

I am afraid this has not been a very helpful letter — too scrappy and incoherent — but I hope it may give hints and fill a few gaps.

MERTON'S CAMERA

by **Francesca Guli**

There is in all visible things an invisible fecundity, a hidden wholeness, a silence that is a fountain of action and of joy.
Thomas Merton

He wasn't given to the wild flight
but held a camera
like a breath.
Yearned to get at the heart
of the matter
of life and death.

Even in his photographs of trees
the wood was the thing —
the sure shot.
Apart from earth and sky for him
the wood was hot.

And when he zeroed in on stones,
or crocuses burning
in the straw —
how eloquent the word in black
and white for joy
of what he saw!

□ **Francesca Guli** is Assistant Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, where she teaches Creative Writing and Dante Studies. She is the author of eight published books of poetry and one children's book. The latter, a book on Dante titled *The Boy and the Stars*, brought her into contact with Thomas Merton when she wrote to ask him for his opinion of the book. His reply is in the section of letters to and about young people in *The Road to Joy: Letters to New & Old Friends*. He commented in part: "A fine children's book!"



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