

Robert Lax: Scratches

By **J. S. Porter**

for Paul Lisson

“As a child, Robert Lax scratches a stone with another stone, puts the scratched stone back in the stone-heap, knowing someone will see it and know he has made a mark.”*

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So what are my scratches?

One word: spiritbookword.

One thought: the desire to write something so strange to myself that I don't recognize it as mine.

*A story told in Paul Spaeth's Introduction to Robert Lax, *A Thing That Is: New Poems* (Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1997).

J. S. Porter, poet and essayist, is author of *Thomas Merton: Hermit at the Heart of Things* (2008) and most recently is the co-author, with Susan McCaslin, of *Superabundantly Alive: Thomas Merton's Dance with the Feminine*, reviewed in this issue.



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