

NEWSLETTER

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Art: Jim Cantrell

• Change at Center

Dr. Robert E. Daggy, who has directed the Thomas Merton Studies Center at Bellarmine College for more than two decades, has resigned because of ill health. At the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College, Mobile Alabama, Merton Legacy Trustee Tommie O'Callaghan, a close friend of Dr. Daggy, explained that he has a rare blood disease (systemic mastocytosis) that has kept him on medical leave from the Center throughout the 1996-1997 year. While medication has stabilized his condition, Dr. Daggy has decided that he would be unable to carry out the demanding duties at the Center and has therefore resigned as director. He will continue to serve the ITMS as Resident Secretary, however, and will also serve as an official consultant to the Merton Center.

Dr. Daggy is a founding member of the ITMS and served as its first vice president and second president. He served as Curator of the Merton Collection and Associate Director of the Merton Center from 1974 to 1980 and since 1980 has been Director of the Merton Center, College Archivist and Chief of Research for the Merton Legacy Trust. During his time at the Center he has produced more than a hundred articles, introductions etc., and has edited eight major Merton works, most recently the fifth volume of Merton's complete journals, *Dancing in the Water of Life: Seeking Peace in the Hermitage (1963-1965)*; he is also coeditor of *Thomas Merton: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. On behalf of Dr. Daggy, Mrs.

O'Callaghan thanked those present at the meeting for their prayers and expressions of concern and support, and encouraged them to continue to pray for Dr. Daggy's full recovery.

Bellarmino College has appointed Dr. Theresa H. Sandok, OSM, as Dr. Daggy's successor as Director of the Merton Center. Dr. Sandok, a member of the religious congregation of the Servants of Mary, is a professor of philosophy who received her doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. Her publications include translations of a number of philosophical works from Polish, including *Person and Community: Selected Essays by Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II)*. She has taught at Bellarmine College since 1982, and served most recently as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Bellarmine. Dr. Sandok has also been selected by the Board of the Thomas Merton Center Foundation to serve as the Foundation's first Executive Director; she was previously the Vice Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors (1995-1997).

In a brief presentation during the Town Meeting on Saturday afternoon of the Fifth General Meeting, Dr. Sandok introduced herself and pledged to continue to the best of her ability the outstanding work of Dr. Daggy at the Center. She encouraged Merton scholars and other ITMS members to contact her at the Center and promised to assist them in whatever ways she could. She can be reached by phone at the Merton Center at (502) 452-8187, by fax at (502) 452-8038, and by e-mail at tsandok@bellarmine.edu. Dr. Sandok also has arranged for an internet address for the Merton Society itself, which is itms@bellarmine.edu.

• New Officers & Board

The officers and Board of Directors of the ITMS for 1997-1999 were announced by outgoing president Pat O'Connell at the Town Meeting on Saturday, June 14 during the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama.

Officers are Thomas Del Prete, president; Dewey Weiss Kramer, vice president; Erlinda Paguio, treasurer; and Harriet Hope, secretary. Members of the Board are Christine M. Bochen, Rev. George Kilcourse, Donna Kristoff, OSU, Rose Annette Liddell, SL, Jonathan Montaldo, and Paul Quenon, OCSO.

The new president, **Tom Del Prete**, is Associate Director of the Hiatt Center for Urban Education and Chair of the Education Department at Clark University, Worcester, MA. He has served two terms as a member of the ITMS Board. He received his Ph.D. in Education from Harvard University, where he wrote his dissertation on Merton and education. He received the first "Louie" Award in 1991 for his book *Thomas Merton and the Education of the Whole Person*. Most recently, he served as a respondent to the Springboard Address at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

The new vice president, **Dewey Weiss Kramer**, is professor of German at DeKalb College in Clarkston, GA, and a former editor of *The Merton Annual*. With her husband Victor, she conducted workshops on Merton texts at the first three ITMS General Meetings, and presented a paper on Julian of Norwich, Merton and Annie Dillard at the Fifth General Meeting. She has also compiled an oral history of the Cistercian Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Georgia.

The treasurer, **Erlinda Paguio**, will be serving her third term in that office. She received a master's degree in African Studies from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and works at the Ekstrom Library of the University of Louisville. She is a frequent

lecturer on Merton and contributor to *The Merton Seasonal* and other publications. She is cofounder of the Louisville Chapter of the ITMS and serves as the ITMS representative to the Merton Center Foundation; she was recently elected secretary of the Foundation Executive Committee. She presented a paper on Merton and Ananda Coomaraswamy at the Fifth General Meeting.

Harriet Hope will be serving her third term as ITMS secretary. She is the coordinator of the Santa Sabina Center at Dominican College, San Rafael, California and a frequent speaker at retreats and study days there and elsewhere. She coordinates the ITMS retreat program, first organized in the summer of 1996 and to be run again in summer 1998. She presented the meditation session, "Thomas Merton's Solitude: Seeds of Compassion" at the Fifth General Meeting.

Christine Bochen is serving her second term as a member of the ITMS Board, and also served as ITMS Secretary from 1987-1993. She is Professor of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, Rochester, New York. She was editor of the fourth volume of Merton's Collected Letters, *The Courage for Truth: Thomas Merton's Letters to Writers*, and is currently editing *Learning to Love*, the sixth volume of Merton's complete journals. She presented the First Timers' Orientation and was a member of the Journal Editors' Panel at the Fifth General Meeting.

George Kilcourse is a priest of the Louisville Diocese and a Theology Professor at Bellarmine College. He is an editor of *The Merton Annual* and author of *Ace of Freedoms: Thomas Merton's Christ*, for which he received a "Louie" Award at the ITMS Fourth General Meeting in 1995. He gave a presentation entitled "A Merry Kind of Nausea: Thomas Merton's Resonance with Walker Percy" at the Fifth General Meeting.

Donna Kristoff, OSU is an artist and art teacher in Cleveland, Ohio, and president of the Cleveland Chapter of the ITMS. She has taught courses on Merton for continuing

education programs at a number of Cleveland-area colleges. She presented papers at two previous ITMS General Meetings, was a staff person and workshop facilitator at the Fourth General Meeting, and coordinated the "Wall Journal" at the Fifth General Meeting.

Rose Annette Liddell, SL is serving her second term as a member of the ITMS Board. She is Director of the Thomas Merton Center for Creative Exchange in Denver, Colorado. She was a respondent and liturgy coordinator at the ITMS Third General Meeting, and presented a paper entitled "Brother Monks: Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh" at the Fifth General Meeting.

Jonathan Montaldo lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and edited the second volume of the complete journals of Thomas Merton, *Entering the Silence: Becoming a Monk and Writer*. He was a presenter and respondent at two previous ITMS General Meetings, and participated in the Journal Editors' Roundtable at the Fifth General Meeting.

Paul Quenon, OCSO, a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, is serving his third term on the ITMS Board. He was the moderator of the "Poetry Session" at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting. He is a photographer and poet, and author of a book of poetry, *Terrors of Paradise*.

President Tom Del Prete also announced that the following committees would be formed: Publications Committee: Christine Bochen, chair, Dewey Kramer, Pat O'Connell, William Shannon, Bonnie Thurston; ITMS Summer Retreat Committee: Harriet Hope, chair, Rose Annette Liddell, SL, Jane Marie Richardson, SL; Shannon Fellowship Committee: Monica Weis, SSJ, chair, Sidney Griffith, Ross Labrie. Members of the Nominating Committee for the 1999 Board elections and the Youth Scholarship Committee for the Sixth General Meeting will be announced at the 1998 Board Meeting.

• International Advisors

ITMS President Tom Del Prete has named ITMS members from six countries on four continents to serve as **International Advisors** of the Society for 1997-1999. Continuing in this capacity are Ross Labrie of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and Paul M. Pearson of London, England; new advisors include Fernando Beltrán Llavador, Salamanca, Spain; Waldecy Gonçalves, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Beth Goodwin-O'Neal, Glebe, Australia; and Christine Hicks, Prades, France.

Fernando Beltrán teaches at the University of Salamanca, and is the author of *La Contemplación en la Acción: Thomas Merton*, as well as the translator of Merton's *Honorable Reader* into Spanish. He was a presenter in the "Merton and Patterns of Wholeness" session at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting. He previously served as an ITMS International Advisor in 1993-1995.

Waldecy Gonçalves is the primary organizer of the recently formed Brazilian Chapter of the ITMS; he attended the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

Beth Goodwin-O'Neal is a social activist and teacher who works with aboriginal Australians. Her presentation, "Relevance of Thomas Merton's Ideas on Racism to Race Relations in Australia," was a featured General Session at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

Christine Hicks works in the Travel and Tourism Office of Prades, France, Thomas Merton's birthplace. She is an organizer of the Prades Chapter of the ITMS, and was instrumental in the project of having a historical marker affixed to the house in which Merton was born.

Ross Labrie is professor of American Literature at the University of British Columbia; he is the author of *The Art of Thomas Merton* and most recently of *The Catholic Imagination in American Literature*, which includes a section on Merton. He was a presenter in the "Merton and Time"

session at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

Paul Pearson is Secretary of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland. His presentation on Merton and Rainer Maria Rilke was part of the "Merton and Continental Writers" session at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

• 1997 "Louies" Awarded

At the Town Meeting on Saturday, June 14, during the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama, ITMS President Pat O'Connell announced the recipients of the 1997 Thomas Merton Awards. Three bronze busts of Merton, sculpted by David Kocka and informally known as "Louies," are presented at each General Meeting to recognize ITMS members who have made outstanding contributions to Merton studies.

The International award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution on an international level to the promotion of Merton's writings (in English or in translation) and to the presentation of his ideas; the 1997 recipient is Sr. Maria Emmanuel de Souza e Silva, OSB of Brazil. The Thomas Merton award is given to an individual who has published a significant Merton-related work since the previous General Meeting: the 1997 recipient is Carolyn Hammer of Lexington, Kentucky. The Society award is given to an ITMS member whose distinguished service has contributed to the aims of the Society and the furthering of its goals: the 1997 recipient is Sr. Mary Luke Tobin, SL, of Denver, CO. All three award recipients this year were close friends of Thomas Merton.

Sr. Emmanuel de Souza, a very active correspondent with Thomas Merton, is the principal translator of Merton's works into Portuguese; directly or indirectly, she has been responsible for the fact that about forty Merton works have appeared in Brazil, the largest number in any foreign-language country. She is the inspiration behind the

formation of the new Brazilian Chapter of the ITMS, and her book, *Thomas Merton: The Man Who Learned to Be Happy* (in Portuguese) has recently been published.

With her late husband Victor, **Carolyn Hammer** was a close friend and frequent visitor of Thomas Merton, and publisher of uniquely beautiful limited editions of Merton works on their hand presses. This year the ITMS honors what is probably the final contribution of the Hammer tradition of fine printing, an edition of Merton's French poems accompanied by a new translation, and commemorates a life's work, in fact two lives' work, of setting Merton's writing in a form where the power and beauty of the writing is matched by the power and beauty of the graphic presentation.

Sr. Mary Luke Tobin, a close friend of Thomas Merton, is one of the original founding members of the ITMS, whose Merton Center for Creative Exchange in Denver was a forerunner and then an integral part of the society; she was the moving force behind the ITMS Third General Meeting at Colorado College, at which she gave a major address. An advocate for justice, for peace, and for the rights of women in the Church and in society, she has carried on and extended the legacy of Thomas Merton throughout the almost three decades since his death.

ITMS President Pat O'Connell noted that the three recipients, a cloistered Benedictine, a close collaborator in publishing, and an outstanding social activist, actually correspond quite closely, by chance or providence, to the three-fold focus of the 1997 conference theme, "From the Springs of Compassion: Solitude, Solidarity, Social Concern."

• Shannon Fellowships

At the Town Meeting on Saturday, June 14, at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting, Vice President Monica Weis, SSJ, chair of the selection committee, announced the names of

the first five Shannon Fellows. They are Michael J. Callaghan, CM, Elsie F. Mayer, Andrei Kirilenkov, Rusty Moe and Lynn Szabo. The Shannon Fellowships are a new program of the ITMS, approved by the Board of Directors at its June, 1996 meeting, which provides for up to five annual awards, of a maximum of \$750 each, for scholars who wish to do research on primary-source Merton materials. The fellowships provide funds for travel to archives housing Merton manuscripts, at the Merton Center at Bellarmine College or elsewhere. They are named in honor of Msgr. William H. Shannon, the founding president of the ITMS.

Rev. Michael J. Callaghan, CM teaches at St. John's University, Jamaica, New York and is a doctoral student at New York University. He will use his fellowship to support research at Columbia University and at Bellarmine College as he completes his dissertation on "The English Mystics and Thomas Merton's Sense of Absence."

Dr. Elsie F. Mayer of Bingham Farms, Michigan, will research the Thomas Merton-Bob Dylan Connection by examining unpublished materials in Merton's reading and working notebooks of 1965-1967 at the Merton Center in Louisville. She plans to publish an article reflecting her findings, as well as to incorporate her research into a book-length study of modern prophecy, which will include a discussion of Merton.

Andrei Kirilenkov is the Secretary of the newly formed Russian Thomas Merton Society and teaches Christian spirituality at a small Russian Orthodox college in Moscow. He will use his grant to underwrite publishing costs for translations of a number of works by and about Merton that he and his colleagues in the Russian TMS have been preparing. Though his work will not involve travelling to Merton archives, because it entails working with primary sources and involves special circumstances the selection committee, at the recommendation of Msgr. Shannon, decided to waive the requirements in Andrei's case

and to grant him a fellowship.

Rusty Moe of Indianapolis, Indiana will use his award to work on his planned documentary film, "Naked Runner: A Portrait of Thomas Merton." Rusty is co-producer of the project with Adam Van Doren, grandson of Merton's teacher Mark Van Doren and executive producer of Van Doren Productions, Inc. He will examine the resources at Bellarmine's Merton Center and in the Lentfoehr Collection of Merton materials at Columbia University to find images and text suitable for the film, which will focus particularly on Merton as poet and artist.

Lynn R. Szabo, Assistant Professor of English at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada, will use her fellowship to continue her research on Merton's later poetry by travelling to the Merton Center at Bellarmine College to examine unpublished manuscripts and other sources. She plans to write a thesis on connections between typography and discourse in Merton's later poetry, and their grounding in spiritual experience, for a second Master's Degree, in Christian Studies, from the University of British Columbia.

The deadline for applications for Shannon Fellowships for 1998-1999 is March 15, 1998. Awards must be used between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999. Awards will be based on the quality of the proposal submitted and on the need for consulting archival materials at the site proposed. Applicants must be members of the ITMS; they may join the Society at the time of application by including a check for \$20, made out to "ITMS", along with their proposals. Current officers and Board members of the ITMS, as well as grant committee members, are not eligible for fellowships during their term of office.

Application for Shannon Fellowships must include the following:

- a detailed proposal of 500-750 words explaining the subject and goals of the applicant's research and the rationale for

consulting primary sources at the Merton collection selected by the applicant;

- a letter of recommendation from a scholar familiar with the applicant's qualifications and research interests;
- a proposed expense budget: grants will cover costs of travel to and from collections; expenses for accommodations and food during time of research at archives; costs of photocopying;
- disclosure of any other sources of funding awarded or applied for, with amounts received or requested.

Applications are encouraged from established scholars, from researchers without academic affiliation, and from students and younger scholars, including those engaged in research for theses and dissertations.

Completed applications for fellowships should be sent to the selection committee chair, **Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ, Department of English, Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618-3790.** The committee's decisions will be announced to the ITMS Board of Directors at their June, 1998 meeting, and fellowship winners will be notified by June 30, 1998.

• Bylaws Revision

At the Town Meeting on Saturday, June 14, during the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama, the members present voted unanimously to amend the ITMS Bylaws in order to give the immediate past president a vote on the ITMS Board of Directors. According to the revised Bylaws approved at the 1995 General Meeting, the past president would be a non-voting member of the Board. The rationale for the change, as presented by ITMS President Pat O'Connell, was that due to another 1995 revision, which gives the Board the responsibility to vote for one of two candidates proposed by the nominating committee for each of the officer positions,

the possibility of a tie vote would be very likely at some point, since there are an even number of Board members, and no mechanism for resolving the deadlock was presently available. By making the immediate past president a voting member of the Board, and so creating an uneven number of members, the possibility of a tie vote could be avoided. At its meeting on Thursday, June 12, the Board of Directors had discussed the proposal and unanimously recommended that it be brought before the membership, which approved the motion at the Town Meeting after a short discussion from the floor.

• Founding Fourteen Honored

In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the International Thomas Merton Society on May 30, 1987, a brief ceremony of recognition was held during the Town Meeting at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting to honor the fourteen Merton scholars who participated in the initial gathering at Bellarmine College at which the Merton Society was born. As an expression of appreciation by the ITMS Board of Directors on behalf of the Society, each of the "Founding Fourteen" was given a bronze plaque created by sculptor David Kocka, reproducing one of three original Merton designs (a cross; a monk; a calligraphy figure).

Seven of the original founding members were present to receive their plaque at the ceremonies; they were: Christine Bochen, Brother Patrick Hart, E. Glenn Hinson, Dewey Weiss Kramer, Victor Kramer, Patrick O'Connell and Bonnie Thurston. Plaques were mailed to founding members unable to be present, including David Cooper, Lawrence Cunningham, Robert Daggy, Anthony Padovano (who had been at the conference but had left before the ceremony), Ron Seitz, Msgr. William Shannon and Sr. Mary Luke Tobin.

• Merton Journals Conference

The Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, is sponsoring a weekend conference entitled "The Craft of Merton's Journals and their Usefulness in Today's Spirituality," to be held November 7-9, 1997. Featured speakers will include three of the editors of the complete Merton journals: Jonathan Montaldo, editor of *Entering the Silence: Becoming a Monk and Writer - Journals, Volume 2 (1941-1952)*; Victor Kramer, editor of *Turning Toward the World: The Pivotal Years - Journals, Volume 4 (1960-1963)*; and Christine Bochen, editor of the forthcoming sixth volume of the journals, to be entitled *Learning to Love*. Presentations will take place on Friday evening, November 7 and all day Saturday, November 8; Sunday, November 9 will feature an optional trip to the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Georgia, that will include mass and a tour of the abbey, a daughter house of Merton's Gethsemani Abbey.

The registration fee of \$40 will include lunch on Saturday; for further information contact the Aquinas Center of Theology, Emory University, 1703 Clifton Road, #F-5, Atlanta, GA 30329; phone: (404) 727-8860; fax (404) 727-8862; e-mail: cjgriff@emory.edu. Convenient accommodations can be obtained at the Emory Inn, phone: (404) 712-6700; or the University Inn, phone: (404) 634-7327.

• Russian Merton Society

At the ITMS Fifth General Meeting in Mobile, Alabama, Vice President Monica Weis reported on the formation of a Merton Society in Russia, which is particularly interested in translating and publishing works by and about Merton in Russian. At its meeting on Thursday, June 12, the ITMS Board of Directors pledged \$250 from the Society to help defray expenses for this

project and voted to invite those attending the conference to contribute to the Russian TMS; during the course of the weekend an additional \$387 was raised. In addition, Andrei Kirilenkov, secretary of the Russian Society and principal translator of Merton, was awarded a Shannon Fellowship to assist him in his work (see related story). The funds have been forwarded to Russia through the assistance of Canon A. M. Allchin and the Society of St. Alban and St. Sergius, which is dedicated to closer ties between Anglican and Orthodox Churches and has direct contacts with the Russian Merton Society.

• Merton Among the Ecologists

Monica Weis, SSJ, outgoing ITMS Vice President, has recently been making Merton's work better known among literary scholars interested in nature writing and ecology. At the December 1996 Modern Language Association annual conference in Washington, DC, she presented a paper entitled "Thomas Merton: Advance Man for New Age Thinking about the Environment." An expanded version of her paper is scheduled for publication in Summer 1998 in *ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment)*.

Her presentation was part of a session on "Nature and Spirit" that also included papers on figures such as Mary Austin and Henry David Thoreau. The paper was very well received by the filled-to-capacity audience. When asked by the moderator why they had chosen this particular session out of some twenty concurrent choices, at least a half dozen attendees indicated that they were there because of interest in Merton: one had studied Merton as a student in the Philippines, another named *The Seven Storey Mountain* as a significant influence, while a third commented, "I never thought I would hear a paper on Thomas Merton at a conference like this!"

Monica was also one of twenty-five

college and university faculty from across the country selected to participate this summer in a six-week institute at Vassar College on "The Environmental Imagination: Issues and Problems in American Nature Writing," sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In her report to the group she discussed Merton as nature writer and ecological critic.

• Youth Scholarships

As part of its efforts to encourage interest in Thomas Merton's life and work among young people, the ITMS provided ten youth scholarships to the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. The scholarships covered all costs of the conference except for transportation. The scholarship committee (Tom Del Prete, Monica Weis, SSJ, and Jeff Kiernan), with the on-site assistance of B. Cliff Stoodley, also arranged special events for the scholarship recipients, including a time to meet one another at the reception on the opening day of the conference, and an informal gathering with a number of the conference speakers, including keynote speaker James Douglass and others, on Saturday evening. Informal gatherings of the young people throughout the weekend also resulted in spirited discussions and new friendships being formed. The response of the scholarship winners to the conference was uniformly enthusiastic, and a couple of the recipients even voiced a hope of presenting a paper themselves at a future general meeting.

Scholarship winners for 1997 included: Theresa Barton, a student at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA; Teka Berhanu, a doctoral student at the University of Kentucky; Thomas M. Douglass, a graduate student in philosophy from Oxford, OH; Mark Kramer, a recent college graduate and volunteer at the Glenmary Farm, Vanceburg, KY; David O'Connell, a recent college graduate and volunteer at the

Christian Community Center, Vanceburg, KY; Sonia Petisco Martinez, a doctoral student from Madrid, Spain; Amber Power, a graduate student from Gannon University, Erie, PA; Cristobal Serran-Pagan, a doctoral student at Boston University; Vinod B. Shah, a recent graduate of Nazareth College from Canandaigua, NY; and Jon Shickler, a graduate student from Gannon University, Erie PA.

• Spring Conference

A weekend retreat led by Dr. Anthony Padovano entitled "Thomas Merton: A Passion for Integrity" will take place February 6-8, 1998 at Kirkridge Retreat Center; for further information contact Kirkridge, 2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013; phone: (610) 588-1793; website: www.kirkridge.org.

"What, Then, Must We Do: The Legacies of Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day" is a symposium scheduled for April 3-5, 1998 at Rivier College, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of Merton's death and the one hundredth anniversary of Day's birth. Daniel Berrigan, SJ will be a principal speaker. For further information about attending or giving a presentation, contact Bradford T. Stull, Director, Undergraduate Writing Program, Rivier College, 420 South Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060-5086; phone: (603) 888-1311, ext. 8283; e-mail: buttrell@rivier.edu.

"Meditation is one of the ways in which the spiritual man keeps himself awake."

THOMAS MERTON
Thoughts in Solitude
