 1988:** *Study Week* — Led by William H. Shannon, Clare College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

- Monday / Merton's Use of Autobiography  
 Tuesday / Merton's Understanding of the Monastic Vocation  
 Wednesday / Merton on Contemplation  
 Thursday / The Meeting of East and West in Merton  
 Friday / Merton and Social Issues

**27 April 1988:** *Merton Gathering*, Newcastle Cathedral, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.

- Arthur Middleton, "Merton: Retrieving the Tradition of the Fathers."  
 William H. Shannon, "Merton and the Tradition of Faith: Many Questions, Fewer Answers."

**29 April - 1 May 1988:** *Merton Weekend Retreat*, The Royal Foundation of Saint Katharine, London, England. William H. Shannon / Retreat Director.

**8 May 1988:** *Thomas Merton and Mysticism: Continuing Involvement*, Eighteenth Conference on Cistercian Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dewey Weiss Kramer, organizer.

- Ruth Fox, O.S.B., "Merton's Concept of Wisdom in *The Asian Journal*."  
 Victor A. Kramer, "Patterns in Merton's 'Introduction to Ascetical and Mystical Theology.'"  
 Chrysogonus Waddell, O.C.S.O., "Merton's *What Are These Wounds? The Life of a Cistercian Mystic, Saint Lutgarde of Aywieres*."

**5 - 11 June 1988:** *ELDERHOSTEL "Week with Thomas Merton,"* Bellarmine College, Louisville, Kentucky. Robert E. Daggy, director.

- Faculty: Robert E. Daggy; Thomas A. Greenfield; Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.;  
 E. Glenn Hinson; Paul J. McGuire, S.C.J.; Don R. Osborn; Paul Quenon,  
 O.C.S.O.

**18 - 23 July 1988:** *ELDERHOSTEL / Thomas Merton: His Life and Works*, Nazareth College, Rochester, New York. Christine M. Bochen and William H. Shannon, directors.

**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, "The Seven Storey Mountain: A Conversion Story."  
Robert Giroux, "The Seven Storey Mountain: The Making of a Spiritual Classic."

Victor A. Kramer, "Reflections on *The Tower of Babel*."

William H. Shannon, "Thoughts in Solitude: A Call to Prayer."

Bonnie Bowman Thurston, "Thomas Merton and Contemplative Poetry."

Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., "Merton: Prophetic Voice."

**14 - 16 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton: A Symposium*, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York. Julia Upton, organizer.

Mary Brosnan, "A Journey Shared."

Robert E. Daggy, "'A Mass of Stuff': The Development of a Thomas Merton Bibliography."

Eleanor Dobson, R.S.M., "Thomas Merton: A Personal Reflection."

Karen Dobson, "Merton's 'New Creation' in God Becomes a Source of Love for Others."

Richard Eldredge, T.O.R., "The Human Self and Spiritual Identity of the Person: Comparison of Thomas Merton's *Seeds of Contemplation* 1949 and 1962."

George A. Kilcourse, "'... Another Legacy ... More Rare': Personifications of the 'True Self' in Thomas Merton's Poetry."

Michael J. Lapierre, S.J., "Thomas Merton and Mariology."

Thomas McKenna, C.M., "Thomas Merton and the Renewal of Religious Life."

Michael Mott, "Merton: Reflections of a Biographer."

Patrick F. O'Connell, "Merton's Early Commedia: Dante and *My Argument with the Gestapo*."

Anthony T. Padovano, "Merton: Reflections of a Theologian."

William H. Shannon, "Reflections on the Spirituality of Thomas Merton."

Gordon C. Zahn, "Merton and Non-Violence."

**16-17 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton Festival: Called to the Monastery, Called to the World*, St. Bonaventure University, Olean, New York.

Robert E. Daggy, "The Road to Joy: Thomas Merton's Letters to and about Young People."

James Hayes & Gladys Lax Marcus, "Merton: His Friends Remember."

Justine Merritt, "Merton and the Peace Ribbon."

Michael Mott, "Merton: Reflections of a Biographer."

Gordon C. Zahn, "Merton and Nonviolence."

**19 October 1988:** *Thomas Merton: A Day of Reflection*, Bellarmine College, Louisville, Kentucky.

Robert E. Daggy, "Merton's Letters to Young People."

Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., "Thomas Merton: A Contemporary Prophet."

**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., "In Christ, Thomas Merton Found Loving Peace."

Robert E. Daggy, "A Man of the Whole Hemisphere: Thomas Merton and



Latin America."

E. Glenn Hinson, "Protestant Perspectives of Merton."

William H. Shannon, "Merton and Judaism."

Bonnie Bowman Thurston, "Zen, Merton and Personal Development."

Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., "Merton and Social Justice."

**26 - 30 October 1988:** *For the Trumpet Shall Sound: Protest, Prayer and Prophecy / Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thomas Merton*, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

"The Beloved Community" / Sharon Welch, speaker; Robert Detweiler, Thomas Flynn, Victor A. Kramer, panel.

"The Spiritual Body Politic" / Sheila Briggs, speaker; Rebecca Chop, Matthew Lamb, Sharon Welch, panel.

"Wake Up and Dream: A Sermonic Address" / James A. Forbes, Jr., speaker; Mary Louise Bringle, David Garrow, Cornel West, panel.

"Religious Life: The Dialectic between Marginality and Transformation" / Sandra Schneiders, I.H.M., speaker; Shawn Copeland, O.P., Robert Detweiler, Elena Malits, C.S.C., Armand Veilleux, O.C.S.O., panel.

"A Hidden Wholeness: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thomas Merton" / Albert Raboteau, speaker; Mary Louise Bringle, Steven Tipton, Dana White, panel.

**29 - 30 October 1988:** *Merton Weekend: Remembrances by His Friends and Associates*, St. James Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

Michael Mott, "Social Conscience and Parrhesia."

Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., "Merton Reflections."

Panel — "The Merton I Knew": E. Glenn Hinson, Pat McCullough, Ron Seitz.

**9 November 1988:** *Eleventh Annual Merton Lecture*, The Merton Center, Columbia University, New York, New York.

John P. Meier, S.S.D., "The Jesus of History vs. the Jesus of Liberation."

**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, "Merton's 'Fire Watch': A Literary Meditation on the Epilogue of *The Sign of Jonas*."

Lawrence S. Cunningham, "Thomas Merton: The Monk as a Critic of Culture."

E. Glenn Hinson, "*Contemptus Mundi — Amor Mundi*: Merton's Progression from World Denial to World Affirmation."

E. Glenn Hinson, "The Many Faces of Thomas Merton."

Dewey W. Kramer, "Open to the Spirit: Merton and the Monastic Presence in Georgia."

Victor A. Kramer, "Merton, Monk and Writer: Relationships between the Life and the Writing."

Thomas Francis Smith, O.C.S.O., "The Ego and the True Self: Building on Merton."

**16 November 1988:** *Maine Celebrates Merton*, Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Portland, Maine.

Address / Very Rev. John C. Beaven

**16 November 1988:** *An Ecumenical Gathering Celebrating Merton and His Role in Inter-Religious Dialogue*, Nazareth College, Rochester, New York.

Speaker / Canon Arthur MacDonald Allchin.

**16 & 19 November 1988:** *Merton Celebration*, Merton Society, Hokierga, New Zealand.

Speaker / R. B. Kearns, "Merton's Contribution to Faith and Thought in Our Times"

**4 Sundays of Advent 1988:** *Lake Erie Merton Celebration*, Villa Maria College, Erie, Pennsylvania.

November 27: Patrick F. O'Connell, "Merton's Spiritual Teaching: Tradition and Innovation."

December 4: Joan Chittister, O.S.B., "Of Moses' Mother and Pharaoh's Daughter: A Model of Contemporary Contemplation."

December 11: Tom Cordaro, "Merton: The Social Vision of a Contemplative."

December 18: Cyrus Lee, "Thomas Merton and Chinese Wisdom."

**3 - 4 December 1988:** *The Merton Symposium*, Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center, North Palm Beach, Florida.

Robert E. Daggy, "The Road to Joy: Merton's Letters to Young People."

Mary Ann Schmidt, "A Remembrance of Merton."

**10 December 1988:** *Merton Commemoration*, St. Ann Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Robert E. Daggy, "The Road to Joy: Merton's Letters to Young People."

Panel of Respondents / Jeff Godecker; Rusty Moe; Marie Werdmann.

**10 December 1988:** *Merton Celebration*, Merton Circle, Eugene, Oregon.

Presenter / Ginny Bear.