

Fuller view of Merton's Zen Garden at the Abbey of Gethsemani

THOMAS MERTON'S WRITINGS IN JAPAN

Thomas Merton's interest in Japan and in Buddhism, particularly its Japanese manifestation Zen Buddhism, is well known. He wrote several essays, most of them collected in the two major publications MYSTICS AND ZEN MASTERS and ZEN AND THE BIRDS OF APPETITE. He read widely, concentrated primarily in translations of D.T. Suzuki, foremost expounder of Zen to the Western world, and Nishida Kitaro. He studied calligraphy, dabbled in haiku poetry, and even built a Zen garden at the Abbey of Gethsemani.

It is not surprising that Merton's essay,"D.T. Suzuki: the Man and His Work," has been the work most widely circulated in Japan. Merton recorded his impressions after he traveled incognito to New York in 1964 to meet and talk with Suzuki. He had invited Suzuki to the Abbey, but Suzuki, then 94, felt himself incapable of making the additional trip. Neither is it surprising that Merton's collection of Zen essays, with non-Zen material deleted, have been translated into Japanese. The other translations are of works on con-

templation, spirituality, and monasticism. The Japanese translations are not, at this point, representative of the total scope of Merton's work.

The Thomas Merton Studies Center is indebted to Yasuwo Kikama, friend and correspondent of Merton's, for information and materials. Translator of three major Merton works, Kikama first suggested that Merton write "special prefaces" for Japanese editions of his books, a suggestion to which Merton responded enthusiastically. In addition to Merton as translated into Japanese, we also list Kikama's work on Merton, a collection of essays which confronts Merton's spirituality as well as his poetry, social commentary, and literary criticism.

WORKS BY THOMAS MERTON

- (Basic Principles of Monastic Spirituality) <u>Shudð Seikatsu Reishu no Konpon</u>. Tr. by Fujisaburo Kiuchi. Sapporo, Komei-sha, 1962. 82p.
- (The Climate of Monastic Prayer) <u>Shuin no Inori no Fudo</u>. Tr. by L.Elders and Shozaburo Tomita. Tokyo, Enderle, 1970. 159p.
- (D.T. Suzuki: the Man and His Work) "Suzuki Daisetsu: hito to sono győseki;" tr. into Japanese; <u>Chūqai</u> <u>Nisshaku</u> 71 (July 11, 1967): p. 1, (July 12, 1967): p. 1; (July 13, 1967): p. 1.
- "D.T. Suzuki: the Man and His Work;" published in English; <u>The Eastern Buddhist</u>. (Otani University, Kyoto) (New Series) 2 (August 1967): no. 1, pp. 3-9.
- (D.T.Suzuki: the Man and His Work) "Suzuki Daisetsu: hito no sono gyoseki;" in <u>Kaiso Suzuki Daisetsu</u> (In Memoriam-Daisetz Suzuki); edited by Keiji Nishitani (Kyoto, Eastern Buddhist Society, 1975): pp. 2-11.
- (Life and Holiness) <u>Gendai no Seijin to wa?: Thomas Merton, Life and Holiness</u>. Tr. by Menzuo Kabayashi. Tokyo, Enderle, 1964. 177p.
- (Mystics and Zen Masters/Zen and the Birds of Appetite excerpts) <u>Kirisuto-kyō to Zen-taiken</u>. Tr. by Takashi Ikemoto and Yuji Nakata. Tokyo, Enderle, 1969. 238p.
- (The New Man) <u>Atarashii Hito;</u> with a special preface by Thomas Merton. Tr. by Yasuwo Kikama. Tokyo, Veritas, 1970. 301p.
- (Seeds of Contemplation) <u>Kanso no Shushi</u>; with a special preface by Thomas Merton. Tr. by Yasuwo Kikama. Kyoto, Veritas, 1965. 235p.

- 10. (Seeds of Contemplation) Meiso no Shushi. Tr. by Junji Nagazawa. Tokyo, Chuo Shuppansha, 1966. 238 p.
- (The Seven Storey Mountain) <u>Nanae no Yama</u>; with a special preface, printed in English, by Thomas Merton. Tr. by Kudo Tadashi. Tokyo, Chuö Shuppansha, 1966. 556p.
- 12. (Thoughts in Solitude) Kodoku no naka no Shisaku; with a special preface by Thomas Merton. Tr. by Yasuwo Kikama. Kyoto, Veritas, 1966. 168p.
- (Zen and the Birds of Appetite/Mystics and Zen Masters excerpts) <u>Kirisuto-kvo to Zen-taiken</u>. Tr. by Takashi Ikemoto and Junji Nakata. Tokyo, Enderle, 1969. 238p.

MERTON'S PREFACES FOR JAPANESE EDITIONS

Thomas Merton wrote special prefaces for four of the Japanese editions of his works, more than he wrote for any other single language translations. The prefaces have been published in English as follows.

- Preface to the Japanese Edition of <u>The New Man</u>. Retitled and reworked by Merton as "Rebirth and the New Man in Christianity." To be published in a new collection of essays, edited by Br. Patrick Hart and Naomi Burton Stone.
- Preface to the Japanese Edition of <u>Seeds of Contemplation</u>, To be published as "Christian Contemplation," edited with an introduction by Robert Daggy, in <u>Cistercian Studies</u>.
- Preface to the Japanese Edition of <u>The Seven Storey Mountain</u>, Published as "Introducing a Book," in <u>Queen's Work 56</u> (January 1964): pp.9-10.
- Preface to the Japanese Edition of <u>Thoughts in Solitude</u>. Published as "Love and Solitude" in <u>Critic</u> 25 (October-November 1966): pp. 30-37.

WORKS ON MERTON BY YASUWO KIKAMA

- (Christian Art and Spirituality: the Case of Thomas Merton) "Kirisuto-kyö Geijutsu to Reishö: Tomasu Maton no baai," <u>Seiki</u> (Osaka) 209 (September 1967): pp. 63-69.
- (Dialogue between Contemplation and Religion: the Case of Thomas Merton) "Kansõ to Shukyõ aida no taiwa: Tomasu Maton no baai," Seiki (Osaka) 195 (August 1966): pp. 37-43.
- (Emptiness and Unity: the Case of D.T. Suzuki and Thomas Merton) "Munashii to Itchi: Suzuki Daisetsu to Tomasu Maton no baai," Koe (Tokyo) 1077 (December 1967): pp. 35-43.
- (The Idea of Solitude in Thomas Merton) "Tomasu Maton ni Oharu Kodoku no Rinen," <u>Seiki</u> (Osaka) 186 (November 1965): pp. 74-80.
- (In Memory of Thomas Merton) "Tomasu Maton o Shinonde," <u>Koe</u> (Tokyo) 1090 (February 1969): pp. 27-29.
- 6. (An Introduction to Thomas Merton) Tomasu Maton Joron. Kawazaki, Japan, Caritas, 1974. 95p.
- (A Man in Conflict with Himself: Thomas Merton) "Jiko e no Zôhan-ja: Tomasu Māton," <u>Seiki</u> (Osaka) 240 (May 1970) : pp. 43-49.
- (Thomas Merton and Albert Camus: a Study of Merton's Criticism when confronted with the world of Camus) "Tomasu Maton to Arubera Kamiyu: Kamiyu no Sekai to sore ni Tai-su: u Maton no Hihyo ni Furete," Seiki (Osaka) 230 (July 1969): pp. 68-74.
- (Thomas Merton's view of Peace: Can it exist now?) "Tomasu Māton no Heiwa-ron: Gendai ni ikiru ka", <u>Seiki</u> (Osaka) 223 (December 1968): pp. 52-58.
- (Thomas Merton's view of Poetry) "Tomasu Māton no Shiron," <u>Seiki</u> (Osaka) 182 (July 1965): pp. 72-80.



Thomas Merton and D. T. Suzuki, photographed by Dr. Suzuki's secretary at Butler Hall, New York June 1964